

Status Report on Reducing and/or Continuing the Use of
Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL)
Public Hearing
October 19, 2010
5:00 p.m.
Kapolei Hale Suite 313 Conference Room

Presentation

1. Opening and Welcome

Notice of this public hearing was published in the Honolulu Star Advertiser on October 5, 2010 and on the City's Refuse Division website, www.opala.org

This public hearing is being held to comply with Conditions 15 and 16 of the State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission's FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND DECISION AND ORDER WITH MODIFICATIONS, certified on October 22, 2009, in Docket No. SP09-403 (the LUC Order), which states:

"15. The Honolulu City Council through the City Administration shall report to the public every three months on the efforts of the City Council and the City Administration in regard to the continued use of the WGSL, including any funding arrangements that are being considered by the City Council and the City Administration."

"16. The City Council and the City Administration shall have a public hearing every three months to report on the status of their efforts to either reduce or continue the use of the WGSL."

The complete LUC Order is available at the State Land Use Commission website: http://luc.state.hi.us/co_sphonolulu.htm

The following report covers developments during the last calendar quarter regarding the matters set forth in Conditions 15 and 16 of the LUC Order.

2. Progress Toward Another Landfill Site

A. Condition 4 of the LUC Order states:

"On or before November 1, 2010, the Applicant shall begin to identify and develop one or more new landfill sites that shall either replace or supplement the WGSL."

The Mayor will invite certain citizens to participate in the Mayor's Landfill Site Selection Committee.

- B. The following tonnage chart includes municipal solid waste (MSW), H-POWER ash and residue delivered to WGS� during the last three months. There was an H-POWER maintenance diversion during the month of July.

July 2010	37,276 tons
August 2010	19,697 tons
September 2010	16,365 tons

There were no complaints relating to WGS� during this reporting period.

