

Taking a New Look at Trash

Salinas Valley Recycles takes a new look at the best approach to managing our trash

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Get Involved!

SVR Needs Your Help to Shape the Future of Garbage in the Region

BY KATE GONZALES

Salinas Valley Recycles is looking at smarter ways to manage the region's trash. The goal is to maximize the value of what is thrown away and clean up the environment for future generations.

Residents' participation in the process will help Salinas Valley Recycles (SVR) determine if there is a different and better way to manage our community's trash. The fact is, what happens with our garbage decades, even centuries, after it's taken from our homes matters for the health of Salinas Valley, both environmentally and economically. Salinas Valley Recycles, the joint powers authority responsible for managing the region's solid waste, is researching five projects that could potentially reshape our approach to trash. The projects must follow the California Environmental Quality Act process, which aims to reduce environmental harm and enhance public participation.

Residents of the SVR service area, which includes the cities of Salinas, Gonzales, King City, Soledad, Greenfield and eastern unincorporated county areas, are encouraged to participate, keep informed and be engaged as SVR considers these options.

THE OPPORTUNITY

But why should Salinas Valley residents care about what happens to trash once it's out of sight?

"Because waste is a resource," says Susan Warner, former Diversion Manager/Assistant General Manager with Salinas Valley Recycles. "Essentially any substance you can buy in any store anywhere is buried in that landfill."



The potential projects could include going to Monterey Regional Waste Management District for recycling (material recovery processing) and/or landfilling, or the construction of a Clean Fiber and Organics Recovery System, in which trash is heated with steam in an autoclave and automatically separated based on material type. Cardboard, papers and organic materials (like food scraps) are broken down and separated.

"We want to minimize what is landfilled and, again, utilize waste as a resource, instead of leaving a future obligation to the next generation," Warner says.

THE CHALLENGE

In approximately 40 years, Johnson Canyon Landfill located east of Gonzales will reach its capacity. California state law requires all counties to have at least 15 years of landfill capacity available. Landfills are not sustainable, present long-term environmental and financial challenges to host communities and permanently impact the land.

Reducing landfilling also reduces greenhouse gases and other environmental impacts.

There is diminishing landfill capacity and finding sites for new landfills is difficult, as most people don't want to live near one.

These challenges, however, give SVR a chance to take the long view by making smart changes benefiting citizens today.

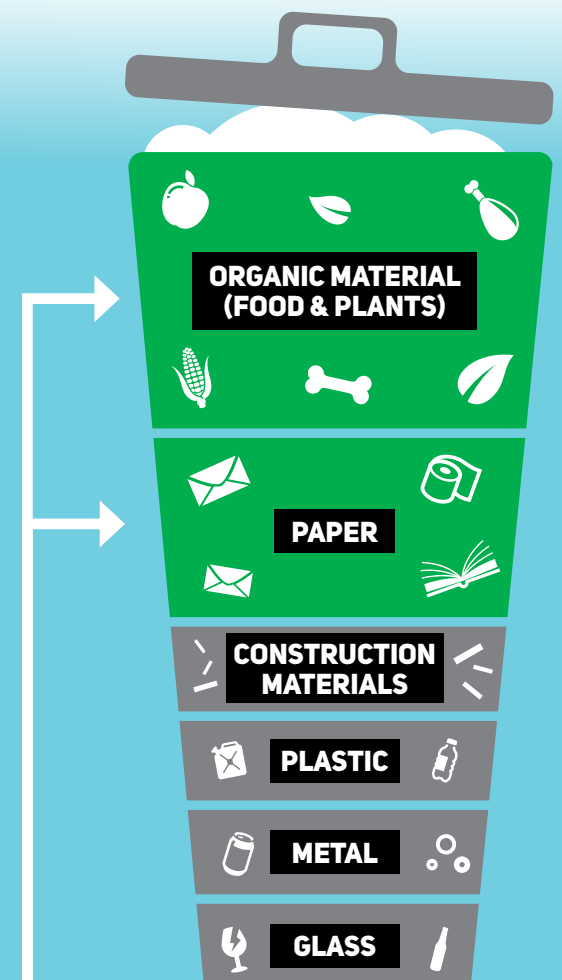
"WASTE IS A RESOURCE."

SUSAN WARNER

Former Diversion Manager/Assistant General Manager, Salinas Valley Recycles

Continue reading to learn about the projects Salinas Valley Recycles is considering — and how you can participate!

SO, WHAT'S IN THE TRASH?



65% of materials that fill our garbage are organics (food scraps and yard waste) and fiber (paper and cardboard), according to a 2008 Salinas Valley Recycles study. These materials can currently be diverted or repurposed using new technology.

Making Trash Work for Us

BY KATE GONZALES

In an effort to reshape how the region manages its garbage to maximize its value at a reasonable cost, Salinas Valley Recycles is analyzing five projects. One alternative is an organic material recovery system developed by Global OrganicS Energy (GOE). This system recovers materials that would otherwise

be sent to a landfill. It is a post-recycling solid waste management system that creates manufacturing-ready paper pulp feedstock and bio-energy. If a project is selected that uses GOE technology, it would be the first of its kind in the United States.

