

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

Solid Waste Policy

Adopted January 15th, 2009

Solid waste management is a vital public service that impacts our environment, natural resources, and quality of life, ranging from public health to watershed well being and air quality. The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) seeks to identify and implement environmentally-beneficial and pragmatic strategies that assist our region in planning for integrated, long-term and reliable solid waste management needs, controlling costs, maintaining regulatory compliance, and ensuring environmental sustainability. When pursuing this goal, SGVCOG will abide by the following principles:

- Solutions should emphasize the protection and enhancement of public health and well-being, while conserving our natural resources
- Solutions should be cost-effective while maximizing the availability of quality services for San Gabriel Valley residents
- Solutions should promote opportunities where trash could be viewed as a resource rather than discarded waste
- Solutions should emphasize a balanced approach to “reduce, reuse, and recycle” strategies
- Strategies should be developed to address the infrastructure needs that provide low-cost, low-impact services for San Gabriel Valley residents
- To the highest extent possible, decision-making and regulatory authority should be maintained at the local level

With these guiding principles in mind, SGVCOG advocates and supports programs and legislation that will:

- 1) Encourage the diversification of solid waste management strategies, including conversion technology, that will create new markets and that are feasible given the landscape and conditions of the San Gabriel Valley
- 2) Promote shared responsibility waste management principles (ie. product stewardship) throughout the entire life cycle of a product, from design to disposal
- 3) Encourage the participation of product manufacturers in end-of-life product recovery, reuse, and recycling, with an emphasis on those products banned from disposal
- 4) Provide a strong commitment to utilizing financial incentives rather than mandatory requirements
- 5) Ensure local jurisdictions are not subject to duplicative or contradictory legislative requirements
- 6) Promote public education of solid waste issues affecting the San Gabriel Valley
- 7) Advocate for state and federal appropriations and/or loan programs for solid waste management programs and initiatives