




Memorandum

DATE: October 27, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council Members
FROM: Michael Rogers, City Manager 
VIA: James Jackson, Director of Operations and Utilities
CC: Connie Vieira, Management Analyst
SUBJECT: Update on Food Waste Program

At the Council meeting on October 4, 2022, Councilmember Davis requested an update on the food waste program. This memo contains the status of the new container delivery, outreach on the food waste program, and California Senate Bill updates.

New Container Delivery

Tracy Disposal contracted with Strategic Cart Services (SCS) to deliver the new organics and garbage containers and pick up the old yard waste and garbage containers. Delivery of the new organics and garbage containers began on Monday, September 19, 2022. Since then, approximately 16,650 households have received the new containers. Information was mailed out to all residents on September 2, 2022, that summarized the changes to expect with the new containers, what to do with the old containers, stating organics and waste would now be collected on a weekly basis once the new organics containers are received, and that food waste will need to be disposed of in the organics container instead of thrown away in the garbage container. A flyer with further information was included with the delivery of the new containers as well.

The initial rollout involved residents receiving their new containers a day or two prior to their yard waste pickup day. Residents would place their old containers in the street for pickup as usual and SCS would then come by later that day to pick up the old empty containers. There was a slight delay in the timing to pickup the old containers. SCS has since brought in extra crews to get caught up picking up the old containers.

The City also received feedback from some residents that SCS was leaving behind pieces of the old containers when they were being taken apart for stacking. These pieces included spacers and endcaps from the wheel assembly. The comments were sent to Tracy Disposal who contacted the Vice President of SCS who was going to have the issue resolved for the future residential areas and also have someone go back to pick up any pieces left behind.

The new containers have a label on the top of each lid that shows and describes the contents allowed in each container. This label reiterates the information that has been on all the flyers for the residents. The delivery to all residents is still on schedule to be completed by the end of Thanksgiving week.

Outreach on Food Waste Program

During the previous two months there have been numerous ways staff has communicated the food waste changes to our community. Along with the flyer that was mailed to all residents prior to the delivery of the new containers, and the flyer that was delivered with the new containers with the label on the lids, the City's website was also updated with information about all the changes, information was shared on the City's social media pages, and an article was written in the Tracy Press. Staff is also finalizing a frequently asked questions sheet to share with the public.

In addition, the Solid Waste and Recycling Analyst is working with the Public Information Officer to create a video showing residents an example of the types of waste that go into each container. There is also a video that will be made at the Tracy Material Recovery Facility that shows the compost and recycling processes.

For the schools, staff is working with EcoHero again this year to perform in-person assemblies at elementary schools throughout the City. This program has had positive feedback in previous years and has the students excited about proper waste disposal. This year, EcoHero is also putting together a customized song video related to recycling and food waste.

Tracy Disposal and the City have both contacted ReCollect, a web-based program to assist customers with proper waste disposal. Tracy Disposal is taking the lead on contracting with ReCollect to have the program available to all their customers, not just the City of Tracy, which will include the ability to receive calendar reminders. However, the City of Tracy can have the portion that applies to us added to our website. The component that we will share with Tracy Disposal is the ability for customers to view their collection calendar and receive calendar reminders. There is also the "Waste Wizard" which is a search tool with predictive search detection that provides direction on how to properly dispose of materials correctly.

In addition to the program components shared with Tracy Disposal, the City is exploring other components to add on the City's site, such as an events calendar and waste sorting game that can be tied into the information shared at the school assemblies.

California Senate Bill (SB) and Assembly Bill (AB) Updates

In February 2022, the City submitted a Notice of Intent to Comply (SB 619) to CalRecycle. This allowed the delay of imposed penalties to jurisdictions that were not fully compliant with SB 1383. As part of the Notice of Intent to Comply, the City is working with CalRecycle on a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to address the reported violations. The CAP outlines tasks and timelines needed to comply with the

requirements of SB 1383. The City will be meeting and reporting to CalRecycle bimonthly on the progress of the tasks. As long as the City has continued progress on the tasks for implementation, the City may be eligible to apply for time extensions for individual tasks.

On September 16, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom approved AB 1985. This bill only applies to the recovered organic waste product procurement target portion of SB 1383 by modifying and extending the procurement targets established for jurisdictions. The City of Tracy's current procurement target is 7,888 tons of organic waste. Per AB 1985, each jurisdiction shall procure at least 30% of its recovered organic waste product procurement target by December 31, 2023; 65% by December 31, 2024; and 100% by December 31, 2025.