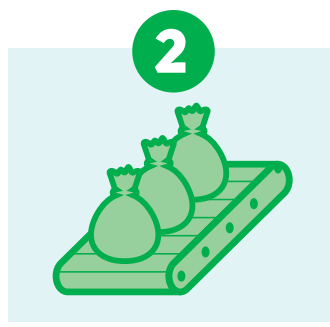


THE CLEAN FIBER RECOVERY PROCESS, STEP-BY-STEP



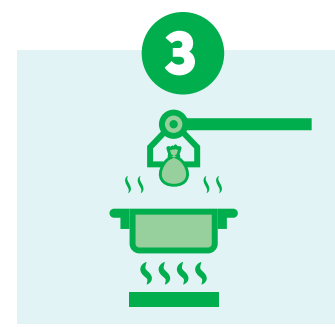
1 COLLECTION

Garbage is picked up from homes and delivered to the GOE Clean Fiber and Organics Recovery System site.



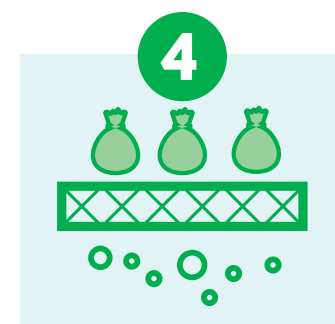
2 DELIVERY TO AUTOCLAVE

All the unsorted trash is placed on a conveyor and delivered into the steam autoclave.



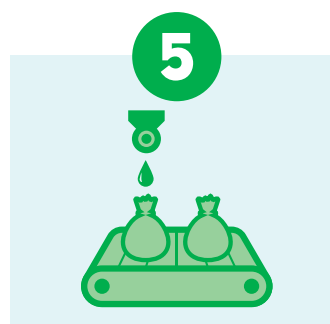
3 STEAM HEAT

Once inside the autoclave, the waste is steam-cooked at a low temperature. After 45 minutes, the waste comes out sanitized and reduced in volume by 60 to 70 percent.



4 SORTING

Materials are run over screens from which unclaimed metal and plastic recyclables are extracted, cleaned, and sent to a recycling center to maximize recycling.



5 FIBER WASHING

The remaining paper and organic materials are fiber washed then diverted for sale to container board (cardboard) manufacturers in California.



POWERING THE PLANT

The dirty water, or "fiber wash water" that results from this process is converted to methane to power the GOE plant, with extra energy also available for commercial sales.



WATER CIRCULATION

Cleaned water is added, then recirculated back through the system. No dirty water is discharged to the sewer.

A Look at Options

Salinas Valley Recycles eyes options for managing trash

BY MATT JOCKS

Salinas Valley's waste may be piling up on the ground, but the future is up in the air when it comes to dealing with it.

As the area seeks to meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as well as the state's goal that 75 percent of waste is recycled by 2020, Salinas Valley Recycles is looking at five options for the future of waste management and reuse.

The options are in the review process, awaiting the completion of economic benefit and environmental analyses. The outcome will be presented in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which will outline the pros and cons of each project.

Here is a brief look at the possibilities:

DELIVER WASTE TO THE MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

This project would not require any new facilities to be built. Instead, the Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD) would receive most of the Salinas Valley trash and process it for recycling and/or directly bury it.

- MRWMD's waste recycling facilities could provide for increased recycling and public diversion services

- Requires vehicles currently using existing Salinas-area facilities to be re-directed to MRWMD's facilities for waste and recycling services
- Existing Salinas Valley Recycles Sun Street facility would close and public would drive to the Marina area for services.

INCREASES RECYCLING 

FULL PUBLIC SERVICES 

NO PROJECT

As with any set of options under CEQA review, the option of no project must be considered.

If the no project option is selected, all options currently under consideration will be placed on hold. However, all stakeholders could continue to explore the benefits of the various options.

Some improvements could be made to the materials recovery center on Sun Street. However, the Clean Fiber and Organics Recovery System, or consolidating Salinas Valley waste at the Monterey Regional Waste Management District, would be put on hold.

FULL PUBLIC SERVICES 

ALL-IN-ONE FACILITY

This proposal could involve the construction of a new enclosed facility that would include both a Transfer Station/Materials Recovery Center for increased recycling as well as a Clean Fiber and Organics Recovery System.

This project would allow Salinas Valley Recycles to collect and process:

- Up to 1,500 tons of waste per day
- Full public services including municipal solid waste, yard waste, recyclables and household hazardous waste

SITES CONSIDERED:

Harrison Road, Salinas

- Direct freeway access
- Architectural design will be important due to highway visibility

CLEAN FIBER RECOVERY SYSTEM 

INCREASES RECYCLING 

NEW FACILITY 

FULL PUBLIC SERVICES 

TRANSFER/MATERIAL RECOVERY ONLY

This project would include only a transfer station and a material recovery center in one of three sites. A Clean Fiber and Organics Recovery System could also be built, but on a separate site.