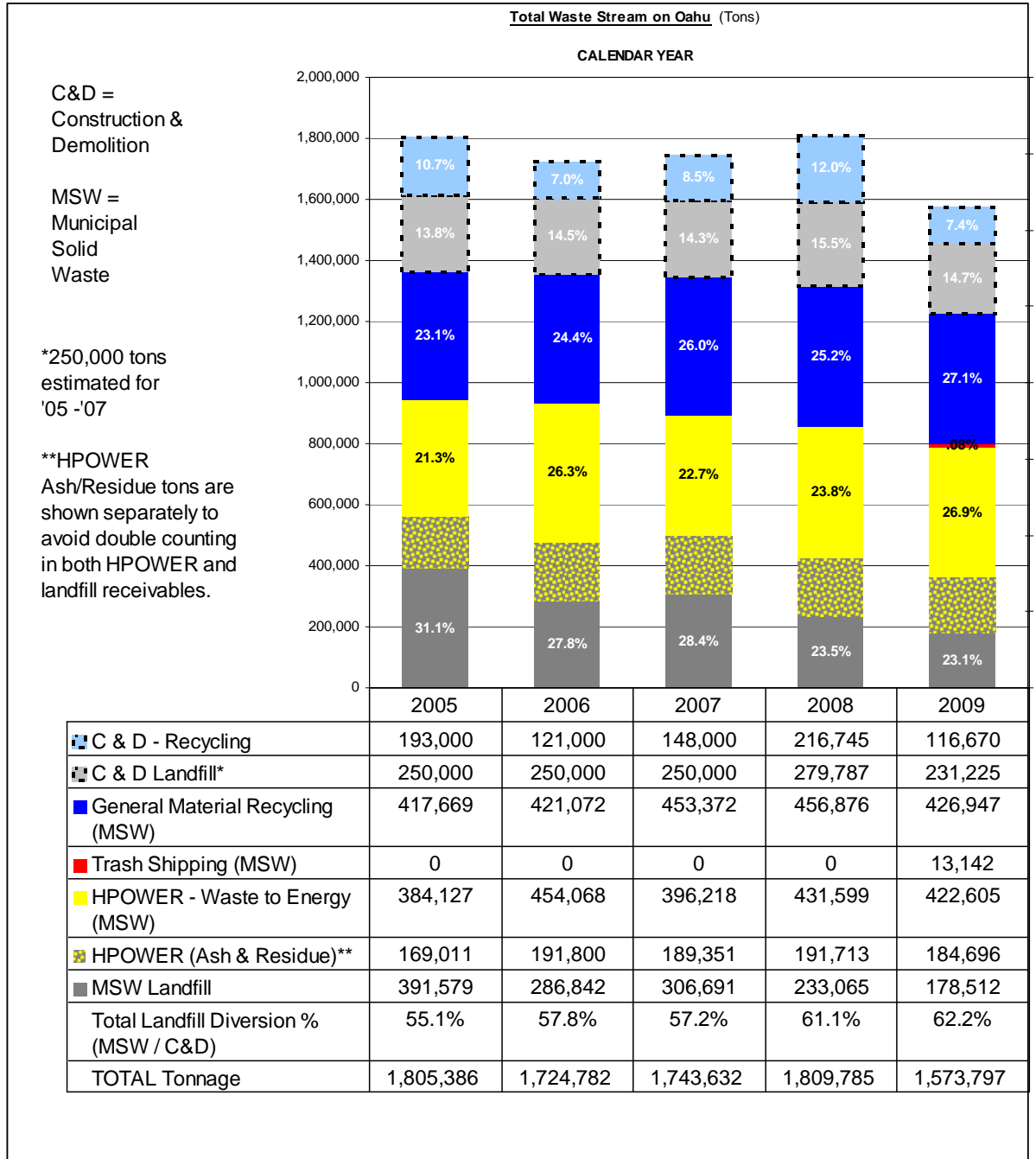
C. Ongoing Projects

- A Special Use Permit (SUP) application for the expansion of WGS� was approved with conditions by the City Planning Commission on July 31, 2009. The LUC approved the SUP with modifications, and included a condition that allows receipt of only H-POWER ash and residue at WGS� after July 31, 2012. The LUC Order was upheld by the Circuit Court. This ruling is being appealed.
- Excavation in the expansion area at WGS� is ongoing. This includes creation of new disposal cells and improvements to the west side facility drainage. The drainage improvements require a substantial amount of pipe, which is currently being stored onsite awaiting installation. The initial cell 6 (partial) is completed and awaiting DOH approval.

3. Progress Report on Diversion

- A. The H-POWER expansion project has started and is estimated to be completed by mid 2012.
- B. Interim Off-Island Shipping of MSW
By settlement agreement, HWS is breaking the bales stored at their site and sending the material to either H-POWER or the landfill. Currently, all the material in the broken bales has been sent to H-POWER to be burned for energy.

C. Materials Recycling and Landfill Diversion



The data in the chart above shows how Oahu's waste has been diverted from landfill through recycling and waste-to-energy. The general trend shows annual increases in recycling and waste-to-energy rates, and decreases in landfill disposal. In comparing the most recent years, 2008 and 2009, note that overall waste generation decreased significantly due to the down-turn in the economy. Total waste generation dropped from 1.8 million tons in 2008 to 1.575 million tons in 2009. Although recycling tonnages decreased, the recycling rate, or percentage of the total waste stream, increased from 25% in 2008 to 27% in 2009 for general material recycling (not including C&D recycling). And the total landfill diversion rate continued to increase from 57% in 2006/2007 to 61% in 2008 and 62% in 2009. (National average is 44-46%)

The tables below provide detail of what was recycled per year and by material type. Note the upward trend of general material recycling from approximately 75,000 tons in 1988 to well over 400,000 tons today. Recycling of construction and demolition materials, such as concrete, rock and asphalt, has added between 100,000 and 200,000 tons to the recycling rates. These C&D recycling rates tend to fluctuate based on the volume and type of construction projects undertaken from year to year. C&D material is diverted from the WGS� to the private PVT landfill for disposal.

