



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

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Gary Parola, President
 Tri-Cities Disposal & Recycling
 via e-mail

cc: Richard Perez, Soledad Lion's Club; Jill Larner, CalRecycle; Mandy Brooks & Jenny Mitchell, SVR; Don Wilcox, City of Soledad; Walter Lorente, Converted Organics

Re: 2016 Lions Club Community Thanksgiving Meal Zero Waste Project

Gary:
 Per your request, and for the fourth 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 the investment. This year, plate and to-go container usage reflected 2,400 meal servings generated by this event.

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, and compostable three compartment and dessert clamshells for meals to go.

Since last year, the club has been able to prepare and serve every aspect of the meal without the use of polystyrene foodservice materials. This includes reusable ceramic mugs for the volunteer's coffee during the two days of meal preparation.

The day before the event, we collected all of the organic materials produced in the kitchens from food preparation and de-boning of the turkeys in lined green waste carts. This year, we were able to add all of the turkey drippings directly to the food waste containers which eased up the pressure on the sink pipes at the YMCA while producing an additional 120 pounds of food waste diversion. All food waste and compostable materials were collected from tables during the meal service.

The group was able to fill up three 450 gallon and three 96 gallon mixed recycling totes with clean aluminum roasting trays and foil, small boxes, plastic tubs, metal cans, aluminum pie plates, plastic cups, plastic containers, and plastic film. All cardboard was broken down and recycled in the two cubic yard dumpster on site. **Only two bags of trash were produced over a two day period.**

The diversion of leftover food and food service items from the meal service was handled smoothly by a team of 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





were able to bring cups back to the table for a refill if they desired.

Placemats created by Soledad elementary school students.

allowed for screening of each plate for contamination. 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. There was no issue with the butter packaging this year as butter was not provided for the rolls. It has been difficult to locate individual serving "pats" of butter with paper tops and cardboard backing at any of the local retail outlets. Plastic pots and foil/paper wrapping was a source of contamination for the compost in the past.

The need for recycling was further reduced by providing lemonade to guests. In years past, both lemonade (in recyclable plastic cups) and single-use bottled water was provided. The guests seemed pleased with the cold lemonade and

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 website.

Food Waste Diversion:

520 lbs food waste and foodservice materials (scaled at Converted Organics)

Recyclable Materials Breakdown: 11.4 cubic yards/ 3,990 lbs

2.4 cubic yards metal cans @ 850 lbs. per cubic yard=2,040 lbs.

2.4 cubic yards plastic containers, cups, ham containers & plastic film @38 lbs. per cubic yard=91.2 lbs.

3 cubic yards aluminum trays & foil @ 225 lbs. per cubic yard=675 lbs.

1.6 cubic yards mixed paper & small boxes @ 490 lbs. per cubic yard=784 lbs.

2.0 cubic yards flattened cardboard @ 200 lbs. per cubic yard=400 lbs.

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

Sincerest regards,

Maury Treleven