This project could include full public services including municipal solid waste disposal and recycling of yard waste, recyclables and household hazardous waste.

SITES CONSIDERED:

Harrison Road

- See site description above

Crazy Horse Closed Landfill, Salinas

- Capacity to transfer waste from all of north Monterey County

- Set back from highway, but accessible

Sun Street, Salinas

- "Temporary" facility for the past 10 years
- Mostly industrial area
- Permanency could improve efficiency
- Opportunity to lessen the impact of noise and dust on its neighbors

FULL PUBLIC SERVICES 

INCREASES RECYCLING 

NEW FACILITY 

CLEAN FIBER RECOVERY SYSTEM ONLY

This project could include the construction of the Clean Fiber and Organics Recovery System. This system could potentially have environmental impacts, including steam release. Building this system could reduce trash volumes and greenhouse gas emissions and prolong the life of the landfill.

SITES CONSIDERED:


Johnson Canyon Landfill, Gonzales

- Remote setting
- Requires road improvements to accommodate increased traffic

Harrison Road

- See site description at top

INCREASES RECYCLING 

CLEAN FIBER RECOVERY SYSTEM 

NEW FACILITY 

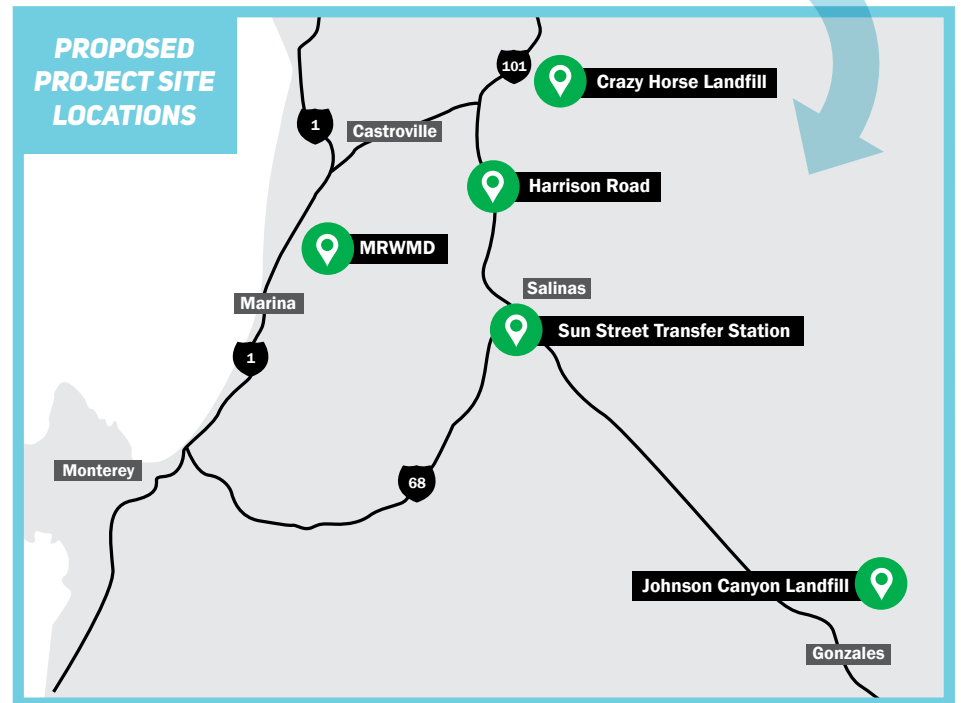
You Have a Say!

Salinas Valley Recycles considers new projects in the community

We generate garbage every day — and it has to go somewhere. Salinas Valley Recycles is evaluating the options for how the region manages its garbage — with a vision of minimizing the need for landfills and using waste as a resource. As Salinas Valley Recycles considers options to divert trash from the Johnson

Canyon Landfill as it approaches capacity, it wants the wider community to be informed of the process and provide input.

“It’s important to hear from the public,” says Simon Salinas, President of the Salinas Valley Recycles Board of Directors. “We want to make sure we’re listening to what the public has to say.”



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Salinas Valley Recycles will host Public Information meetings in May 2017 to gather community input on potential projects. All meetings are from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Mon., May 8

The Maria J. Torres-Gil
Community Center
245 Calle Cebu, Salinas, CA 93901

Wed., May 24

Gonzales City Council Chambers
117 4th St., Gonzales, CA 93926

Wed., May 10

Gavilan View Middle School
18250 Van Buren Ave., Salinas, CA 93906

Thurs., May 25

Monterey County Free Libraries Marina
Branch
190 Seaside Circle, Marina, CA 93933

Wed., May 17

Prunedale Grange Hall
17890 Moro Road, Salinas, CA 93907



128 Sun St., Ste. 101
Salinas, CA 93901



831-775-3000



www.salinasvalleyrecycles.org



Mission Statement: “To manage Salinas Valley solid waste as a resource, promoting sustainable, environmentally sound and cost-effective practices through an integrated system of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, innovative technology, customer service and education.”



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