

Status Report on Reducing and/or Continuing the Use of  
Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL)  
Public Hearing  
July 18, 2011  
5:00 p.m.  
City Hall, 530 South King Street,  
Room 301, Mayor's Conference Room

Presentation

1. Opening and Welcome

Notice of this public hearing was published in the Honolulu Star Advertiser on June 21, 2011 and on the City's Refuse Division website, [www.opala.org](http://www.opala.org)

This public hearing is being held to comply with Conditions 15 and 16 of the State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission's FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND DECISION AND ORDER WITH MODIFICATIONS, certified on October 22, 2009, in Docket No. SP09-403 (the LUC Order), which states:

"15. The Honolulu City Council through the City Administration shall report to the public every three months on the efforts of the City Council and the City Administration in regard to the continued use of the WGSL, including any funding arrangements that are being considered by the City Council and the City Administration."

"16. The City Council and the City Administration shall have a public hearing every three months to report on the status of their efforts to either reduce or continue the use of the WGSL."

The complete LUC Order is available at the State Land Use Commission website: [http://luc.state.hi.us/co\\_sphonolulu.htm](http://luc.state.hi.us/co_sphonolulu.htm)

The following report covers developments during the last calendar quarter regarding the matters set forth in Conditions 15 and 16 of the LUC Order.

2. Progress Toward Another Landfill Site

A. Condition 4 of the LUC Order states in relevant part:

"On or before November 1, 2010, the Applicant shall begin to identify and develop one or more new landfill sites that shall either replace or supplement the WGSL."

The Mayor's Advisory Landfill Site Selection Committee has had five meetings to date. The next scheduled meeting is on July 19, 2011.

- B. The following tonnage chart includes municipal solid waste (MSW), H-POWER ash and residue delivered to WGSL during the last three months. There was an H-POWER maintenance diversion during March/April 2011, resulting in an increased amount of MSW delivered to WGSL.

April 2011	32,285 tons
May 2011	27,285 tons
June 2011	24,376 tons

No complaints were received during this reporting period.

3. Progress Report on Landfill Diversion

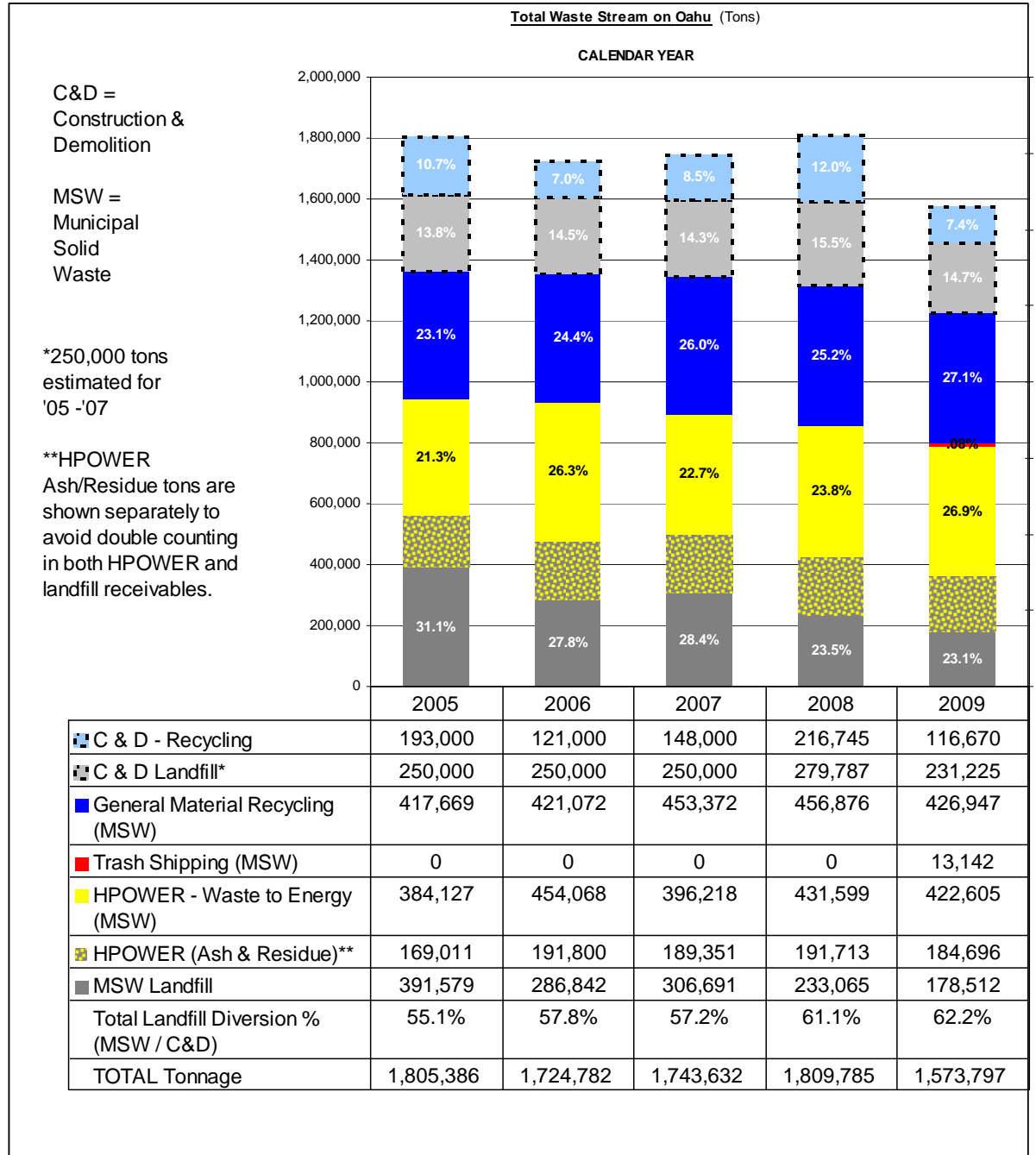
- A. The H-POWER expansion project is approximately 50% completed and is on schedule.

