

School News



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Spring into Recycling

Spring has sprung, and it's time to get our recycling on! With flowers blooming, warmer weather, and more sunlight, there's no better time than spring to clean. I enjoy spring cleaning, because it is the best time to refresh – crack open the windows, declutter, and recycle. And what better time than now for a little recycling humor to kick off our spring cleaning season. Why are recycling bins so optimistic? Because they're full of cans.

We're fortunate in Long Beach as the City emphasizes the importance of recycling not only at this time of year with spring cleaning initiatives but throughout the entire year with various recycling programs. These recycling programs for residents, schools, and businesses range from collecting everyday recyclable items like plastic or glass bottles, aluminum cans and paper to organic materials such as yard trimmings and food scraps, e-waste, hazardous waste, and mattresses. To find out more about the City's recycling programs visit www.longbeach.gov/lbrecycles.

There's even a recycling program for those undertaking construction projects. The City created the Construction & Demolition (C&D) Recycling Program in 2007 to meet state mandated waste diversion goals and promote sustainability. The program's objective is to encourage permit applicants

to recycle C&D building materials through a refundable performance deposit, which is either refunded to the applicant for meeting program requirements or forfeited to the City to fund environmental sustainability projects. Given the importance of this, we undertook an audit of the program and identified a large amount of money in the C&D account from accumulated forfeited deposits. Through detailed analysis, reconciliation, and review of the City Ordinance, our audit found \$9.2 million in forfeited deposit revenue that can be spent immediately on environmental sustainability projects including park and recreational space improvements and other ecological enhancements that would otherwise use the City's General Fund or other funds.

We commend the City for taking action to swiftly implement our audit recommendations. The \$9.2 million in one-time funds that we found is now being used to enhance our parks, increase trees, improve water quality, and support City facility energy efficiency upgrades. Given the positive impact, our Office was honored with the Distinguished Knighton Award from the Association of Local Government Auditors for this audit.

See, by participating in the City's many recycling programs, we can all do our part to conserve resources and keep our environment clean.

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