

GCCCD

Sustainability Committee

Recycling Recommendation

Goal

The goal is to review the current recycling for effectiveness, divert additional waste from landfills, and bring practices into compliance with the state mandates.

Summary

Non-Organic Recycling

The Sustainability committee has reviewed current recycling practices, mandates, and possible options for improving waste management. In reviewing current practices, it is unclear if our recycling contents are being recycled once they are retrieved from campus (some appears to be ending up in a landfill). While some recycling is done through the Associated Students at Cuyamaca, at large GCCCD's recycling is picked up by Quiroz, with whom the district does not have a contractual agreement. Quiroz appears to recycle only cans and bottles yet picks up all of our recycling materials.

Organic Recycling -

Further, the state has mandated that as of January 2019, any entity which generates 4 cubic yards of waste per week must arrange for organic recycling. CalRecycle is now setting up a team for auditing purposes. They are being supportive and flexible helping entities establish their diversion processes but will eventually fine up to \$10,000/day for entities out of compliance.

Cuyamaca College has an organic composting program, however Grossmont College does not. Cuyamaca College's organic waste diversion takes the form of composting. The program is funded by the Intergenerational Garden Grant until June 2019. After June 2019 Cuyamaca College will need to either fund the program, or change to Resource Management Group's organic recycling program.

Recommendations

To improve sustainability efforts and meet requirements, it is recommended that:

1. Grossmont College contract with Resource Management Group for organic waste.
 - a. Annual cost - \$3,089.76.
 - b. Current cost- \$0
2. Grossmont College contract with Waste Management Group rather than Quiroz for recycling.
 - a. Annual cost- \$5,478.00
 - b. Current cost- \$0
3. Cuyamaca College is currently unable to pursue contracting with Waste Management Group for recycling because they contract with Edco for trash. Waste Management is contractually unable to provide recycling services at Cuyamaca College if there are containers (dumpsters) from a different waste services provider on campus. It is recommended that Cuyamaca

College pursue adequate recycling through Edco or contracting with Waste Management for both trash and recycling.

4. Cuyamaca College to consider working with Resource Management Group for organic waste diversion beginning June 2019 when the Intergenerational Garden Grant, currently paying for the composting program, expires.
 - a. Annual cost- \$3,713.28.
 - b. Current cost- \$3,600, paid for by the Intergenerational Garden Grant

Sustainability Impact

These sustainability recommendations will be paid for by Districtwide Services.

- Changing recycling vendors will allow GCCCD to send more items to be recycled and reduce impacts to landfills. Landfills emit toxic and greenhouse gases including methane and carbon dioxide. These emissions as well as runoff disrupt the natural ecosystem.
- Diverting food waste from the kitchens and culinary arts programs will provide animals with food, reduce contributions to landfill, and provide material for rich compost.
- Improved signage will encourage more recycling by students and employees.
- Advances the District's strategic priority regarding sustainability of reducing, reusing and recycling.
- Reaffirms GCCCD's commitment to environmental stewardship.

Other Impacts

- This will result in some reduction in hourly employee workload in regard to the need to sort recycling.
- Both campuses may require covered recycling bins for outdoor recycling locations on campus to keep the integrity of recycled materials.

Communication

The Sustainability Committee has agreed to launch a full educational campaign about the ramifications for updating the recycling and composting programs. This campaign includes:

1. An announcement and brochure to educate the community about the new bins and efforts.
2. A newsletter explaining the updated programs, process and what is and what isn't recyclable.
3. One on one education via the Energy Specialist.
4. Simple signage at every recycling receptacle on campus showing what should be put in each type of bin.
5. Offer training or workshops on request.
6. Workflow development and training for operations and student workers.

Monitoring and Reporting

Our contractors will provide a monthly summarizing content and weight by location. These reports will also be used in annual compliance reporting as it is further developed by the state.

Any Arising Issues

1. Parties involved with the intergenerational garden grant are concerned that once the grant disappears the funds will not be available to maintain the garden, which is currently used as a classroom for the CDC children. Further, the compost, made on campus currently, will not be available for use if the switch is made to RMG's composting program.