



Tri-Cities Disposal & Recycling
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A Note from the Desk of: Ms Maury Treleven

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December 4, 2015

Gary Parola, President
 Tri-Cities Disposal & Recycling
 via e-mail
 cc: Richard Perez, Soledad Lion's Club; Jill Larner, CalRecycle; Mandy Brooks, SVSWA

Re: 2015 Lions Club Community Thanksgiving Meal Zero Waste Project

Gary:
 Per your request, and for the third year, Tri-Cities Disposal & Recycling Service worked with the members of the Soledad Lion's Club to provide a "Zero Waste" meal in conjunction with the preparation and serving of their Community Thanksgiving Meal. This included attending and participating in the event planning meeting and working with the many community volunteers for the two days of this event. This is a worthwhile community event and many good people give so much of their time and talent to prepare, serve, and deliver meals out into the community. I know that you take a personal interest in placing charitable contributions with groups who seek to serve others in their work. There is no question that this is a community service that is well worth investing in year after year as Tri-Cities Disposal & Recycling has done.



The Zero Waste Meal plan began by ordering compostable dinnerware that included: compostable paper plates, paper napkins, compostable bio-resin cutlery, recyclable plastic drinking cups, compostable three compartment and dessert clamshells to-go. These items were used for dine-in guests and guests who picked up a meal to go.

A highlight this year was that the 500+ meals that go out for direct delivery went out for the first time in compostable to-go containers. This meant that **this year the event was FINALLY a truly compostable, recyclable,**

and "zero waste" meal. We were able to overcome concerns about these containers not holding up to the wet gravy by placing the gravy in a recyclable plastic cup with a lid. As volunteers finished early in preparing meals to-go this year, I am pleased to report that this extra step did not slow down the process. I did not receive any complaints or negative feedback regarding the containers not holding up through the delivery process.

In working with the volunteers on the day before the event, we collected all of the organic materials produced in the kitchens as a result of food preparation and deboning of the turkeys. All food waste and compostable materials were collected from tables during the event. We filled six 96 gallon totes lined with half pallet bags with organic and compostable materials over the two day period. The group was able to fill up three 450 gallon mixed recycling totes with clean aluminum roasting trays and foil, small boxes, plastic tubs, metal cans, aluminum pie plates,



plastic containers, and plastic film. All cardboard was broken down and recycled in the two cubic yard dumpster on site. Two trash bags and one double bagged and filled with turkey juices were produced by the event. For next year's event Converted Organics has agreed to take all turkey juices in a 55 gallon drum. This will again increase diversion and go easier on the sink and pipes at the YMCA.

The diversion of leftover food and food service items from the meal service was handled smoothly by a team of four youth volunteers from the community. The team removed all garbage cans in the dining area and had volunteers clear the guest's plates when they were finished. This allowed for screening of each plate for contamination from the small butter wrapper and rubber band from the cutlery packet. **I recommend using individual serving "pats" of butter next year as the cardboard backing and paper cover can be absorbed in the composting system.** This technique also allowed the team to practice compaction and more evenly distribute the food waste into the collection carts in order to avoid making carts too heavy.

Additional items collected for recycling included plastic water bottles and other CRV beverage containers and the entire table setting including paper placemats and plastic tablecloths (which were bagged). To follow are the scaled weights and my weight calculations by volume and material. All estimated calculations are based on the "Volume-to-Weight Conversions for Recyclable Materials" data sheet provided on the CalRecycle web site.

Total (estimated) project materials diversion: 3,749 lbs or 1.9 tons
400 lbs food waste and foodservice materials (scaled at Converted Organics)
2.0 cubic yards flattened cardboard @ 200 lbs. per cubic yard=400 lbs.

Materials breakdown for 1,350 gallons of mixed recycling / 7.8 cubic yards
2.0 cubic yards metal cans @ 850 lbs. per cubic yard=1,700 lbs.
2.0 cubic yards plastic containers & plastic film @38 lbs. per cubic yard=76 lbs.
2.6 cubic yards aluminum trays & foil @ 225 lbs. per cubic yard=585 lbs.
1.2 cubic yards mixed paper & small boxes @ 490 lbs. per cubic yard=588 lbs.

The Lion's Club volunteers did an excellent job in this third year and I look forward to being invited back to assist with next year's event.

Sincerest regards,



Maury Treleven

