

# FACT SHEET: Waste Generation and Disposal Projections

## How do we measure the solid waste we generate and dispose?

- The City's Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) provides waste collection services to single-family residential customers and up to four units of multifamily dwellings from six wastesheds within the City:
  - West Valley
  - East Valley
  - Western
  - North Central/East Side
  - South LA
  - Harbor
- Tonnage information is generated from scale tickets issued as the collection vehicles arrive at transfer stations or landfills to empty their loads
- Each disposal facility in California must provide the state with data on the tonnages received, as well as the jurisdiction from which the waste was generated. The total tonnages of disposed waste generated annually from any jurisdiction is documented in a database (Disposal Reporting System) maintained by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB).
- Waste collected by permitted waste haulers serving commercial customers and multifamily complexes is based on citywide data from the CIWMB Disposal Reporting System and allocated to the City's six wastesheds based on the numbers and types of non-single family residential generators within each wasteshed.
- Tonnage information for separate collection of green waste, recyclables, construction and demolition (C&D) materials and other materials diverted from landfill disposal are also tracked as loads are delivered to material recovery facilities (MRFs), compost facilities, construction and demolition facilities or designated areas at transfer stations and landfills where the materials are handled for recovery. Facility operators use scale house transaction records to implement their tracking systems, but they may also use other methods such as volume-to-weight conversions based on the observed volume of the load delivered.
- Waste "generation" is the sum of tons diverted plus tons disposed, and is used to determine the City's rate of waste diversion

## What sectors generate the solid waste?

- Single-family residents (in detached homes, duplex, triplex and four-unit dwellings)
- Multifamily residential units (includes apartments, condominiums, and townhouses of more than four units receiving commercial refuse service)
- Commercial businesses<sup>1</sup>
- Construction and demolition sites

## How much waste is generated, diverted and disposed?

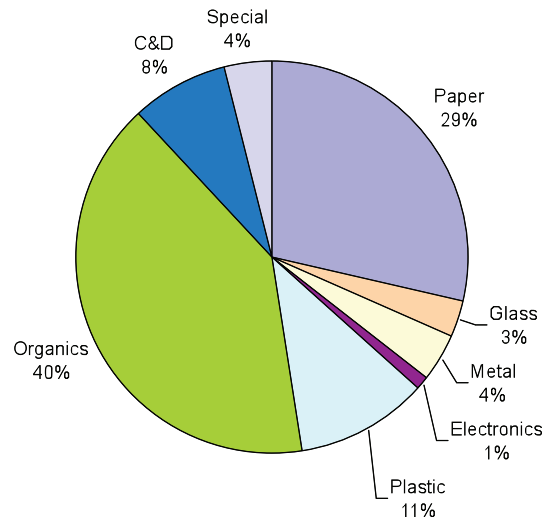
- Based on data<sup>2</sup> for 2006, the City generated a total of 9.62 million tons of potential waste
- Of that amount, we succeeded in diverting 5.97 million tons (or 62%) by diverting the following materials from landfill disposal:
  - Construction and demolition (C & D) materials – 2.49 million tons
  - Recyclables - 2.58 million tons
  - Organics – 0.90 million tons
- We disposed the remaining 3.65 million tons in landfills

## What's the composition of the waste going to landfills?

Assumptions used to make waste projections for future planning include:

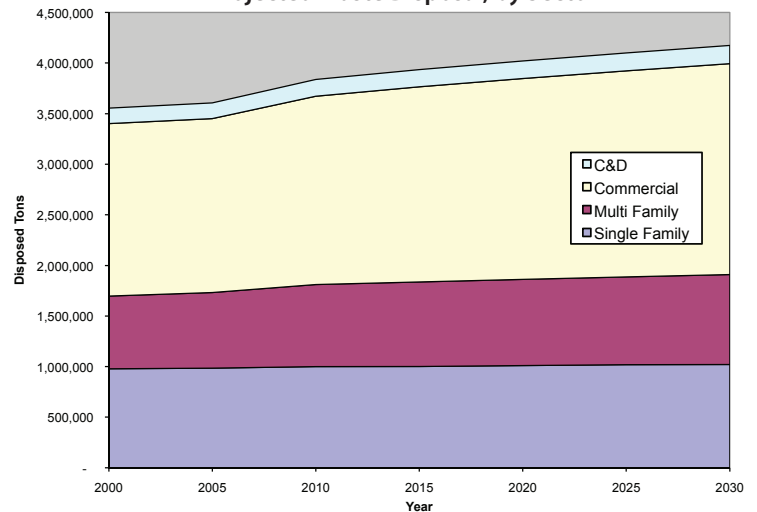
- Residential disposal projections based on expected population growth with a constant per-capita disposal rate<sup>3</sup>
- Commercial disposal projections based on expected increases in employees within each industry<sup>4</sup>
- Projections help to target materials for new diversion programs that will be reflected in the Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan, or "SWIRP," the City's evolving 20-year master plan to achieve zero waste in Los Angeles

2006 Disposed Waste Composition, Citywide



Source for above chart: City of Los Angeles Waste Characterization Study, 2002 Supplemental information from California Integrated Waste Management Board Self-Haul Waste Characterization Study, 2003

Projected Waste Disposal, by Sector



### NEXT STEP:

Use waste projections to identify infrastructure needs for the City's future system (MRFs, compost facilities, C & D processing facilities, transfer stations, and other processing and resource recovery facilities to reach the near term goal of 75% diversion by 2013 and the long term goal of zero waste by 2025.

