

# Environmental Sustainability Board Update to County Council

James Robinson, Chair  
February 6, 2018

# Purpose

- ▶ The Environmental Sustainability Board provides public input to the County's Environmental Sustainability efforts such as waste diversion, recycling, 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.



# FY18 Work Plan Accomplishments

- LA Schools Outreach
  - Received RAID Grant to develop Zero Waste Lunch Educational Video
  - Subcommittee with LAPS
- Brush and Bulk Replacement Program Recommended and Accepted
- Conducted recycle audit of residential recycle roll carts
- Hosted Clean Up Los Alamos Day



# FY18 Work Plan Accomplishments

- ▶ Provided public outreach and education at the following events:
  - Science Festival
  - Bear Festival
  - County Fair
  - Earth Day
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Eco Challenge
  - Co+Op Market Anniversary Celebration
  - LAC Green Team Event
  - Farmer's Market
  - Bike to Work Week



# EcoChallenge 2017



# FY18 Presentations

- ▶ Bear Awareness – Michelle Rosette/NM Game & Fish
- ▶ Food Composting – Walter Dods of Soilutions
- ▶ Carbon Neutrality of LAC – Richard Dunn
- ▶ Famine to Feast – Jaret McDonald
- ▶ Food Waste Collection – Erik Loechell
- ▶ Save As You Throw – Sue Barns
- ▶ GEM\*STAR Demonstration Reactor for Los Alamos County – Dr. Charles Bowman
- ▶ Methane Monitoring LAC Landfill – Angelica Gurule
- ▶ C&D Recycling – Green Paso



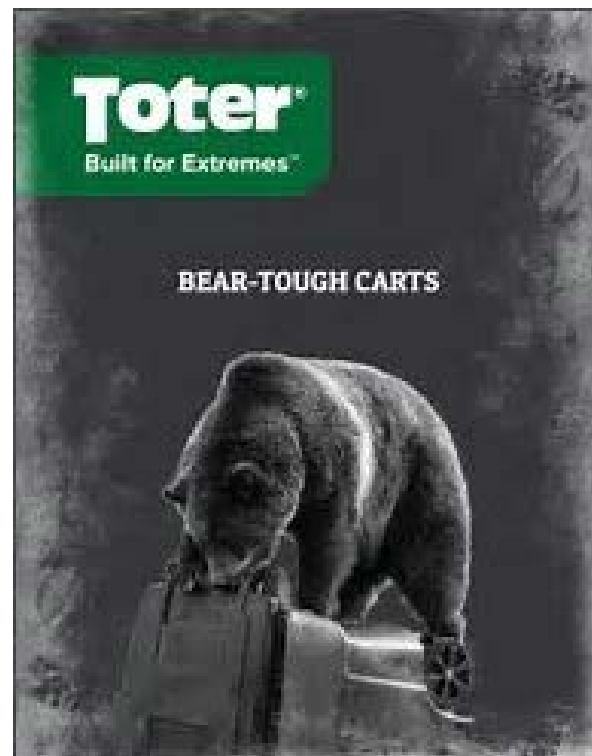
# Challenges / Opportunities

- ▶ Balancing costs & revenue
- ▶ Low value of recycled materials
  - Revenue received from recyclable material has disappeared. The tipping fee will increase annually by \$1. Current cost is \$16 per ton.
  - China's "National Sword" Impact on US Recycle Materials
- ▶ Closure of Rio Rancho Landfill, ~ 7 to 8 years
  - Tip fee and transportation cost will increase annually.
- ▶ Landfill Methane Gas above allowable levels
- ▶ Wildlife/Bears
- ▶ Alternate path for waste streams continue to be sought and analyzed
  - Recycling incentives, neighborhood or community food composting, manure collection from stables.



# Bear Tough Carts

- ▶ LAC & NM Department of Game and Fish collaboration to procure Bear Tough Carts
- ▶ 65/35 Federal Grant
- ▶ 300 Bear Tough Carts are available
- ▶ Available for \$77 (Original price is \$200)
  - If Game & Fish continues this program, staff will reapply for additional fund as participation warrants.



Bear Tough Cart Cost				
<b>\$200 cost per cart</b>				
\$130 - NMDGF (65%)				
\$70 - LAC (35%)				
Reduced Cost to Customer				
<b>\$77 per cart</b>				
\$70 plus 10% administrative fee per municipal code				



# Yard Trimming Roll Carts

- ▶ Feb 14, 2017 – Approved by County Council
- ▶ Feb 2018 – ESB to conduct open forum survey to determine collection frequency of yard trimming and recycle roll carts
  - Options include weekly or bi-weekly collection
- ▶ April 2018 – Final brush collection
- ▶ May 2018 – Recruit equipment operator
- ▶ July 1, 2018 – New program launches



# Yard Trimming Roll Carts

## ► Implementation Plan:

- Registration for cart has begun
  - 412 registered
- Collection truck ordered
- Roll carts ordered
- 1 FTE – Equipment Operator –to be recruited May 2018 for July 1 start date.