Year	General Material Recycling	C&D Recycling	Total Recycled
2009	426,947	116,670	543,617
2008	456,876	216,745	673,621
2007	453,282	148,952	602,234
2006	421,072	121,675	542,747
2005	417,669	193,829	611,498
2004	386,338	173,916	560,254
2003	366,639	106,773	473,412
2002	352,699	139,055	491,754
2001	367,300	114,070	481,370
2000	327,710	165,000	492,710
1999	314,075	225,200	539,275
1998	318,690	148,800	467,490
1997	313,394	204,400	517,794
1996	299,574	95,300	394,874
1995	294,340	44,400	338,740
1994	290,412	35,700	326,112
1993	241,600	30,000	271,600
1991	167,152	0	167,152
1988	73,992	0	73,992

Oahu Recycling 2009

Material Type	Amount in tons
PAPER	
Corrugated Cardboard	41,945
Newspaper	15,053
Office Paper	14,224
Other Paper	1,043
METALS	
Ferrous (includes autos)	152,377
Non-Ferrous (includes aluminum)	13,626
GLASS	21,306
PLASTIC	4,876
TIRES	10,277
AUTO BATTERIES	5,929
ELECTRONIC SCRAP	664
GREEN WASTE (yard trimmings)	87,907
WOOD WASTE/PALLETS	16,185
CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION (rock, concrete, asphalt)	116,670
FOOD WASTE	25,736
SEWAGE SLUDGE (Tonnage data being researched)	-
OTHER REUSE (Goodwill, Salvation Army)	15,777
TOTAL	543,617

Oahu Recycling 2008

Material Type	Amount in tons
PAPER	
Corrugated Cardboard	34,249
Newspaper	13,905
Office Paper	13,301
Other Paper	1,124
METALS	
Ferrous (includes autos)	165,943
Non-Ferrous (includes aluminum)	23,656
GLASS	25,050
PLASTIC	4,704
TIRES	10,200
AUTO BATTERIES	6,327
ELECTRONIC SCRAP	1,123
GREEN WASTE (yard trimmings)	95,941
WOOD WASTE/PALLETS	13,526
CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION (rock, concrete, asphalt)	216,745
FOOD WASTE	29,933
SEWAGE SLUDGE (Tonnage data being researched)	-
OTHER REUSE (Goodwill, Salvation Army)	15,831
TOTAL	673,621

The City's efforts to increase residential recycling have continued with the expansions of the islandwide curbside recycling program, community recycling bin program, condo recycling assistance programs and increases in budget commitments to support these efforts.

ENV completed the final phase expansion of the 3-cart curbside recycling program into the Leeward communities in May, 2010. There are currently 160,000 homes participating in the program. Once the program is fully implemented and has time to mature, the City estimates it will capture approximately 28,000 tons of mixed recyclables and 46,000 tons of green waste per year, a net gain of 53,000 tons per year over pre-curbside recycling program activity.

The City has maintained approximately 100 Community Recycling Bin sites on Oahu. The community recycling bins provide convenient drop-off to areas not serviced by curbside collection, for residents living in condos, and for the host schools.

The City continues to promote condominium recycling through a program that reimburses condominium properties for costs associated with the start-up of a recycling program.

State law requiring manufacturers to provide take back programs for electronic waste went into effect January 1, 2010. In these early months, the manufacturers' programs are not yet clearly defined, but the State Department of Health (DOH) has indicated that it expects the programs and consumer convenience to evolve as the new program matures. City ENV will continue to work in collaboration with DOH and local ewaste recycling companies.

Public education regarding recycling is ongoing--distribution of brochures and print materials, opala.org website, WasteLine e-newsletter and annual events including Tour de Trash and Discover Recycling. In October 2009, ENV and Oceanic Time Warner Cable launched "Opalavision" on the Green Channel at Oceanic 332 and online at opala.org. Short stories about the City's recycling initiatives and programs are featured in 3-minute episodes that educate and entertain. New episodes are produced monthly.

