



RON ROBERTS

VICE-CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: July 12, 2011

07

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT: COMPOSTING AT COUNTY FACILITIES(DISTRICTS: ALL)

SUMMARY:

Overview

The County of San Diego has proven to be a leader in green initiatives. Recently, this Board of Supervisors made the decision to meet the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification standards for the County Operations Center (COC) and also received a LEED Silver certification for the Medical Examiner and Forensic Center's use of sustainable materials during construction and its energy-efficient operation.

Now, we can further define ourselves as green movement leaders by turning our attention to organic composting. Implementing composting programs at select County buildings and operations can potentially achieve cost savings by reducing waste and creating organic materials that can be used in landscaping. Along with diverting organic material from landfills, composting will aid in our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. Utilizing composting will continue the County of San Diego's mission of being a good environmental steward for the region.

Today's recommendation is to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to explore opportunities for composting at County facilities as well as incorporating composting into the County's procurement of grounds keeping, food services and where appropriate.

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Recommendation(s)

VICE-CHAIRMAN ROBERTS

- 1) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to explore opportunities for composting at County facilities.
- 2) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back to the Board of Supervisors within 90 days with an analysis of the feasibility, timeline, costs, savings, and resources required to implement composting recommendations.
- 3) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop an implementation plan for those recommendations that are deemed feasible, or may be so in the future. |

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

The County of San Diego has proven to be a leader in green initiatives. Recently, this Board of Supervisors made the decision to meet the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification standards for the County Operations Center (COC) and also received a LEED Silver certification for the Medical Examiner and Forensic Center's use of sustainable materials during construction and its energy-efficient operation.

The County of San Diego also built one of the region's two Platinum LEED certified buildings, the San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center. This two-story building is made from recycled materials and relies heavily on solar energy, natural light, and natural ventilation for cooling.

At the direction of my office, the County of San Diego has created a uniform policy that requires double-sided printing. The County of San Diego in 2007 used 333,352 reams of paper. In 2010 the County of San Diego used 260,554 reams of paper, a 22 percent reduction. (One ream of paper equals 500 sheets of paper.)

For the last 12 years the County of San Diego Air Pollution Control District, along with my office, has organized a lawnmower trade in event where gasoline mowers are exchanged for rechargeable electric models. We have traded in over 5,939 lawnmowers and taken more than 22 tons per year of volatile organic compounds out of the air.

This is just a small glimpse of the many, many green programs and initiatives being advanced by the County of San Diego. Now, we can further define ourselves as green movement leaders by

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turning our attention to organic composting. Installing composting programs at select County facilities and for certain programs can potentially achieve cost savings by reducing waste and creating organic materials that can be used in landscaping or other uses at County facilities. Along with diverting organic material from landfills, composting will aid in our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. Utilizing composting will continue the County of San Diego's mission of being a good regional environmental steward.

The County currently incorporates small scale composting practices at Stelzer Park in Lakeside and Dos Picos Park in Ramona. Opportunities to expand this practice should be explored with landscaping, vegetation management at County parks and open space preserves and incorporated into facilities that feature food service for food waste. Costs and benefits related to equipment needs such as bins, transportation costs and food digesters for current and proposed cafeterias should be explored.

Today's recommendation is to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to explore opportunities for composting at County facilities as well as incorporating composting into the County's procurement of grounds keeping, food services and where appropriate.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

The proposed action supports the Kids and Safe and Livable Communities initiatives in the County's Strategic Plan by adopting efforts that reduce pollution and waste. Additionally, today's action will enhance the efforts of the County's adopted Strategic Energy Plan: Recycling; as well as the Health Strategy Agenda: Building Better Health by supporting healthy and sustainable environments. This action will show, once again, how the County of San Diego is leading the way in best practices for regional government.

Respectfully submitted,

RON ROBERTS
Supervisor, Forth District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
NA

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 4, Board of Supervisors

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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