Reviewed by:

_ Date: 2/8/19

General Manager

DATE:

February 8, 2019

TO:

General Manager

FROM:

Director of Communications and Sustainability

SUBJECT:

Public Education and Recycling Report

New Waste Reduction Workshops Begin

District staff have been offering home composting workshops to residents in the MRWMD service area over the last 12 years. This year, in response to changes in recycling markets, the launch of What Goes Where, and the many questions we have received from the public regarding recycling and single use plastics, public education staff have launched two new workshops. The first, "Recycling 101" was offered on February 2.

The new Recycling 101 workshop offers a concise history of recycling in the US including the recent turmoil in international markets and its impact on local recycling programs. The District MRF is described including the materials we are diverting, the end markets they are shipped to, and what they become. Attendees also receive a tour of the MRF and plenty of time for question and



Attendees of the Recycling 101 workshop tour the MRF.

answers. The February 2 workshop was fully subscribed with 30 residents who turned out on a stormy Saturday morning to attend. Post workshop surveys provided a lot of positive feedback and suggestions that will be incorporated into future workshops.



The next new workshop is "Zero Waste Home" which will provide attendees with a wealth of information on reducing waste while highlighting practices that reduce or eliminate the use of single use plastics and other hard to recycle items. That workshop will debut on March 2 at 10 am and a second session at 1 pm has been added due to popular demand. The workshops run 90 minutes with a half hour dedicated at the end to questions and answers. Given the positive response to the new workshops, additional sessions will be scheduled throughout the Spring.

Jeff Lindenthal