



About Orange County Waste & Recycling (OCWR)

OC Waste & Recycling is a department of the County of Orange. Its mission is to provide waste management services, protect the environment, and promote recycling in order to ensure a safe and healthy community for current and future generations. Serving more than 34 cities and incorporated areas, OCWR's three active landfills are among the largest statewide and receive more than four million tons of solid waste annually. In addition to OCWR's three active landfills, there are 20 closed sites that OCWR manages. The department also manages four Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers (HHW) throughout the county.

How the landfills work

Generations ago, trash went to dumps. Today's modern landfills, like OCWR's, are polar opposites of their predecessors. They are high engineered to protect human, plant and animal life and to steward the environment. They are feats of environmental engineering, lined and monitored for every possible environmental impact. OCWR accepts about 4 million tons of solid municipal waste per year. Waste haulers bring loads all day long and deposit them as instructed by landfill staff. Like an orchestrated ballet, heavy equipment operators move, compact and cover the trash according to site area construction specifications. View this 5-minute video – [OC Landfills – The Inside Story](#).

Earth Day Event

The inaugural event, co-hosted by OCWR and Fifth District Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, is designed to create a fun, interesting and unique way to engage residents in discussion and learning about the local waste stream and their role in it as well as increasing the role of landfills and inspiring proper recycling behavior. California State Law requires that government agencies educate and inform the public about ways to recycle and programs available, the free Earth Day Open House event allows OC residents to take a look at the everyday functions of a landfill as well as a Household Hazardous Waste Center.

About Prima Deshecha Landfill

- Opened in 1976
- Accepts non-hazardous, municipal solid waste from commercial and self-haulers
- Approximately 1,530 acres with about 699 acres used for waste disposal
- On-site Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center
- Scheduled to close in approximately 2067

Prima is an environmental campus that includes the landfill, a household hazardous waste collection center, a materials recovery facility, a renewable energy power plant, and home to a number of endangered birds thanks to our habitat restoration program. As residential development encroached into our once-remote location, OCWR began to research and implement odor management practices. From time restrictions for odorous waste loads, to keeping the active working face as small as possible, to using wind deflectors and misters.

Waste Diversion Grant

The County of Orange has also extended its recycling efforts to local schools, cities, and organizations. The County’s Regional Recycling and Waste Reduction Program requires recipients to sustain their grant-funded projects for a minimum of five years and fully sustain them for the final two years. The source of the grant funding is the County’s Self-Haul Surcharge, originally established in 2006 to encourage use of recycling facilities for construction waste. The Board of Supervisors required that surcharge funds be used exclusively for waste Reduction and public education. Since its inception OC cities and nonprofits have received \$4.6 million in grants for waste reduction and recycling efforts. In 2018 nearly \$3 million has been awarded:

Recipient	Programs	Amount
City of Anaheim	Commercial food recovery and organics collection	\$ 223,244
Inside the Outdoors	Composting and food recovery educational outreach	\$ 946,558
Discovery Cube	Organics recycling and composting educational outreach	\$ 988,285
Waste Not OC—a Fiscal Project of OneOC	Commercial edible food recovery program	\$588,387
City of Irvine	Commercial food recovery and organics collection	\$ 168,394
Katella High School	School recycling and composting program	\$ 54,268
Costa Mesa Sanitary District	Residential organics recycling program	\$ 30,000
Total:		\$2,999,136

Legislation and Landfills

The waste industry in California is highly regulated, and getting more so. Since 1927 there have been 486 pieces of California legislation related to the waste industry. Nearly 80 percent of those were introduced after 1990. The principal regulator is the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, commonly known as CalRecycle. Current legislation is driving transformational change in the industry, including opportunities for landfills such as OCWR’s to expand their role from disposal to diversion and resource recovery.

For more information please visit www.oilandfills.com.