

Environmental Sustainability Board Update to County Council

John Bliss, Chair
May 17, 2016

Purpose

- ▶ The Environmental Sustainability Board provides public input to the County's Environmental Sustainability efforts such as green building, recycling, fuel efficiency, alternative fuels and sustainable development.
- ▶ The ESB serves as an advisory board to County Council for matters involving environmental sustainability.
- ▶ The Environmental Sustainability Board replaced the Solid Waste Advisory Board.
- ▶ Authorization: The County Council adopted Ordinance 02-094 in June 2008 establishing the Environmental Sustainability Board.



Environmental Sustainability Board Activities

- LA Schools Outreach
 - Science Fair
 - Chamisa Elementary School Recycle Art Show
 - Subcommittee with LAPS
 - Environmental Services Division and LANL to provide educational presentations to school.



Environmental Sustainability Board Activities

- America Recycle's Day – Recycle Fashion Show



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Environmental Sustainability Board Activities

- PEEC Earth Day Festival



Environmental Sustainability Board Activities

- Science Fest
- Chamber Fest
 - 2015 Business Recycler of the Year – Los Alamos Co+Op
- Home Efficiency Expo
- Clean Up Los Alamos Day
 - Sponsored by LA County, LANB and Coca Cola
 - 334 Participants
 - Over 1,220 lbs. trash collected– residential loads are not weighed
 - 208 Resident's utilized the Eco Station or Overlook for free



Environmental Sustainability Board Presentations

- ▶ Recycling Presentation – Mike Smith of Friedman Recycling



Environmental Sustainability Board Presentations

- ▶ Municipal Solid Waste to Energy – Oswaldo Galarza
- ▶ Recycle Bank – Diane Doster of Recyclebank
- ▶ First Lego League – Atomic City Phoenix



Environmental Sustainability Board

Landfill Closure: Methane Monitoring

► Status

- Some monitoring wells still above allowable levels of methane
- Main cause believed to be water entering following destruction caused by 1000y rainfall event in 2013
- FEMA funded project to provide permanent repair just beginning

► Landfill methane gas potential

- EPA Landfill Methane Outreach Program
- Not economical at this time



Environmental Sustainability Board Activities – Waste Sort

Material	Weight	Percentage
Food Waste	880 Lbs.	14%
Yard Debris	720 Lbs.	11.5%
Mixed Recycle	400 Lbs.	6.4%
Glass	400 Lbs.	6.4%
Cardboard	180 Lbs.	2.9%
Trash	3700 Lbs.	58.9%

► Sorted 6,280 Lbs.
Waste



41% Diversion Opportunities

March 25, 2016

Special Projects – Brush & Bulk Item Collection Analysis

- ▶ In July 2015, County Council asked ESB to review the program
- ▶ ESB discussions began in September
- ▶ Open Forum conducted
- ▶ ESB members gathered citizen input and data from other communities
 - March 17, 2016, ESB held a public meeting
 - March 30, 2016, ESB Special Meeting to develop proposals
 - April 21, 2016, ESB approved a recommendation for County Council

Do You Have Thoughts on the Brush & Bulk Item Collection Program?

Join the Discussion:

Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting:

March 17th, 5:30 p.m.
Municipal Building,
B&C Conference Room,
Suite 110

Share your comments in the Open Forum
<http://tinyurl.com/h42t3j3>



Open Forum

Brush and Bulk Item Collection

- ▶ Objectives:
 - Obtain an indication of support for a curbside organics roll-cart program
 - Obtain suggestions for improvement of the brush and bulk item collection program
- ▶ Opened January 27; Closed March 13
- ▶ 247 attendees; 113 responses



Open Forum: Results

Brush and Bulk Item Collection

What modifications do you suggest to improve the brush and bulk item collection program?