B. Interim Off-Island Shipping of MSW

No waste was ever shipped to the mainland due to various problems encountered by Hawaiian Waste Systems (HWS), the bidder awarded the contract to ship waste to the mainland. HWS had 20,000 tons of MSW to be disposed of. A fire at HWS facility of January 6, 2011, temporarily delayed disposal. However, by May 12, 2011, all of the stored waste was disposed of. Approximately 14,800 tons was taken to H-POWER, 4,500 tons was taken to WGSL, and 1,500 tons of metal was recycled. On June 8, 2011, HWS began accepting City waste (that would have gone to the landfill) to be shredded and recycled. The burnable materials are taken to H-POWER for energy conversion and the metals and other recyclables are taken to recyclers. The City has a contract for HWS to take 36,000 tons over a 12 month period.

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### C. Materials Recycling and Landfill Diversion



The most recent data available is for calendar year 2009. Although waste tracking to landfill and H-POWER is managed every month by ENV, recycling data is provided by commercial recycling companies which are surveyed annually. Recycling data for 2010 is currently being finalized and an update will be available at the next meeting.

The data in the chart above shows how Oahu's waste has been diverted from landfill through recycling and waste-to-energy. The general trend shows annual increases in recycling and waste-to-energy rates, and decreases in landfill disposal. In comparing the most recent years, 2008 and 2009, note that overall waste generation

decreased significantly, likely due to the down-turn in the economy. Total waste generation dropped from 1.8 million tons in 2008 to 1.575 million tons in 2009. Although recycling tonnages decreased, the recycling rate, or percentage of the total waste stream, increased from 25% in 2008 to 27% in 2009 for general material recycling (not including C&D recycling). And the total landfill diversion rate continued to increase from 57% in 2006/2007 to 61% in 2008 and 62% in 2009. (National average is 44-46%)

The tables below provide detail of what was recycled per year and by material type. Note the upward trend of general material recycling from approximately 75,000 tons in 1988 to well over 400,000 tons today. Recycling of construction and demolition materials, such as concrete, rock and asphalt, has added between 100,000 and 200,000 tons to the recycling rates. These C&D recycling rates tend to fluctuate based on the volume and type of construction projects undertaken from year to year. C&D material is diverted from the WGS� to the private PVT landfill for disposal.

