



SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO
SCAVENGER
COMPANY, INC.

SUSTAINABILITY
HIGHLIGHTS REPORT
2015/2016

Mission Statement

“South San Francisco Scavenger Company is committed to providing solid waste management services of the highest quality delivered with pride and professionalism to all our customers, utilizing environmentally sensitive equipment that is safe, efficient, reliable, and appropriate to the work we perform. In carrying out our mission, we intend to provide and maintain the best possible work environment for our employees, fully cooperate with all governing and regulating agencies, and do our part to help create a sense of partnership between our company and the communities we serve.”



OUR SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

We remain committed to the environment, supporting the local economy and community, our employees and their safety. This report documents our progress. We have an excellent safety record and work daily to maintain our standards. We have made significant progress in reducing our Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and keep looking for more opportunities to reduce them even further! Our business values are reinforced by formal, measurable goals we strive to accomplish by 2020. Each year, we set measurable targets and our reports publicly identify our progress. The table below provides a summary of our goals.

South San Francisco Scavenger’s Sustainability Goals and Targets	
Environmental	
Climate Action Planning	Goal 1: Reduce direct and indirect greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
Fleets and Fuels	Goal 2: Improve fleet efficiency and lower emissions which have negative air quality and GHG impacts.
Green Building and Facility Energy Use	Goal 3: Promote initiatives to reduce facility-wide energy use and green building initiatives.
Recycling and Resource Management	Goal 4: Promote additional recycling and waste reduction at SSFSC and within local communities.
Environmentally Preferable Purchasing	Goal 5: Reduce the negative environmental and social impacts of products through effective preferable purchasing programs.
Facility Water Use	Goal 6: Reduce overall facility-wide water usage.
Local Economy and Community Support	
Socially Responsible Procurement	Goal 7: Promote local and minority owned businesses through procurement.
Employee Engagement	Goal 8: Recognize our employees’ commitment to safety, customer service and GHG reduction.
Local Events, Charities and Community Involvement	Goal 9: Contribute to our local communities/service areas by engaging employees and hosting, sponsoring and being active in local events, charities and projects
Commitment to Employee Training, Health and Safety	
	Goal 10: Ensure all employees are trained adequately for the equipment they are working with and maintain a safe workplace.

Dear Reader,

This Report reflects on our most recent accomplishments; our Anaerobic Digestion and CNG Fueling Facility is up and running, creating carbon negative fuel for our collection fleets from the food and green waste collected from our franchise areas, we received the highest environmental honor in California, the Governor’s Economic and Environmental Leadership Award (GEELA), we received our Green Business Certification from San Mateo County and participated in the REV Sustainability Circle.



Since beginning our sustainability journey five years ago we have learned a lot about our operations. This reporting process has helped us identify what we have been doing well and where we can improve., Our Company’s focus has always been on achieving high rates of diversion through single stream collection programs, outreach, education, and processing materials at our Blue Line Transfer Material Recovery Facility. We continue to push our recycling levels higher through advanced curbside collection programs and our on-site processing technology. As a local, family run business we have maintained strong ties to our franchise communities and management continues to serve these communities through various Chambers and service/charitable organizations. We have pushed ourselves to integrate innovative programs for our employees to further enhance their workplace satisfaction, encourage zero waste and other sustainability behaviors at home and in the workplace and to inspire charitable behaviors at all levels of the Company.

Although we have several accomplishments to be very proud of, our company doesn’t rest on its laurels. We are conscious of the challenges that lay ahead, like the state’s 75% Recycling Goal by 2020 and the California Air Resources Board considering a 90% organics ban from landfills by 2025. Our Company is working hard to prepare our Cities for what lies ahead. We believe our strength comes from being a small nimble company that is able to strategically invest in local solutions to manage the waste stream and prepare our service areas for what lies ahead.

This Highlights Report presents a snapshot of our accomplishments and the Goals and Targets we are measuring. We welcome feedback to our programs and invite you, our Reader, to keep us on-track toward our goals. It is my sincere hope that by reading this report, all of our stakeholders can have a better sense of what drives our business forward!

Sustainably yours,

Handwritten signature of Doug Button in blue ink.

