

# Municipal Approaches to Packaging Reduction

All of us together can make

**ZERO** 

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## Local Solutions to Global Pollution

- City of Berkeley Stop Styro Campaign 1988
- Local Solutions to Global Pollution 1989
- International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) 1990
- World Environment Day 2005
  - Urban Environmental Accords
  - **Action 5** Adopt a citywide program that reduces the use of a disposable, toxic, or non-renewable product category by at least fifty per cent in seven years
- U.S. Council of Mayors Climate Protection Initiative 2007
  - 884 mayors in 50 U.S. states

## Brief History of Plastic Bag Regulation in California

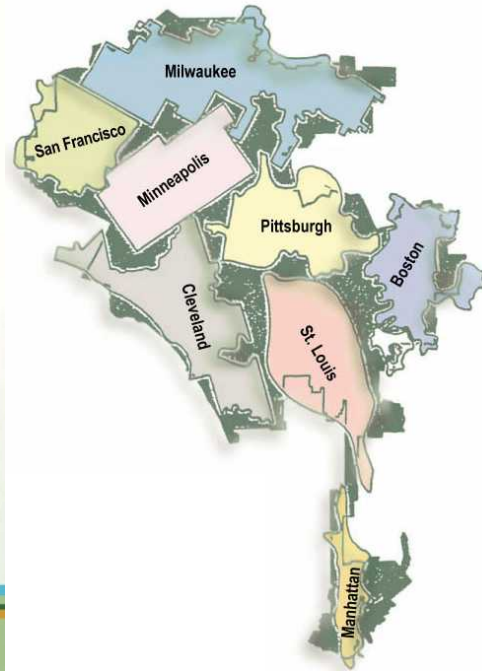
- 2005 – San Francisco proposes 17 cent bag fee
- 2006 – Assembly Bill 2449
  - Requires bag recycling in supermarkets
  - Pre-empts local fees
- 2007 – San Francisco and Oakland ban plastic bags
- 2008 – Assembly Bill 2058
  - Would have required a 25 cent fee on single-use bags

## Envision a world without waste

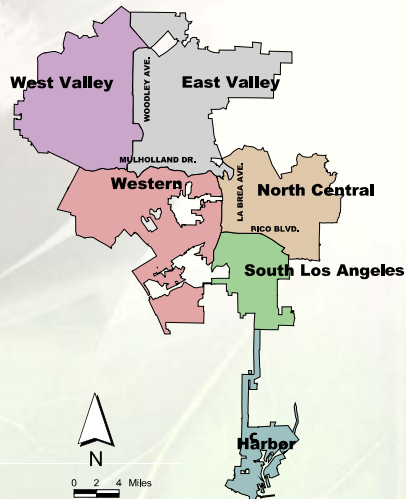


## HOW BIG IS LOS ANGELES?

| City                       | SQUARE MILES  |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| <b>City of Los Angeles</b> | <b>468.85</b> |
| Boston, MA                 | 49            |
| Cleveland, OH              | 199.4         |
| Manhattan, NY              | 31            |
| Milwaukee, WI              | 95            |
| Minneapolis, MN            | 58.7          |
| Pittsburgh, PA             | 55.5          |
| St. Louis, MO              | 160.3         |
| San Francisco, CA          | 46.7          |



## City Collection Services



### City of Los Angeles:

- 470 square miles
- 4 million residents
- 6 collection districts
  - East Valley
  - West Valley
  - West LA
  - North Central
  - South LA
  - Harbor



Refuse

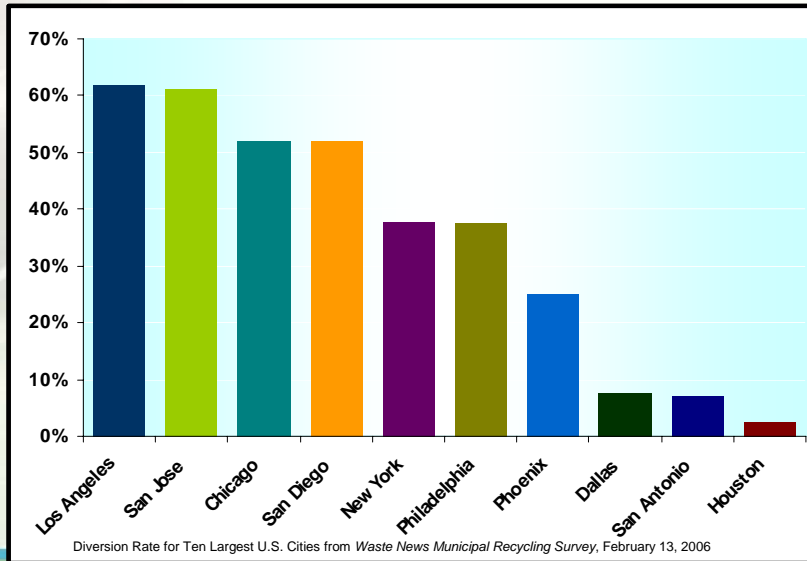


Recyclables



Yard Trimmings

## Big City Leader



## Current Recycling Programs

- **Single-family residential curbside recycling (New to Blue 2007)**
  - Includes Styrofoam, plastic bags and other plastics
- **Multi-family residential recycling (Citywide as of Summer 2007)**
- **Residential yard trimming collection and processing**
- **Bulky item collection for single-family AND multi-family**
- **SAFE (Solvents, Automotive, Flammables and Electronics)**
- **LAUSD Blue Bin Recycling Program**
- **Commercial food scrap recycling pilot**

### New in 2008

- **Residential food scrap collection pilot**
- **Mandatory construction and demolition debris recycling**
- **Pay-as-you-throw pilot**
- **75% diversion by 2013**

## Guiding Principles

1. Education to decrease consumption
2. City leadership as a model for zero waste practices
3. Education to increase recycling
4. City leadership to increase recycling
5. Manufacturer responsibility
6. Consumer responsibility
7. Convenience
8. Incentives
9. New, safe, technology
10. Protect public health and the environment
11. Equity
12. Economic efficiency

## Applying the Guiding Principles to Policy Initiatives

- Issue: Plastics in litter, LA river, entire LA watershed and the ocean



## Potential Policy Options

- Mandatory recycling
- Product takebacks
- Styrofoam ban
- Plastic bag ban
- Fee on single use items
- Mandatory rebate for bringing reusable bags or takeout containers



## Concerns

- **Environmental impact of alternative products**
  - Paper is resource-intensive
  - Bio-based products made from food crops
  - Bio-based products may not degrade and can be a contaminant in recycling programs
  - Markets for reusable bags once they are torn or soiled
- **Magnitude of LA**
  - Availability of alternative products
- **Infrastructure**
  - Plastic recycling infrastructure exists but may not be robust
  - Composting infrastructure is not fully in place
  - City goal is to recover materials locally
- **Economic impacts of fees and bans**
  - Fee impact on low income residents
  - Cost of reusable bags
  - Cost of alternative products impact small businesses
  - Reuse of plastic bags for trash can liners, etc.

## Potential Policy Solutions

- **Phased implementation**
  - Notice to businesses and consumers
  - In conjunction with infrastructure development
  - In conjunction with market development for alternative products
- **City leadership model**
  - To test alternative products and program implementation strategies
  - To model zero waste practices
- **Exemptions**
  - Based on size of business
  - Alternative products required only when comparable in cost
  - Based on income

## Los Angeles Plastics Policy July 2008

- Continue to mitigate plastic trash
- Continue to promote plastic recycling
- Ban Styrofoam at City facilities
- Ban plastic bags at supermarkets by 2010 unless California requires a fee on bags statewide

