

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Conversion Technology
Program



Tobie Mitchell & Coby Skye
Environmental Programs Division
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

About Los Angeles County

- Los Angeles County is the most populous county in the Nation, with over 10 million residents living in 88 cities and 140 unincorporated communities
- Each year, over 24 million tons of solid waste is generated by County residents and businesses, of which over half is diverted from disposal. The remainder is managed through the County's extensive infrastructure that includes seven major landfills, four small landfills, two waste-to-energy facilities, nearly 200 transfer/processing facilities, and hundreds of waste haulers and self-haulers.

About Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

- Public Works provides solid waste collection and recycling services to unincorporated area residents and businesses through a combination of 21 exclusive residential franchises, seven Garbage Disposal Districts (which are unique in the State), a nonexclusive commercial franchise system with over 50 waste haulers, and an open market system.
- Public Works administers a number of Countywide waste diversion programs to aid all 89 jurisdictions in Los Angeles County in maintaining compliance with Assembly Bill 939, including the largest household hazardous/electronic waste management program in the nation.
- Public Works is responsible for ensuring that there is sufficient long term solid waste disposal capacity for residents and businesses Countywide.

What are Conversion Technologies?

- Conversion technologies (CTs) are processes capable of converting post-recycled residual solid waste into useful products and chemicals, including green fuels and renewable energy.
- CTs are an integral component of our long term diversification strategy.



International Development of Conversion Technologies

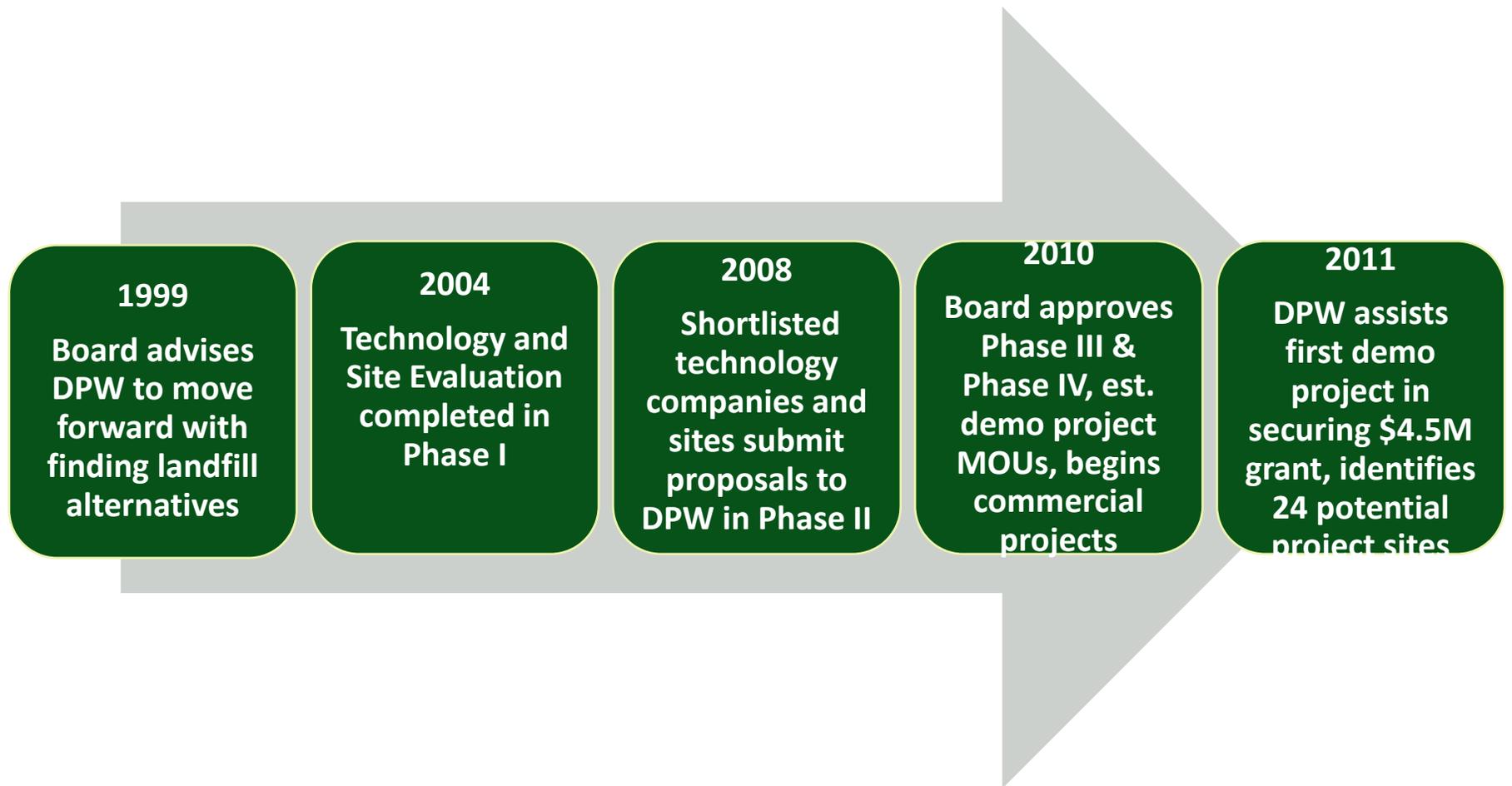
- Operating in 28 countries including: Australia, Europe, Japan, South Korea, South Africa and the United States. Several facilities have been operating commercially for well over a decade.
- By the end of 2010, over 200 anaerobic digesters were processing nearly 6 million tons per year of biosolids and municipal solid waste in Europe. It is estimated that European capacity will increase to 9 million tons per year by 2015.