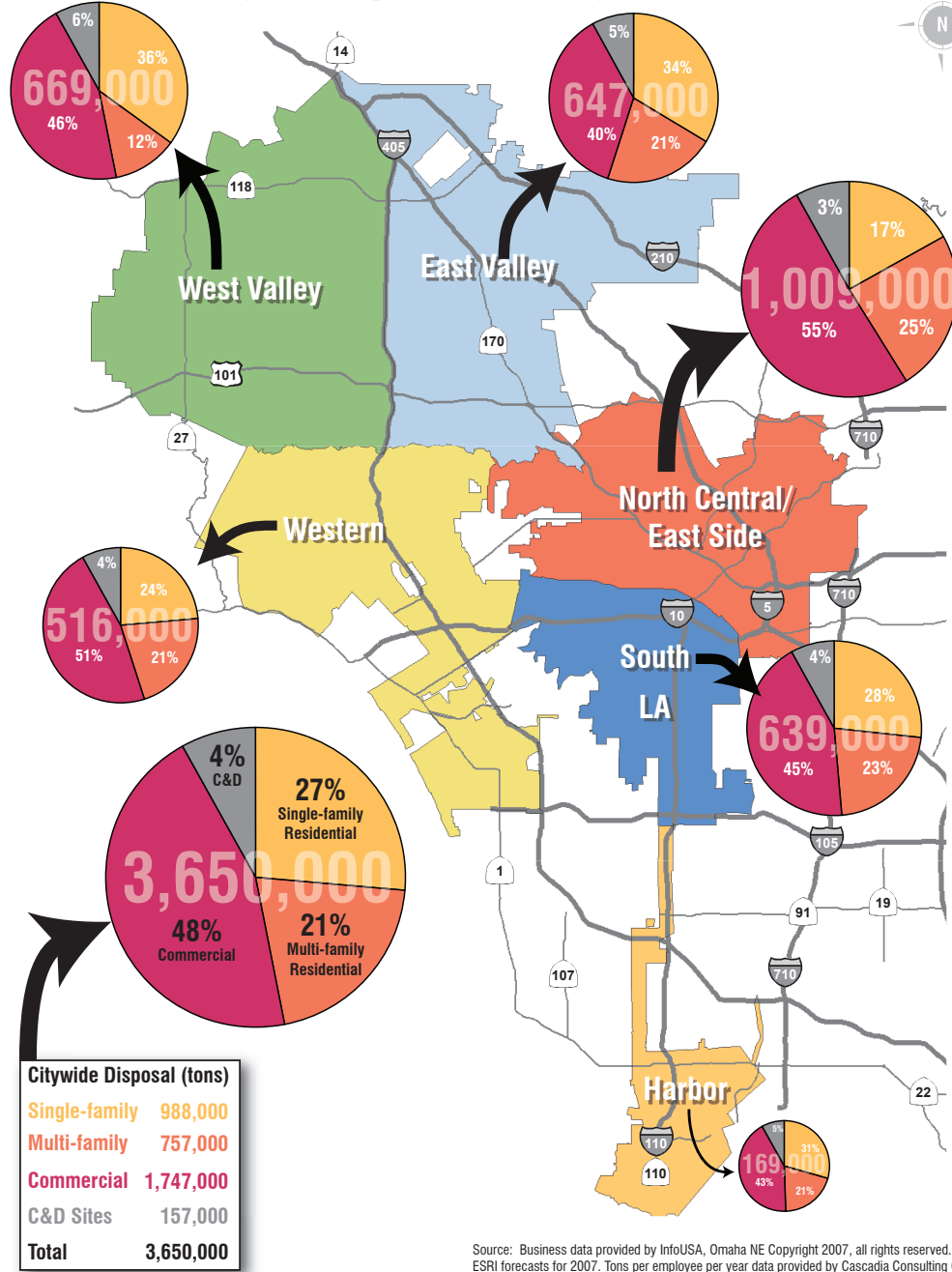


COUNTING DOWN TO

**ZERO**  
WASTE PLAN  
Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan



## Summary of Disposed Tons by Wasteshed, 2006



Source: Business data provided by InfoUSA, Omaha NE Copyright 2007, all rights reserved. ESRI forecasts for 2007. Tons per employee per year data provided by Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc.

<sup>1</sup> The term "commercial businesses" refers to small and large businesses, institutional and industrial generators, and public venues, all of which generate waste that is collected by a permitted private waste-hauling company.

<sup>2</sup> The BOS provided tonnages for the single-family residential substream. Estimates for the disposed waste from multi-family, commercial and construction and demolition site substreams were developed based on total 2006 tonnage figures from the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) Disposal Reporting System and on commercial per employee and

multi-family per household disposal rates calculated in the City of Los Angeles Waste Characterization and Quantification Study Year 2000 (2002).

<sup>3</sup> Based on Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) population projections through 2030.

<sup>4</sup> Cascadia Consulting conducted a study for BOS in 2008 to identify waste flows in the City of Los Angeles. Disposed waste for the commercial substream are based on (SCAG) employment projections for the following seven categories: Manufacturing, Transportation/Communication/Utilities, Wholesale, Retail, Financial/Insurance/Real Estate, Services, and Government. The employment category that includes construction was specifically excluded.



Printed on Recycled Paper



[www.zerowaste.lacity.org](http://www.zerowaste.lacity.org)

COUNTING DOWN TO  
**ZERO**  
WASTE PLAN  
Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan