



# Zero Waste in Alameda

## April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009



# Envision a world without waste

**Garbage without Guilt**

**Assembly Bill 939**

**Alameda County Measure D**

**Local Action Plan for  
Climate Protection**

**Assembly Bill 32**

**25% diversion by 1995**

**50% diversion by 2000**

**75% diversion by 2010**

**Reduce GHG emissions to 25% below  
2005 levels by 2025**

**Reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020  
Reduce to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050**



# Alameda Firsts

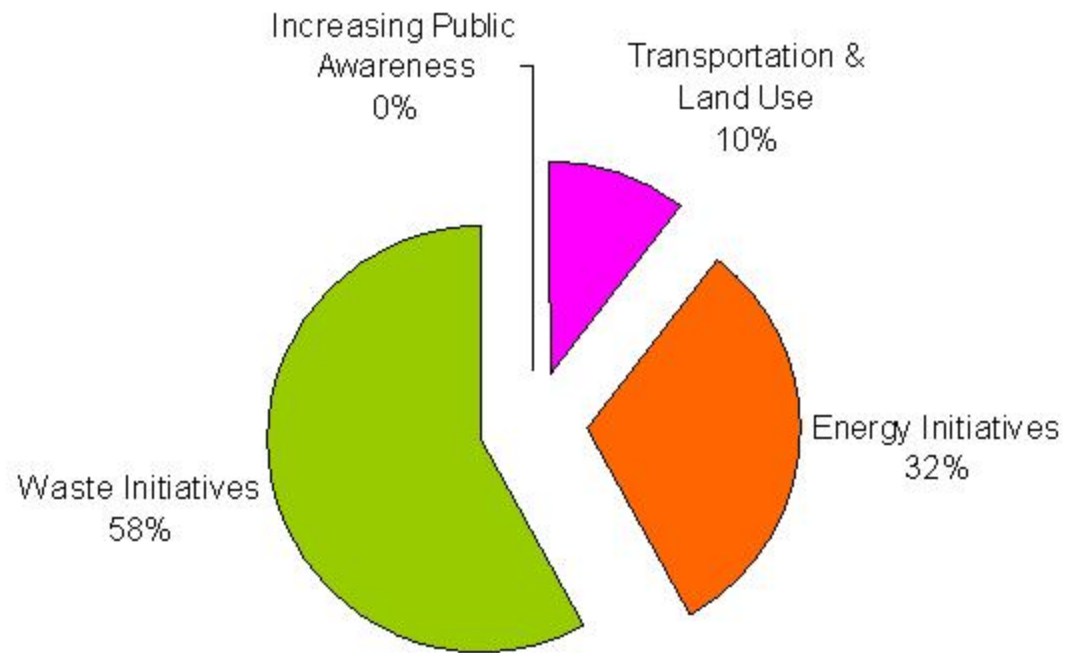
- Cart collection program 1997
- Food scrap diversion 2002
- Comprehensive construction and demolition recycling requirements 2002
- Climate Protection Local Action Plan 2008
- Ban on polystyrene to-go containers 2008
- 48% diversion 1995
- 65% diversion 2000
- 68% diversion 2005



# Zero Waste and Climate Change

- **Landfills**
  - Create carbon dioxide and methane
  - Account for 25% of U.S. methane emissions
  - Methane is 21 x more potent than carbon dioxide
- **Waste prevention, recycling and composting**
  - Save energy
  - Divert materials from landfills
  - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- **Recycling & composting all discards = eliminating all auto exhaust**

# City of Alameda GHG Reduction Analysis



Integrated waste management system offers  
the most effective GHG reduction potential

# Climate Protection Local Action Plan

## Zero Waste Initiatives

- ☒ Ban on polystyrene foam to-go containers
  - Stronger environmental purchasing policy
  - Stronger construction and demolition ordinance
  - Develop more locations for bottle and can recycling
  - Work with Alameda Unified School District to implement recycling, reuse and composting at schools

