GENERAL MANAGER COMMUICATIONS

ReGen MONITEREY

Meeting Date: July 19, 2024

- The Leadership Monterey County (LMC) class of 2024 toured ReGen's dual-stream MRF and visited the Sitos Group's Biochar Pilot Study operations test facility. Facilitator Mitchell Friedman said, "Thank you SO very much for hosting us. Our visit to ReGen has consistently been a highlight of the entire LMC year."
- ReGen's battery hazards video is currently airing on KSBW news, the Olympics, social media, and YouTube through September. The community is sharing that they are seeing the video and changing their habits by bagging batteries for their drop-off at approved battery collection sites and for curbside collection manually by the recycling route driver into a separate. We are very pleased and excited to hear the call to action for proper handling of batteries is effective in changing behaviors. The battery hazards video can be found, and shared, on ReGen's website at ReGenMonterey.org/Batteries.
- A tour of the landfill gas-to-energy plant and the Sitos Group's Biochar Pilot Study was conducted on Tuesday July 2nd for representatives of the County of Santa Cruz. The County operates a landfill gas-to-energy plant at the Buena Vista Landfill in Watsonville and had interest in ReGen's experiences operating such a facility and the management of that operation. The County also has interests in reducing disposal of organic materials such as 'food scraps' or 'wood chips' and understood that pyrolysis methods can be used to process such materials. Several of the personnel attending the tour included Carolyn Burke, Assistant Director, Community Development & Infrastructure; Kasey Kolassa Recycling & Solid Waste Services Manager, Community Development & Infrastructure; Darcy Pruitt, Resource Planner/Recycling & Solid Waste, Community Development & Infrastructure; Brian Fontes, ENV Programs Coordinator, Community Development & Infrastructure; and Greg Harden, Recycling & Solid Waste Services, Community Development & Infrastructure.
- The first month of the 12-month Pilot Study of Automated LFG Collection Wells has been completed. Staff conducted a review of the first month's performance with representatives from the system provider, LoCl Controls. The early 'take aways' are that the equipment on each of the 18 'test' wells was operating properly and that the 'user interface dashboard' was easily accessible, user friendly, and quickly connects the user to well specific information. That promises to be a significant time saver for wellfield technicians and significantly increase their ability to accomplish a review of the monitored wells. The LoCl's control system may assist ReGen to increase LFG (methane) collection by 5% to 10% and generate more renewable energy. That would also result in a reduction of any fugitive emissions through the landfill surface. while empowering site operations. Staff is investigating these matters as part of ReGen's larger program strategy to implement superior LFG best management practices.