

The Bureau of Sanitation is committed to developing community-based solutions that benefit the environment and improve our quality of life.



CITY OF LOS ANGELES



**SANITATION**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS

> transforming waste into a valuable resource



## Solutions for a better tomorrow

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Not long ago, residents of Southern California faced almost daily smog alerts caused by car emissions. Today, new technologies have significantly reduced the amount of pollution caused by cars resulting in improved air quality that we all enjoy.

The same story can be true for how we handle our trash.

Over the last 20 years, growing populations have created a wave of trash that is rapidly filling up our existing landfills. However, during that time, new technologies have emerged that convert trash into renewable energy sources. Utilizing these technologies will

result in an improved environment and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

Today, Alternative Technologies are being used worldwide in countries across Europe and Asia. In the United States, they are being embraced by many municipalities and solid waste companies. The City of Los Angeles is demonstrating environmental leadership by developing ways to implement innovative Alternative Technologies for processing the City's solid waste. This effort is supported by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and is consistent with the City Council's recently adopted RENEW L.A. Plan.



*Using Alternative Technologies, water turbines like the ones above can be used for steam production to generate energy. This method offers advanced environmental controls and by-product recovery.*





*Each year, BOS  
collects 240,000 tons  
of recyclables and  
480,000 tons of  
yard trimmings.*

## **The Bureau of Sanitation (BOS), is a leader in the trash diversion**

The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation is considered a trendsetter in the waste disposal industry, having implemented highly successful waste reduction and recycling programs. Currently, the City of Los Angeles diverts 62 percent of its municipal solid waste into the recycling process. That is 12 percent above the State of California average and 25 percent higher than the United States average.

BOS continues to push the envelope with innovative facilities and services planned to meet the goal of diverting 70 percent of its refuse from landfills by 2015. BOS is committed to developing

community-based solutions that benefit the environment and improve our quality of life.

## **No place for our remaining trash**

Do you know where the non-recycled trash from your home or office ends up? Most of it is buried in local landfills. However, these will soon be full and no additional landfills will be allowed in Los Angeles County. This means unless we do something different, the City of Los Angeles will be forced to use rail or trucks to haul our trash a much farther distance, at up to 10 times the existing cost. This expense would ultimately be passed on to residents and businesses.

## Alternative Technologies for municipal solid waste



Through the use of proven Alternative Technologies, trash will be transformed from a public nuisance to a fuel-rich product.

*Facilities in use today around the globe (from left to right):*  
1: Spittelau Vienna, Austria.  
2: WTE Brescia, Italy.  
3: MVR Hamburg, Germany.  
4: Alternative Technologies Facility

# Alternative Technologies

for municipal solid waste

Using Alternative Technologies, BOS will transform waste into a renewable energy source that helps clean our environment.

## Goals of Alternative Technologies

- Produce new energy sources that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and need for costly electric power generation plants
- Reduce air pollution and long-term environmental consequences of landfills
- Divert waste from landfills
- Produce a marketable resource



## Real cost of landfilling

While using local landfill sites has historically been the cheapest way to dispose of trash, people tend not to consider all the costs associated with placing our trash in the ground. For example, transfer vehicles that truck our trash to landfills criss-cross through the City of Los Angeles every day polluting our air with toxic contaminants. Both active and closed landfill sites leak contaminants into the ground and release greenhouse gases over a long period of time. These harmful emissions from landfills threaten our water resources and air quality.

## The promise of technology

Can you imagine taking normal everyday waste and converting it into a renewable energy source that can power your home or fuel your car? These technologies exist today and soon will become more commonplace as municipalities recognize that solid waste is a valuable resource that can generate new sources of revenue.

BOS is leading the way in California with a goal to have an Alternative Technologies facility operating by 2010 to process municipal solid waste. Using Alternative Technologies, BOS will transform waste into renewable energy, providing new resources and helping improve our environment in the City of Los Angeles.



# 90%

*Up to 90 percent of post-separated trash can be converted to a marketable resource.*



# Alternative Technologies for municipal solid waste

## Contact Us

The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation is working closely with all stakeholders, community groups, neighborhood councils, business leaders as well as city and other government officials to find new environmentally safe, community friendly and cost-effective disposal methods for non-recyclable trash.

To learn more about Alternative Technologies and the on-going efforts of BOS to implement them in the City of Los Angeles, please visit our website at [www.lacity-alternativetechnology.org](http://www.lacity-alternativetechnology.org), or contact Miguel A. Zermeno, Project Manager at 213-485-3611.

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