

The Waste Management Commission's full duties are outlined by its by-laws:

- Provide financial review and recommendations regarding the County's solid waste management system, including periodic review of tonnage disposed, capital improvements, importation of out-of-County waste, budgets, cash flows and financial reports.
- Provide long-term landfill facility planning, including siting of future landfills, resource recovery facilities, and household hazardous waste management facilities; expansion of existing solid waste facilities; and actions related to closure and post-closure monitoring and maintenance of the County's solid waste disposal facilities.
- Provide policy oversight and periodic review of the Article 2, Division 3, Title 4 of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Orange Relating to Solid Waste Management including rules, regulations, standards, procedures and practices; and make recommendations to the Director of OC Waste & Recycling, as deemed necessary on matters pertaining to management of municipal solid waste and hazardous waste in Orange County.
- Provide review and recommendations regarding the County's regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program.
- Act as a forum for public input on issues related to the County's municipal solid waste management program.
- Provide review and recommendations on other solid waste policy issues that may be referred to the Commission by the Board.
- Assist the County in coordinating the development of city source reduction and recycling elements, and prepare the countywide siting element of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan.
- Identify solid waste management issues of countywide or regional concern.
- Determine the need for solid waste collection systems, processing facilities, and marketing strategies that can serve more than one local jurisdiction within the region.
- Facilitate the development of multi-jurisdictional arrangements for the marketing of recyclable materials.
- To the extent possible, facilitate resolution of conflicts and inconsistencies between or among city source reduction and recycling elements of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan.

- Develop goals, policies, and procedures which are consistent with guidelines and regulations adopted by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), to guide the development of the siting element of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan.

The commission consists of 18 members:

- 10 public members appointed by the Board of Supervisors (two from each supervisorial district)
- Five city councilmembers appointed by the City Selection Committee (one from each supervisorial district)
- The Chair of the City Selection Committee
- One city manager appointed by the City Selection Committee
- The Director of OC Waste & Recycling (who serves as a non-voting member)