D. Solid Waste Integrated Management Plan

Funds are available to initiate the next update of the plan.

4. City Council Resolutions and Bills

The following resolutions were heard in the City Council Public Infrastructure Committee.

RESOLUTION NO.	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
09-316	Install special bins for collection and eventual non-landfill disposal of electronic waste	Resolution adopted 7/14/10
09-345	City administration immediately initiate site selection process for new landfill	Resolution deferred in committee 1/12/10 No change
09-346	City administration select new site to be used exclusively for disposal of H-POWER ash and residue	Resolution deferred in committee 1/12/10 No change
10-4	City auditor conduct an audit relating to delays in shipping City's municipal solid waste to mainland	Resolution deferred in committee 3/2/10 No change
10-146	City administration promote Freecycle Honolulu	Resolution deferred in committee 5/25/10
10-208	City administration implement pilot program using video surveillance for illegal dumping	Resolution adopted 8/18/10
10-231	Policy promoting sustainability of natural resources	Resolution adopted 9/22/10
10-232	City administration to establish a Zero Waste Task Force	Resolution adopted 9/22/10
10-242	City administration conduct public education regarding proper disposal of bulky wastes	Resolution reported out of committee 10/5/10

The following bills were heard in the City Council Public Infrastructure Committee.

BILL NO.	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
76 (2009)	Waimanalo Gulch Landfill close no later than July 31, 2012	Bill deferred in committee 12/01/09 No change
78 (2009)	Fines for improper placement of bulky wastes	Bill signed by Mayor 8/30/10 Final reading notice 9/7/10
43 (2010)	Regulate use of non biodegradable plastic bags	Bill deferred in committee 8/31/10
44 (2010)	Require recycling or reuse of construction and demolition wastes	Bill deferred in committee 8/31/10
47 (2010)	Terminate recycling residue discount	Bill deferred in committee 10/5/10

All resolutions and bills, and video of Council meetings, can be found at the City website, www.honolulu.gov

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Public Comments:

Q: What accounts for the difference in H-POWER numbers; on page two it shows a downward trend in August and September?

A: The system was down for maintenance – a new bag house is coming on line to improve air emissions in November 2010

Q: Will this happen when the new burner is up?

A: Probably not as we can alternate between the two

Q: How long will HWS be breaking down bales that they could not ship to the mainland as planned?

A: About 20 weeks

Q: CD recycling does it include what goes to the landfill?

A: No

Q: Do recyclables provide a revenue stream to the City?

A: The County pays a tip fee for green waste; however, mixed recyclables generated \$100,000 to the City for the month of July 2010

Q: I sent a proposal for recycling of bottom ash from H-POWER to the City Council – since it was unsolicited, they stated they could not accept it – my proposal was to remove the heavy metals from the ash to make it safer for recycling – I have a company using a system used in Taiwan that will put in all of the upfront costs. Who should I be talking to?

A: Work with Purchasing – specifically Wendy at Purchasing

Q: What is the status and is there movement on the appeal of the LUC decision?

A: Just received the Circuit Court's final denial; must file appeal by the appellate deadline and this is in progress – on Hanabusa's suit, an open brief was filed and the City has answered

Q: Do we have a timetable for the Mayor's new landfill siting advisory group?

A: The group was initially slated to start meeting next week, but ENV wants to make sure the new mayor is fully briefed so at this point we hope to start in November 2010

Q: The current expansion cell at WGSL, is it for use after 2012?

A: No, have permission to use it now

Public attendees:

Edgar Miner
Cynthia Rezentes

City Attendees:

Department of Environmental Services

Manuel S. Lanuevo, P.E., Acting Deputy Director
Wilma Namumnart, P.E., Acting Chief Refuse Division
Suzanne Jones, Recycling Program Branch Chief

Department of the Corporation Counsel

Dana Viola, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Other

Dee Dee Letts, Meeting Facilitator
Joe Whelan, General Manager, Waste Management of Hawaii, Inc.