	Percent
Collect brush and yard trimmings only	48.7%
Collect large appliances or furniture only	42.5%
Eliminate program	7.1%
Schedule and pay for a pick up as needed	44.2%
Reduce collection frequency	23.0%



Brush & Bulk Item Collection: # of Participants Per Area

Brush and Bulk Item Collection # of Participants Per Area

	Los Alamos								
	Barranca	Denver Steel	North Mesa	Western Area	Walnut/North Comm.	Townsite	Ponderosa	Quemazon	Total
Winter 2015	87	23	54	75	75	29	17	28	388
Spring 2015	148	11	145	62	62	8	22	7	465
Summer 2015	151	13	79	68	56	44	3	11	425
Fall 2015	183	2	34	26	62	92	2	9	410
Total	569	49	312	231	255	173	44	55	1688

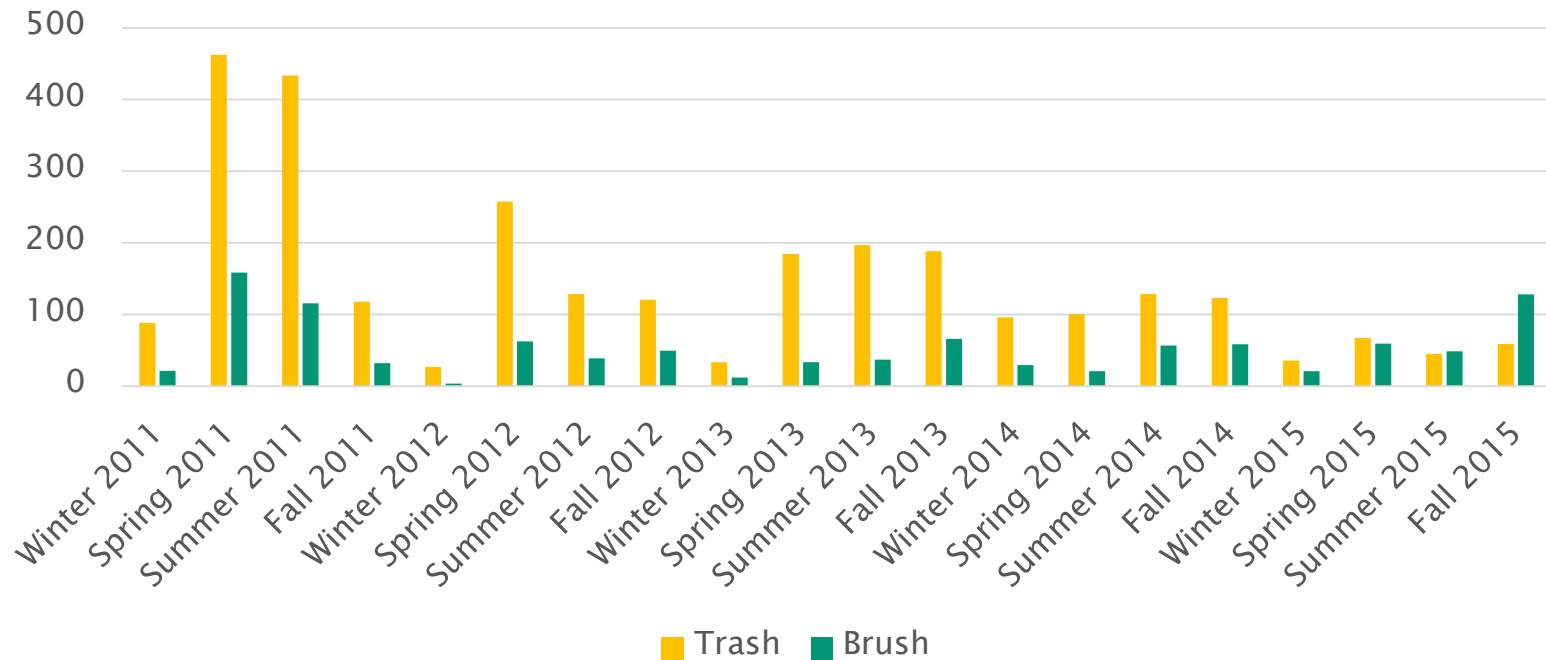
	White Rock			
	Old Town	Pajarito	La Vista	Total
Winter 2015	112	62	31	205
Spring 2015	281	184	72	537
Summer 2015	192	37	10	239
Fall 2015	268	142	70	480
Total	853	425	183	1461

