



## **About Los Altos Waste Service Contract, to be Effective September 15, 2010**

On Tuesday 2/23/10, the Los Altos City Council voted 5-0 to go forward with all of city staff's recommendations for the new waste service. These reflected many of the recommendations that GreenTown Los Altos made to the Environmental Commission and City Council over a year ago (including 75% waste diversion rate), so we are very pleased. GreenTown Los Altos commends city staff and others involved in producing an excellent outcome!

### **Highlights of the City Council selected vendor and service are as follows:**

- Mission Trails Waste System (MTWS) is the preferred provider and City will begin negotiations for the final contract
- All residents will receive rolling bins and weekly pick-up of garbage, recycling and organics/compostables
- Compostables collection will be expanded (including yard waste, produce, meat, dairy, poultry, food-contaminated paper) for both residential and commercial customers
- Recycling will be single stream, with all cans, bottles, paper, etc. going into the same bin.
- MTWS anticipates diverting 78% of waste from the landfill (current diversion is 54%) and will have penalties for not meeting that
- Residential service pricing should remain the same or less than current pricing
- Residential service will begin at 7AM instead of 6AM.
- The smallest waste bins will now be 20 gallons, with cost savings for those who generate less landfill waste
- All vehicles will be compressed natural gas, reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Side yard pick-up will still be available, at an extra charge
- Basic Household Hazardous Waste to be collected curbside weekly (water-based paints, cooking oil, compact fluorescent bulbs, dry cell batteries, small electronics)

The city will further negotiate with the garbage contractor for these additional services:

- On-call at-residence Household Hazardous Waste will be available for a fee (oil-based paints, fluorescent tubes, pesticides)
- Paired garbage and recycling bins will be located downtown and at Loyola Corners
- Recycling, compostable and garbage collection at all City-sponsored events

Perspective. GreenTown Los Altos presented several questions in writing to City Council and Staff, which we hope will provide further clarification and services. At the 2/23 meeting many community members echoed some of our concerns. Some of these things can still be negotiated

GreenTown Los Altos emphasized the importance of:

- Communication and education to citizens about what can be recycled, composted, how/where, and what to do with hazardous waste, etc-- there are many ways education can be achieved, and it is critical
- Regular public reporting of waste diversion statistics, perhaps on city website, waste provider website, and in billing communications
- Providing a cost-incentive structure for recycling, compost and waste collection at non-city-sponsored events so that organizers who divert more waste at their events get a discounted collection rate
- More information about where our waste will be transported, how it will be treated/composted/recycled
- Recycling collection in all commercial areas, and in parks

Action: GreenTown Los Altos also encourages all citizens to email City Council and Staff with your own comments and concerns during this final negotiation period. Email to: [council@ci.los-altos.ca.us](mailto:council@ci.los-altos.ca.us) and Jim Gustafson (Engineering Services Manager), at [JGustafson@losaltosca.gov](mailto:JGustafson@losaltosca.gov)