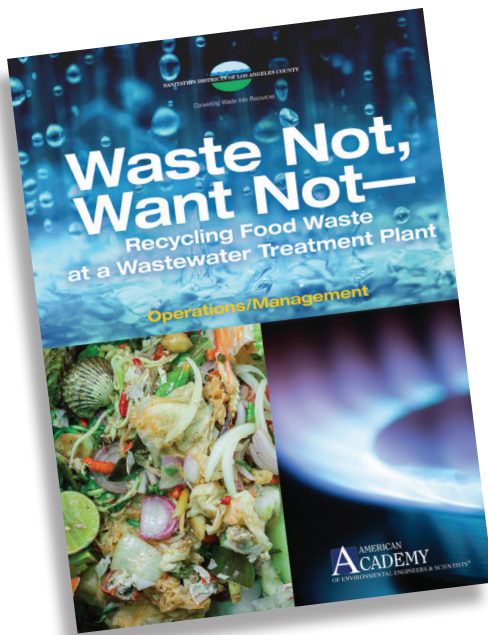


# Food Waste Recycling Program Wins National Award



On April 13, the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (Academy) hosted their annual awards luncheon and technical conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. President Howard Lafever initiated the proceedings by welcoming attendees from across the country and around the

world. The Academy is dedicated to excellence in the practice of environmental engineering and



science to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The purpose of this event is to recognize the exceptional individuals, projects, organizations, and programs that carry the Academy's mission forward.

**Chuck Boehmke** (Solid Waste Management, JAO) accepted this year's Grand Prize in Operations Management for the Sanitation Districts' Waste Not, Want Not—Recycling Food Waste at a Wastewater Treatment Plant Program.

The Sanitation Districts, in partnership with USA Waste of California, Inc. (Waste Management), have developed a project that collects, processes, and delivers source-separated food waste to an anaerobic digester at JWPCP. This project utilizes existing wastewater treatment infrastructure to recycle up to 84 tons per day of source-separated food waste. Food waste is diverted from landfills and converted into renewable energy and soil amendments. Diverting organic waste away from sanitary landfills



is a key part of California's strategy to reach 75% recycling by 2020.

Waste Management collects food waste via customer agreements that prohibit disposal of food waste containing glass, metals, plastics, wood fiber products, and hazardous materials and cleaning solvents. Remaining non-food waste contaminants are removed using a system that refines the food waste to a clean feedstock. The raw feedstock is screened and mixed with water to create a slurry that is fed to an existing digester.

Bench-scale testing of various blends of digester sludge and food waste slurry was performed. The tests showed that methane

production was more than doubled in the digester with food waste slurry addition, and that food waste slurry co-digestion at the feed rate tested had no adverse impact on digester operation or stability.

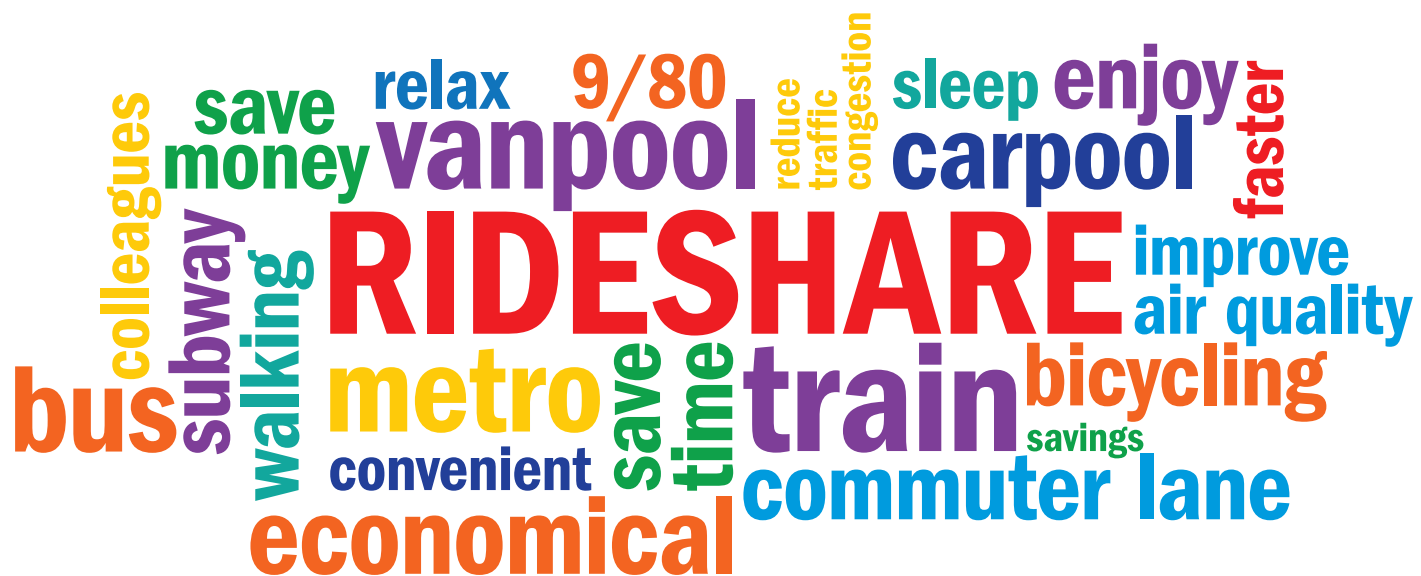
*"We must anticipate and adapt to solve the grand challenges, great debates, and big ideas that are facing our ever expanding global community. Our profession must lead the charge in this."*

—Dr. Domenico Grasso  
Keynote Speaker



The combined cycle combustion turbine facility at JWPCP has spare capacity and is able to use the additional digester gas to generate an additional 250 kW of electricity.

The Sanitation Districts and Waste Management have successfully initiated a pioneering project to recycle food waste through anaerobic digestion at an existing wastewater treatment plant and have processed more than 19,000 tons of food waste slurry. This project leads the way to help meet California's organics recycling goals and to provide operational lessons to other wastewater treatment facilities around the country as they adopt the approach.



For more information or to participate in the Districts' Rideshare Program,  
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