	LA/WR Combined Total Participants
Winter 2015	593
Spring 2015	1002
Summer 2015	664
Fall 2015	890
Total	3149



5 Year Experience By Quarter

Brush and Bulk Item Collection Summary
2011- 2015



Brush and Bulk Item Collection Experience by quarter, 2011 – 2015

	Winter (tons)	Spring (tons)	Summer (tons)	Fall (tons)	Total 2011–15
Bulk Items	56.0	214.6	186.6	121.9	2895
Brush	17.6	67.1	59.6	66.9	1055

Average 4 tons of brush per truck load
Average 5.2 tons of trash per truck load
Average 3 homes per trip to Eco Center



Defined Size Limit 8ft x4ft x4ft



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Organics placed in black bags are NON-COMPOSTABLE



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Educate Customers About Use of Program



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Open Forum: Results

Brush and Bulk Item Collection

- ▶ Would you support a curbside organics roll-cart program?
 - Yes 83.2%
 - No 16.8%



Feasibility of Organic Yard Trimming Roll Cart

DRAFT

Residential Curbside Organics Program			
	Initial Investment	Annual	
Roll Carts (6850)	\$ 335,000.00	\$	35,000.00
Side Loader	\$ 295,000.00		
Side Loader Equipment IDC's		\$	43,000.00
Equipment Operator (Collections/Grinding)		\$	50,000.00
Fuel		\$	8,000.00
Education/Outreach/Employee Training		\$	10,000.00
Materials and Supplies		\$	10,000.00
Total	\$ 630,000.00	\$	156,000.00

Cost Comparison Quarterly vs. Residential Curbside Organics Collection Program

	Quarterly	Organics Roll-Cart	Cost avoided
Annual Costs	\$ 294,370.20	\$ 156,000.00	\$ 138,370.20

Estimated Cost Avoided

\$62/ton

\$

53,940.00 Brush diversion estimated an additional 870 tons

1,066 tons of brush was composted in 2015



Brush and Bulk Item Collection: Recommendation Development

- ▶ Key issues
 - Unsightly
 - Safety concerns
 - Contamination of organic yard trimmings
 - Cost
- ▶ Constraints and assumptions
 - Only current resources are available
 - No increased cost/staff
 - Program is popular and community wishes it to continue
 - Cannot succeed as currently designed



Brush and Bulk Item Collection Recommendation:

- ▶ The bulk trash and brush pick up program be modified to provide a brush pickup two times each year and a bulk trash pickup two times each year in alternating quarters.
 - Collaborate with Code Enforcement
 - Eliminate refrigerator and freezer pickup
 - Provide more information about the program
 - 12 free loads are retained
 - Maximum size of curb-side pickup
 - Pickups may be scheduled for a fee
- ▶ The ESB also recommends that an additional roll cart service for organic yard trimmings be pursued.



Brush and Bulk Item Collection Recommendation: Benefits

1. Retains both brush and bulk item pickup
2. Reduces contamination of brush and organic yard materials intended for composting
3. Improved efficiency:
 - “one pass” through neighborhoods per quarter
 - Fewer trips to Eco Station during pick ups
 - Will allow timely removal of material at curb side



Environmental Sustainability Plan

- Background

- Prepared by previous staff and ESB
- Presented to Council in 2013

- Update

- Revised in December 2015
- Reduced in scope
- ESB plans to use as a summary of County status
- ESB annual efforts are stated in annual Council approve work plans



Challenges / Opportunities

- ▶ Low value of recycled materials
 - Revenue received from recyclable material has disappeared
- ▶ Closure of Rio Rancho Landfill, ~ 4 to 5 years
 - Tip fee and transportation cost will increase
- ▶ Alternate path for waste streams continue to be sought and analyzed
- ▶ LANL Compliance Order on Consent

