



Los Altos Selects Mission Trail Waste Systems

Los Altos won an environmental victory over waste and greenhouse gas pollution when the Los Altos City Council unanimously voted to award an expanded waste contract to Mission Trail Waste Systems on March 23, 2010. The vote was a culmination of a two-year effort by city staff, consultants, council, the Los Altos Environmental Commission and the GreenTown Los Altos Waste Management Committee.

The GreenTown Los Altos committee spent six months extensively researching waste management in the San Francisco Bay Area. "The result was a 40-page analysis of key findings, including long- and short-term goals, which we provided to the City's Environmental Commission in December 2008," said Margie Suozzo, Committee Co-Chair, "We were pleased to see 10 key recommendations, which were endorsed by the commission and adopted in January 2009 by the Council, incorporated into the new contract. This 10-year contract will enable Los Altos residents and business owners to enjoy a significant reduction in the amount of waste sent to the landfill and all the environmental benefits that come with that."

Highlights of the new service contract with Mission Trail Waste Systems are as follows:

- Rolling bins and weekly pick-up of garbage, recycling and organics/compostables.
- Expanded weekly compostable collection (including yard waste, produce, meat, dairy, poultry, food-contaminated paper) for both residential and commercial customers.
- Single stream recycling, with all cans, bottles, paper, etc going into the same bin.
- A projected 78% waste diversion from the landfill (current diversion is 54%), with penalties enforced for not meeting that level.
- Residential service pricing should remain the same or less than current pricing.
- Residential service will begin at 7a.m. instead of the current 6a.m.
- Smaller waste bins (20 gallons) will be available, with cost savings for those who generate less landfill waste.
- All garbage trucks will use compressed natural gas, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Side yard pick-up will still be available at an extra charge.
- Basic Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) will be collected curbside weekly (water-based paints, cooking oil, compact fluorescent bulbs, dry-cell batteries, small electronics.)
- On-call at-residence HHW will be available for a fee (oil-based paints, fluorescent tubes, pesticides.)
- Pairs of garbage and recycling bins will be located downtown and at Loyola Corners.
- Recycling, compostable and garbage collection at all City-sponsored events .

Terms of the new service agreement also include a robust public education plan, another GreenTown Los Altos recommendation. "We support the smart plan for educating the public in the transition and throughout the contract," said Kacey Fitzpatrick,



GreenTown executive director. “Public education was identified as the top priority among participants in our two Green Citizens public forums on reducing waste in Los Altos, and we look forward to partnering with the city and Mission Trail in this important effort.” Fitzpatrick congratulated the city for their achievement adding, “This is a historic step towards sustainability, greenhouse gas reduction and to becoming a true ‘GreenTown.’” The new service agreement goes into effect September 15, 2010.