Doug Button

President, South San Francisco Scavenger Company

Our Accomplishments

ANAEROBIC DIGESTER: FOOD TO FUEL

Our state-of-the-art Anaerobic Digestion and CNG Fueling Facility began operating in the beginning of 2015. The system transforms the food and green waste we collect into clean renewable compressed natural gas fuel for our vehicles and compost. Organic waste is composted in enclosed oxygen deprived chambers, producing methane, much the same way organic waste in a landfill produces methane. Unlike landfills, this methane is captured and turned into renewable truck fuel rather than being released into the atmosphere. This provides a triple benefit as methane is prevented from entering the atmosphere, a renewable fuel is produced, and the solid byproduct of this process is turned into compost.

For every 36 pounds of organic waste collected by SSFSC:



The equivalent of **one pint** pounds of diesel fuel is produced!



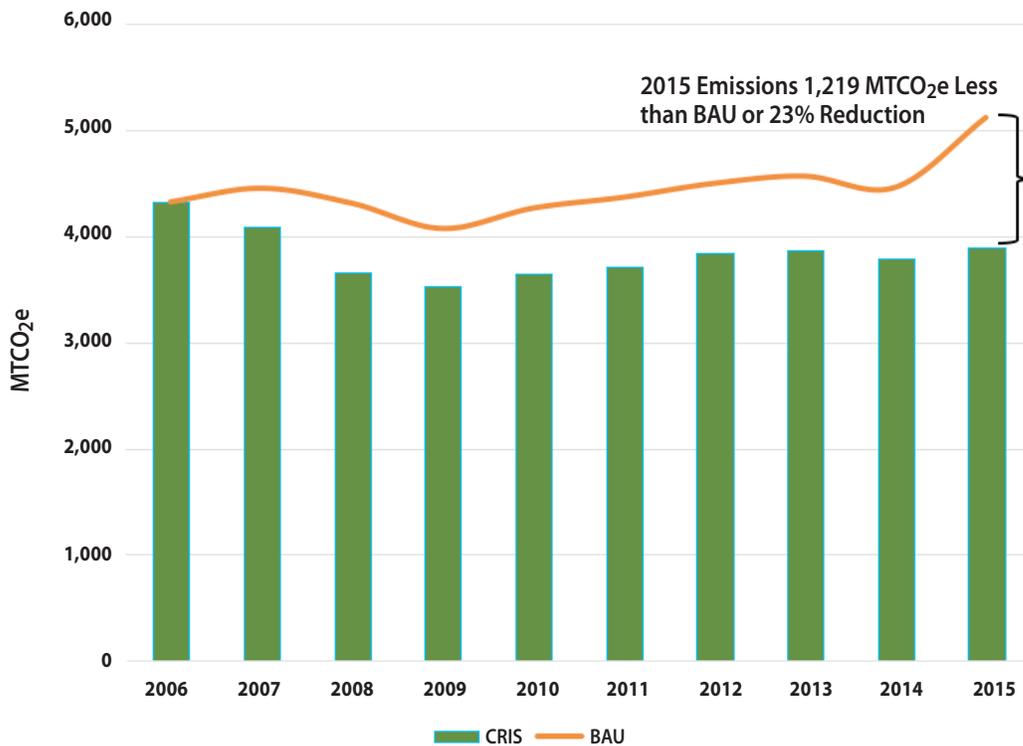
Plus **10.5 pounds** of compost

And **2,155 g CO₂e** of greenhouse gases are reduced.

In 2015 we received the State's highest environmental honor; the Governor's Economic and Environmental Leadership Award or GEELA in the category of Sustainable Practices, Communities or Facilities for our Anaerobic Digestion and CNG Fueling Facility.

GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING

Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduces other air pollutants, increases efficiency in our operations, and saves money. Three different alternative fuels help us reduce our fleet's emissions. Each time we use a Biodiesel, CNG, or RNG fueled truck to perform the task formerly held by a diesel truck, the emissions from that task are reduced. Our current annual fleet emissions are significantly lower than emitted had we used a traditional all-diesel fleet. Our investment in solar panels continues to offset our electricity use from the Grid for the operation of our Material Recovery Facility. A comparison, of our emissions with and without solar, including the solar offset, is calculated and shown in the chart on the following page.