# Save As You Throw

- ▶ ESB developed a subcommittee to research feasibility of SAYT
  - Conducting interview with other SAYT communities to learn about their processes and start up
- ▶ Pros
  - Equitable pricing
  - Dynamic fee structure based on the size of the waste container that the citizen is utilizing
- ▶ Goals
  - Keep the costs of Environmental Services programs as low as possible
  - Reduce material sent to landfill
  - Promotes Recycling/Composting



# Environmental Sustainability Plan

## ► Community Indicators

Sustainability Indicator	Goal	Metric	Performance (2012)	Performance (2016)
<b>Community Indicators</b>				
1. Community greenhouse gas emissions	Decrease greenhouse gas emissions based on 2006 – 2012 average.	Metric tons of CO2e from energy and waste	159,431 metric tons CO2e (baseline; average of 2006-2012 emissions)	125,807 metric tons of CO2e from energy and waste
2. Public transit ridership	Increase annual transit total passenger trips per vehicle per hour of transit operations to 25 by 2020.	Total passenger trips per vehicle per hour of transit operations	20.59 total passenger trips per vehicle per hour of transit operations	13.32 total passenger trips per vehicle per hour of transit operations
3. MSW recycling rate	Meet or surpass EPA MSW recycling rate of 40% by 2020.	% of total waste recycled	22% of waste recycled	24% of waste recycled
4. C&D waste diversion	Achieve 75% diversion of construction and demolition (C&D) materials and debris (waste) by 2020.	% of total C&D waste diverted	64% of C&D waste diverted	83% of C&D waste diverted
5. Quality of residential recycling services	Receive an excellent or good rating from at least 75% of respondents in 2020 survey.	% of residents rating program as good or excellent in Los Alamos County Customer Survey	73% of respondents ranked as excellent or good	89% of respondents ranked as excellent or good



# Environmental Sustainability Plan

## ► Local Government Indicators

Sustainability Indicator	Goal	Metric	Performance (2012)	Performance (2016)
<b>Local Government Indicators</b>				
1. LEED certified County facilities	100% of total County facilities over 5,000 sq. feet shall meet or exceed LEED Silver certification.	% of total County facilities over 5,000 sq. feet that are LEED Silver (or higher) certified	40% of total County facilities over 5,000 sq. feet meet at least LEED Silver certification	60% of total County facilities over 5,000 sq. feet meet at least LEED Silver certification
2. County operations greenhouse gas emissions	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from County operations by 22% or by 2,771 metric tons below the 2012 levels by 2020.	Metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e from energy and vehicle fuel usage	12,597 metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub>	11,458 metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> . This is a 9% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
3. Energy usage of County facilities	Reduce the energy usage of County facilities by 15% per square foot or 19.61 BTU's/square foot below 2012 levels by 2020.	Million BTU's of energy, includes electricity and natural gas usage	72,907 million BTU's. 130.74 BTU's/square foot	66,670 million BTU's. 119.55 BTU's/square foot. This is a 8% reduction in energy usage by County facilities
4. Water usage of County facilities	Reduce potable water usage in Los Alamos County facilities by 20% or 18,252 thousands of gallons below 2012 levels by 2020.	Thousands of gallons of water used by County facilities	91,261 thousands of gallons of water	83,114 thousands of gallons of water. This is a 9% reduction in water usage by the County



# Incentive Based Sustainability Program

- ▶ County Council Approved Budget in 2016
- ▶ Collaborating with Atomic City Transit
- ▶ Benefits:
  - Community Wide Program which promotes recycling/composting and public transit ridership
  - Supports economic development by partnering with local businesses to offer incentives
  - Continuous education is key to a successful program
  - Implementation Plan
    - Developed RFP, will solicit for bids in Spring 2018
    - Go Live – Summer/Fall 2018



# ESB FY19 Work Plan Goals

## Quality of Life

- ▶ Education: Partner with LAPS and UNM–LA; and support, as appropriate, the delivery of their educational services to community standards.
  - Work with LAPS to educate and implement waste diversion programs including reduce, recycle, reuse and composting
  - Work with local organizations/non–profits and government agencies to provide education for wildlife and waste.
  
- ▶ Environmental Stewardship: Enhance environmental quality and sustainability balancing costs and benefits including County services and utilities.
  - Continue researching Save As You Throw
  - Implement sustainability incentive based program such as Recycle Bank
  - Host annual Clean Up Los Alamos Day
  - Continue researching other glass recycling options
  - Investigate potential for food waste collection



# ESB FY19 Work Plan Goals

## Quality Governance

- ▶ **Operational Excellence:** Maintain quality essential services and supporting infrastructure.
  - Update Environmental Sustainability Plan
  - Develop and promote food waste minimization educational materials
  - Monitor composting program
  - Implement Yard Trimming Roll Cart Program
- ▶ **Communication:** Improve transparency in policy setting and implementation. Utilize social media to engage citizens.
- ▶ **Communication:** Create a communication process that provides measurable improvement in citizen trust in government, including robust social media presence.

