Lopez Solid Waste Disposal District Strategic Plan 2025

Mission of the LSWDD

The Lopez Solid Waste Disposal District (LSWDD) provides a safe and convenient local facility for solid waste collection with reuse and recycle options, operated in a fiscally, socially, and environmentally responsible manner with a goal to educate and inspire the community to reduce waste.

The Outline

The LSWDD Strategic Planning Outline describes the current state of the utility and lays out a vision for the future. The outline is a living document that contemplates the challenges and opportunities the District may face over a five-year time horizon period, defines the actions required to prepare for these trends and events, and sets priorities based upon available resources.

The outline development process is managed by the Strategic Planning Committee and is updated annually by the LWSDD Board.

LWSDD Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

1) Increased demand for waste management services due to population growth, increased tourism, and residential and commercial development

2) Fiscal pressure from increased waste disposal fees, increased operating and transportation costs, inflation, and disruption of supply and waste management lines
3) Service demand spikes in the summer season
4) Burden and unpredictability of annual campaign to pass operating levy

Opportunities

1) High level of community involvement and support for waste reduction
2) Large customer base and support for “the Dump”, which is seen as a community asset
3) Highly experienced and dedicated operational team and staff
4) San Juan County Solid Waste management support
5) Availability of state, county and local resources working to manage and reduce waste

2029 LWSDD Vision

An operation that:

- is structured to ensure financial viability for the foreseeable future
- has added services of value or supports other organizations’ efforts to further reduce waste
- has reduced the waste generated per resident
- continues to be strongly supportive of and supported by the Lopez community

2025 - 2026 Goals in Support of Vision

1. **Fortify solid waste operations in service of community**
    - **a.** Complete baler shed expansion
    - **b.** Complete full staffing of Board

c. Continue to increase volunteer hours to support operations
d. Increase community communication thru social media account postings

2. **Strengthen fiscal health of the District**
    a. Review plan for sustained fiscal management
    b. Research potential external funding sources/partnerships
    c. Set pricing strategy to support continued operations

3. **Continue and expand environmentally and socially responsible operations**
    a. Initiate planning to reduce LSWDD carbon emissions
    b. Initiate recycling partnerships to further reduce island waste

4. **Educate and inspire community to reduce waste**
    a. Create and execute community education plan with topics toward waste reduction (refuse, reuse, repurpose, recycle)
    b. Identify metrics to display and construct on-site "scoreboard" for Lopez waste amounts
    c. Encourage volunteer participation and expand opportunities
    d. Develop and strengthen partnerships with other Lopez organizations with similar goals to impact waste in the community

5. ***Reduce waste thru the following efforts***
    a. Continue organics reduction and home composting initiative
    b. Identify additional reuse & recycling options