# What is Zero Waste?

- **Zero Waste**

- Recognizes that “waste” is not inevitable
- Discarded materials are potentially valuable resources
- Goes beyond “end of the line” strategies
- Maximizes recycling and composting
- Reduces consumption
- Designs “waste” out of the system

# Paradigm Shift

- Recyclables used to be what we kept out of the trash
- Now trash is what we have leftover after we reuse, recycle and compost







**Reduce  
Reuse  
Recycle**  
**= Zero Waste**

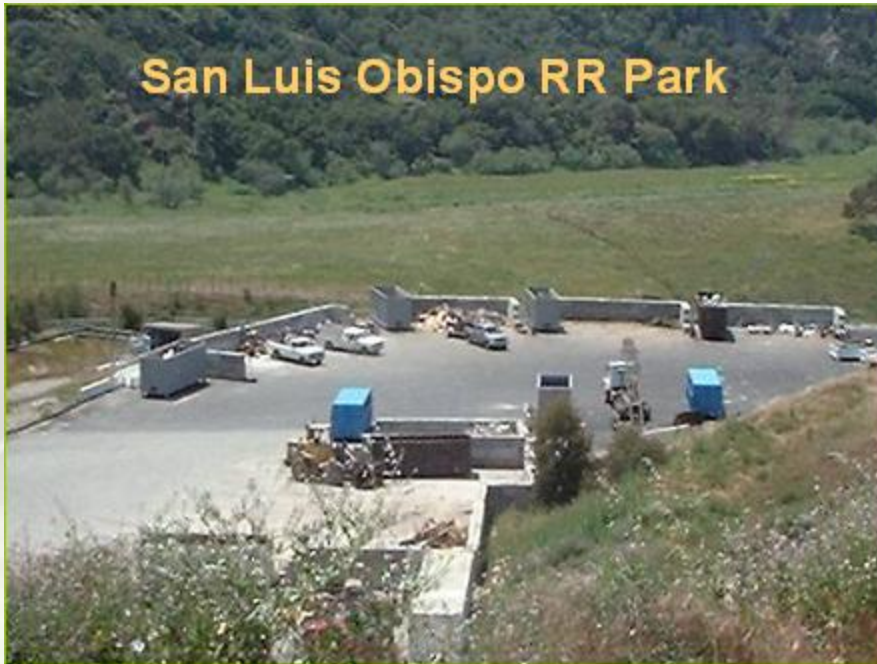
# Upstream Zero Waste Policies and Programs

- Advocate for Extended Producer Responsibility for toxics
- Advocate for Extended Producer Responsibility for difficult to recycle materials
- Advocate for state packaging legislation
- Single use bag ban
- Precautionary Principle for City purchases
- Update Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy

# Downstream Zero Waste Policies and Programs

- Modify collection rates to increase recycling
- Increased recycling technical assistance
- Add textiles and more plastics to the blue cart
- Increase bulky item reuse and recycling
- Add compostable plastics to the green cart
- Large scale media/social marketing campaign
- Mandatory recycling
- Mandatory organics
- Recycling code enforcement
- Require all construction and demolition (C&D) debris loads to be processed
- Increase diversion requirements in C&D ordinance

# Community Scale Zero Waste Facilities



- Reuse stores
- Building materials reuse
- Creative reuse
- Electronics repair
- Fix-it shops
- Pallet repair
- Food donation
- Equipment rental
- Resource Recovery Parks
- Community gardens and composting
- Household hazardous waste drop-off
- Product care centers
- Recycling and remanufacturing

If not Zero Waste, how  
much waste are you for?



# Zero Waste Plan Schedule

- **June 11<sup>th</sup> Workshop**
  - 7 p.m.
  - Alameda Free Library
  - 1550 Oak Street
  - Results of analysis of
    - Policies and programs
    - Service opportunities
    - Economics
  - Input on zero waste implementation plan

Check for updates at:

[www.planetalamda.com](http://www.planetalamda.com)

