



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held November 25, 2008, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Burke:

“The Board of Supervisors has provided direction on numerous initiatives aimed at reducing our environmental footprint. This direction has been widespread, as we aim to address the diverse challenges throughout the Los Angeles region, including maintaining water quality and reliability, improving waste management, reducing energy consumption, and greening our fleets, with an overall commitment to not only reduce our municipal carbon emissions, but to ensure the sustainability of our region and the quality of life of our residents.

“The County’s Energy and Environmental Policy Team is working in partnership with ICLEI-Local Government in order to inventory our greenhouse gas emissions, set a baseline for reductions, and develop an Action Plan in order to meet reductions previously set by this Board and the State of California in AB 32. This plan should be instrumental in guiding the County’s short and long-term vision as we prioritize the implementation of cost-effective and efficient programs.

“While this Action Plan should guide our environmental strategy, there is one component that is specifically highlighted under AB 32 which calls for prompt attention by local governments. Local governments are strongly encouraged to inventory and upgrade their internal operations recycling efforts as a means of achieving greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. In conjunction with the economic, environmental, and health benefits of recycling, this action would generate further impetus to ensure that all Departments are fully implementing recycling programs.

“Since 1990, the County has adopted numerous initiatives to encourage recycling and waste reduction activities at County operations. Paper recycling programs are in place at many facilities, beverage container recycling programs are beginning to be implemented at large County facilities and master service agreements are in place to encourage the purchasing of recycled-content paper and other supplies at competitive prices.

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“While these efforts represent significant strides, more can be done to reduce our environmental footprint at a potential financial benefit. The Recycling Program relies upon individual Departments to implement recycling programs, and as a result, some Departments and facilities have not yet implemented such programs.

“The Internal Services Department has agreements in place with paper recycling companies to set up recycling infrastructure upon request, and in return, will provide Departments with a portion of the revenue generated. However, a recent survey of 95 large County facilities revealed that 15 facilities have not yet implemented such an agreement. In addition, paper suppliers now provide recycled content paper to Departments at a comparable cost to virgin paper; however, nearly 25% of paper purchased by the County is of virgin content.

“Moreover, about half of the surveyed facilities have not implemented beverage container recycling programs. While these programs are more challenging to establish due in part to the cost of arranging for the collection and removal of these materials, nonprofit organizations have expressed interest in working with the County to provide beverage container collection and recycling services at no cost to the County as a means of providing a workforce training opportunity. The County should explore a fair and equitable means for partnering with these interested organizations.

“The County has also taken several steps to reduce the litter and waste caused by the inappropriate disposal of expanded polystyrene (commonly referred to as Styrofoam®) food packaging containers. The Chief Executive Office, Internal Services Department and the Department of Public Works are developing recommendations on appropriate alternatives for County Departments. Additionally, some Departments such as the Sheriff’s Department have initiated steps to begin collecting and recycling Styrofoam® food containers from their facilities, thus diverting waste from our landfills and reducing their trash disposal fees. This approach is cost effective and sustainable and deserves broader implementation consideration.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Molina, Yaroslavsky, Knabe and Burke; Noes: None; Abstentions: Supervisor Antonovich, the Board instructed the Countywide Energy and Environmental Policy Team (CEEPT) to take the following actions:

1. Meet the following objectives:
 - Develop a proposal to eliminate the opportunity for County Departments to purchase paper with less than 30% recycled content from non-Internal Services Department procured orders by June 2010;
 - Work in consultation with County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer's Office of Risk Management to design and administer a Request for Statement of Qualifications to establish an equitable means for identifying nonprofit organizations that would like to partner with the County, on a gratis basis, for the collection and recycling of beverage containers; and
 - Determine criteria under which County facilities should be required to implement beverage container and paper recycling programs; and
 - Report back to the Board within 60 days with an inventory of interested organizations; and
2. Work in coordination with the Public Works' Countywide Departmental Recycling Coordinator, to report back to the Board within 90 days, and thereafter as part of the AB 32 update, by posting information on the County's internal website (<http://green.lacounty.gov>) that includes their progress, and an inventory of progress by Departments and/or facilities that have:
 - Implemented beverage container collection and recycling services from a menu of options (including agreements with existing waste haulers, internal staff, Styrofoam® recyclers, or nonprofit organizations), and the quantities collected and recycled;
 - Established an agreement for paper collection and recycling services with one of the existing County vendors, including quarterly reports that track the quantities collected and recycled, and revenue generated;

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- Eliminated the purchase of non-recycled content paper; and
3. Provide regular updates on the Climate Action Plan in order to allow the Board to make short- and long-term strategic decisions on how best to pursue a comprehensive Sustainability Program.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Director of Internal Services
Acting Director of Public Works
Chair, Energy and Environmental Policy Team