THE IMPACT OF RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

In 2015 we separated out **55,565 tons** of material for recycling or composting for use as biomass. These recycled materials which include metals, paper, plastic, glass, and other inert material are used to replace virgin natural resources which would otherwise have been extracted. Using best practice calculation methodologies from the California Air Resources Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, we can estimate the amount of GHGs saved from diverting this material from landfill and from conserving natural resources. The estimated greenhouse gas savings from recycling from the recyclable, composting or using this material for biomass to energy is **47,943 MTCO₂e**.

GREEN BUILDING AND WATER USAGE

Since beginning our Sustainability Program over five years ago we have achieved LEED accreditation and Green Business Certification from San Mateo County for our office building. These accomplishments motivate us to increase water efficiencies throughout the entire operation. Dust mitigation in our Material Recovery Operation, which is required for the health and safety of our employees uses the most water within our operation. We continue to search for the most efficient nozzles possible for this purpose. To compensate, we have drought resistant, native landscape around our facility requiring minimal to no watering and all of our office plumbing is low flow. We have also implemented technology and equipment to reduce the water use and natural gas use for each sterilization cook of airline waste.

As a part of greening our operations we have incorporated an ***Environmental Preferable Purchasing Program***. We see environmentally preferable purchasing as a way to influence our entire supply chain to make better decisions regarding materials management and environmental impact reduction. In addition, we use our purchasing power to invest in our local community and minority owned businesses whenever possible, which run the gamut, from clothing for our employees, catering for events, to road paving services.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND RETENTION

Our family-owned roots have always driven us to create an enjoyable and engaging workplace. A part of this is providing recognition and incentives to our employees. Our goal over the coming years is to expand our current recognition program and offer additional ways to acknowledge our employees' time and dedication, reinforcing the family culture we have worked hard to foster and in turn maintaining the success of our operation. Since our employees are our greatest asset, we employ a range of safety programs to help to make sure everyone makes it home to their loved ones each night.

Employee training is the backbone of our safety program. Our employees receive comprehensive job training, and are provided the opportunity to advance in the organization resulting in job satisfaction and low turnover. Training includes monthly safety meetings, driver safety training, and continuing education, such as management classes and conferences. We provide comprehensive driver education/training and assist employees with obtaining appropriate drivers licenses. SSFSC also provides extensive training (40 hours minimum) on any piece of equipment employees are assigned to operate.

LOCAL EVENTS, CHARITIES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Our owners and employees are heavily tied to the communities we serve, making the services we provide personal. We consistently give back and integrate ourselves into the local area making our communities a better place to live. Every year we participate in food drives, donate to local charities, serve as active board members of local service organizations and non-profits and volunteer for a variety of events. We also maintain our portion of the Bay Trail, which serves as a walking path from the San Francisco International Airport to Brisbane and runs along the bay side of our facility for the benefit and enjoyment of the local community.



Preparing for the Future

In July 2012, California set a statewide policy goal to **reduce, recycle, and compost 75% of solid waste from landfills by 2020**. We have been working to expand commercial recycling and provide education that encourages businesses to maximize the use of our recycling programs. There is also new and greater emphasis on how the State will deal with organic materials, such as food waste, green waste, lumber and other compostable materials. Organics present the largest opportunity for California to increase the diversion of materials from landfill and significantly reduce GHG emissions.

To meet the organics challenge, the California Legislature passed and Governor Brown signed AB 1826 into law, requiring cities to phase in mandatory organics collection for commercial customers. Effective January 1, 2016, local jurisdictions must have an AB 1826 Organic Waste Recycling Program in place to phase in the collection of commercial organic waste, and need to demonstrate 15-years of organic processing capacity per AB 876.

We have a detailed plan in place to prepare our largest franchise area, the City of South San Francisco, for these upcoming regulations. Our goal is to provide the most enhanced collection, education and outreach programs so our services are used to their maximum potential. Once the materials are collected, processing technologies can remove contaminants, where the collected items may be used for recycling or composting. We are confident in our ability to meet our future goals head on.

Thank you – for reading and being a part of our Sustainability Program. Our Report was developed by a team of people committed to ensuring SSFSC is a major part of the sustainable future of San Mateo County and the Cities we service. You can find more information about our Company at www.ssfscavenger.com. We look forward to future reports and building on what we have started. If you have comments or suggestions, we would love to hear them! Please feel free to contact us via the website, swing by our office or give us a call at 650-589-4020!



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500 East Jamie Court
South San Francisco
CA 94080

Phone: 650.589.4020

www.ssfscavenger.com