L.A. County's Role in Conversion Technology Development

- National leader in evaluating and promoting the development of conversion technologies
- Incorporate conversion technologies into solid waste management approach
- Conduct in-depth evaluation of technology processes
- Support state and federal legislation
- Through landfill permit conditions provide funding and support for facility development

Conversion Technology Program Snapshot



Phase III Demonstration Project Update

Project Developer	Notes	Status
CR&R Inc.	AD Project is moving forward successfully. Project developer no longer needs technical/financial assistance from the County.	Groundbreaking will take place this Summer, expected to be operational in 18 months
International Environmental Solutions	Company is undergoing structural changes. Working with equipment manufacturer to standardize the production of their 8, 40, 125 tpd units.	Project development is on hold until equipment issues resolved and company completes reorganization.
Rainbow Disposal Company	Due to the recession, Rainbow's MRF has been receiving lower tonnages than anticipated	Rainbow evaluating several options for moving forward, may delay implementation.

Phase IV Commercial Project Update

- Identified 24 sites, and currently evaluating 18 locations in Los Angeles County as possible host sites.
- LA County released a Request for Expressions of Interest on June 22, 2011 to technology vendors and financiers soliciting interest in participating in a commercial project.
- Developing online resources for our stakeholders
 - Economic model to estimate the tipping fee for various types of technologies/various facility sizes
 - Technology database of vetted companies

Public Outreach

- Ongoing efforts in Sacramento and throughout the State to build support
- Conducted educational visits to the California Energy Commission, CalRecycle, Air Resources Board, and Department of Natural Resources in May
- Conferences and events
- Have been highly successful to date in raising awareness and building a coalition of supporters

Conclusions

- The County is pursuing the development of conversion technologies for their long term benefits:
 - **Landfill diversion** - Conversion technologies can divert 80% to 100% of residual waste (after recycling) into products and energy.
 - **Job creation** - A conversion technology facility would create construction jobs as well as long-term operation and engineering jobs.
 - **Environmental benefits** - Reduced truck traffic through communities and replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy reduces air emissions, including GHG emissions.
 - **Local control over waste** - Exporting waste is more expensive and unsustainable, and CTs produce biofuel and renewable energy locally.

Contact Information

For more information on the County's conversion technology project, please visit:

www.SoCalConversion.org

Pat Proano, Assistant Deputy Director

pproano@dpw.lacounty.gov

Coby Skye, Program Manager

cskye@dpw.lacounty.gov

Tobie Mitchell, Program Staff

tmitchell@dpw.lacounty.gov