Year	General Material Recycling	C&D Recycling	Total Recycled
<a href="#">2009</a>	426,947	116,670	543,617
<a href="#">2008</a>	456,876	216,745	673,621
<a href="#">2007</a>	453,282	148,952	602,234
<a href="#">2006</a>	421,072	121,675	542,747
<a href="#">2005</a>		193,829	611,498
<a href="#">2004</a>		173,916	560,254
<a href="#">2003</a>		106,773	473,412
<a href="#">2002</a>	352,699	139,055	491,754
<a href="#">2001</a>	367,300	114,070	481,370
<a href="#">2000</a>	327,710	165,000	
<a href="#">1999</a>	314,075	225,200	
<a href="#">1998</a>	318,690	148,800	467,490
<a href="#">1997</a>	313,394	204,400	517,794
<a href="#">1996</a>	299,574	95,300	394,874
<a href="#">1995</a>	294,340	44,400	338,740
<a href="#">1994</a>	290,412	35,700	326,112
<a href="#">1993</a>	241,600	30,000	271,600
<a href="#">1991</a>	167,152	0	167,152
<a href="#">1988</a>	73,992	0	73,992

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**Oahu Recycling 2009**

<b>Material Type</b>	<b>Amount in tons</b>
<b>PAPER</b>	
Corrugated Cardboard	41,945
Newspaper	15,053
Office Paper	14,224
Other Paper	1,043
<b>METALS</b>	
Ferrous (includes autos)	152,377
Non-Ferrous (includes aluminum)	13,626
<b>GLASS</b>	21,306
<b>PLASTIC</b>	4,876
<b>TIRES</b>	10,277
<b>AUTO BATTERIES</b>	5,929
<b>ELECTRONIC SCRAP</b>	664
<b>GREEN WASTE (yard trimmings)</b>	87,907
<b>WOOD WASTE/PALLETS</b>	16,185
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; DEMOLITION (rock, concrete, asphalt)</b>	116,670
<b>FOOD WASTE</b>	25,736
<b>SEWAGE SLUDGE (Tonnage data being researched)</b>	-
<b>OTHER REUSE (Goodwill, Salvation Army)</b>	15,777
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>543,617</b>

**Oahu Recycling 2008**

<b>Material Type</b>	<b>Amount in tons</b>
<b>PAPER</b>	
Corrugated Cardboard	34,249
Newspaper	13,905
Office Paper	13,301
Other Paper	1,124
<b>METALS</b>	
Ferrous (includes autos)	165,943
Non-Ferrous (includes aluminum)	23,656
<b>GLASS</b>	25,050
<b>PLASTIC</b>	4,704
<b>TIRES</b>	10,200
<b>AUTO BATTERIES</b>	6,327
<b>ELECTRONIC SCRAP</b>	1,123
<b>GREEN WASTE (yard trimmings)</b>	95,941
<b>WOOD WASTE/PALLETS</b>	13,526
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; DEMOLITION (rock, concrete, asphalt)</b>	216,745
<b>FOOD WASTE</b>	29,933
<b>SEWAGE SLUDGE (Tonnage data being researched)</b>	-
<b>OTHER REUSE (Goodwill, Salvation Army)</b>	15,831
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>673,621</b>

The City's efforts to increase residential recycling have continued with the expansions of the islandwide curbside recycling program, community recycling bin program, condo recycling assistance programs and budget commitments to support these efforts.

ENV completed the final phase expansion of the 3-cart curbside recycling program into the Leeward communities in May, 2010. There are currently 160,000 homes participating in the program, and capturing material at a rate of 20,000 tons of mixed recyclables and 50,000 tons of green waste per year. Based on the pilot program evaluations, the City projected 28,000 tons of mixed recyclables and 46,000 tons of green waste per year for the islandwide program, a net gain of 53,000 tons per year over pre-curbside recycling program activity. Having now completed one full year of islandwide recycling, data shows that the program exceeded expectations for green waste and was just under projections for mixed recyclables. Increased public experience with identifying and sorting recyclables should produce higher results for the mixed recyclables as the program continues to mature. The program continues to be evaluated to identify strategies for improving participation and efficiencies.

The City has maintained approximately 100 Community Recycling Bin sites on Oahu. The community recycling bins provide convenient drop-off to areas not serviced by curbside collection, for residents living in condos, and for the host schools.

The City continues to promote condominium recycling through a program that reimburses condominium properties for costs associated with the start-up of a recycling program.

State law requiring manufacturers to provide take back programs for electronic waste went into effect January 1, 2010, and is administered by the State Department of Health (DOH). In general, the covered electronics included computers at the start in January 2010 and expand to include televisions in January 2011. DOH has indicated that they are allowing the manufacturers additional time to develop their programs and are also proposing amendments to the legislation that will more clearly specify the criteria and requirements for these programs. DOH is gathering collection data and has yet to publish. DOH has indicated that it expects the programs and consumer convenience to evolve as the new program matures. City ENV will continue to work in collaboration with DOH and local ewaste recycling companies.

Public education regarding recycling is ongoing--distribution of brochures and print materials, opala.org website, WasteLine e-newsletter and annual events including Tour de Trash and Discover Recycling. In October 2009, ENV and Oceanic Time Warner Cable launched "Opalavision" on The Green Channel at Oceanic 332 and

online at [opala.org](http://opala.org). Short stories about the City's recycling initiatives and programs are featured in 3-minute episodes that educate and entertain. New episodes are produced monthly. The format is interactive, supporting 24/7 viewing of all episodes on demand. In April/May 2011, City ENV sponsored two educational shows for our youth – Honolulu Theatre for Youth production of “Where Do Things Go?” and a traveling show to local schools entitled “Sort It Out!” Both shows will include distribution of Opala IQ Books and educational materials to students and teachers.

D. Solid Waste Integrated Management Plan

Funds are available to initiate the next update of the plan.

5. City Council Resolutions and Bills

RESOLUTION NO.	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
09-345	City administration immediately initiate site selection process for new landfill	Resolution deferred in committee 1/12/10 No change
09-346	City administration select new site to be used exclusively for disposal of H-POWER ash and residue	Resolution deferred in committee 1/12/10 No change
10-4	City auditor conduct an audit relating to delays in shipping City's municipal solid waste to mainland	Resolution deferred in committee 3/2/10 No change
10-146	City administration promote Freecycle Honolulu	Resolution deferred in committee 5/25/10
10-242	City administration conduct public education regarding proper disposal of bulky wastes	Resolution reported out of committee 10/5/10

BILL NO.	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
76 (2009)	Waimanalo Gulch Landfill close no later than July 31, 2012	Bill deferred in committee 12/01/09
43 (2010)	Regulate use of non biodegradable plastic bags	Bill deferred in committee 8/31/10
44 (2010)	Require recycling or reuse of construction and demolition wastes	Bill deferred in committee 8/31/10
47 (2010), CD 1	Terminate recycling residue discount	Bill passed into law effective 5/31/11
36 (2011), CD1, FD1	Reinstates a discounted disposal fee for residue from recycling operations at 50% FY12, 35% FY13, 20% FY14.	Bill passed into law effective 7/1/11

All resolutions and bills, and video of Council meetings, can be found at the City website, [www.honolulu.gov](http://www.honolulu.gov)

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Public Questions and Comments:

Q. What accounts for the large difference in how much was disposed of at WGSL in April as opposed to May and June?

A. There was an H-POWER maintenance diversion during March/April 2011, which increases the amount of MSW delivered to WGSL. But, within this past year there has been a significant reduction the waste stream due to recycling and the downturn in the economy.

C: Regarding Bill Number 36CD1FD1 there is a question as to whether the 20% discount offered in 2014 is in perpetuity or will go away at the end of 2014 – which is it? This needs to be clarified by the Council.



Q. Is there at group looking at new areas for waste disposal needs if WGSL has to close next year?

A: Yes, the Mayor's Advisory Landfill Site Selection Committee continues its work in recommending a site or sites that will replace or supplement WGSL.

Q: Is the City or Waste Management looking at the Herhoff process of handling solid waste out of Germany?

A. Believe that Waste Management has a similar pilot project in Oregon, however we are not sure if this is identical to the Herhoff process.

Q. We have the 2009 recycling rates; are we assuming the same for 2010?

A. The recycling data for 2010 is in the process of being finalized. The initial data indicates that the City is maintaining the same level of recycling, but we will know soon if the recycling rates actually increased because we need to look at recycling numbers in connection with the total waste stream

C. As long as development continues to be approved we will need another site for solid waste and then another – need to take care of and plan for these facility needs before approving development and factor these infrastructure needs into the cost and decision making rather than always playing catch up – we need to think long term about these and other issues – there are 35,000 units pending on Oahu and we have not planned for any of these types of needs if these units are built

Public attendees:

Polly Grace

Quinn Vittum, Re-use Hawaii

Shannon Wood, Windward Ahupua'a Alliance

City Attendees:

Department of Environmental Services

Manuel La Nuevo, Deputy Director

Wilma Namumnart, Acting Chief, Refuse Division

Wayne Hamada, Disposal Branch Chief

Suzanne Jones, Recycling Branch Chief

Marcus Owens, Public Information Officer

Corporation Counsel

Sharon Blanchard, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Other:

Joe Whalen, General Manager, Waste Management of Hawaii

DeeDee Letts, Resolutions Hawaii