

## **DRAFT- FAQs for FOG Pilot\_REV. 9/26/2024**

### **What is the FOG Vendor Pilot Program?**

The Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Street Vendor Pilot Program is a collaborative effort by Council District 1 and LA Sanitation & Environment (LASAN) to encourage street vendors in the El Salvador Corridor along Vermont, from Olympic to Pico, to properly dispose of FOG and other wastes associated with vending activities. The Pilot Program includes providing an outreach/education program to the vendors, as well as installing and servicing FOG disposal containers and trash bins.

### **Why is this program necessary?**

Improper disposal of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) and other wastes, such as trash and waste water, can clog the City's storm drains and also results in poor water quality in our local streams and beaches. Baseline monitoring results have shown that runoff from the vending area contains elevated levels of bacteria, sediment, and FOG. Not only can this harm the natural environment, it also poses a threat to the health and safety of people who enjoy recreating in our local water bodies.

- *E. coli* indicates the presence of fecal contamination and associated pathogens, which means that people could get sick from contacting or ingesting the water. One possible source of these contaminants occurs when trash and food scraps are improperly disposed of. Remnants of food can attract animals (such as rats, seagulls, and opossums) which then leave droppings.
- Excessive sediments, FOG, and bacteria-laden runoff can be harmful to aquatic plants and animals that live in our local streams and the ocean. Runoff from the vending area drains into the Ballona Creek watershed before flowing out to Santa Monica Bay.
- FOG combined with sediment and trash could clog the storm drain system causing localized flooding, could slow traffic, cause accidents, damage property, and result in expensive repairs to the storm drain system.
- This is a way of eliminating pollution at its source. Source control is thought to be a cost-effective approach to reducing stormwater pollution (as opposed to structural control measures).
- This program helps ensure the health and safety of all Angelenos. It provides area vendors with a free and safe method to dispose of these FOGs, allowing them to help keep our infrastructure operational and our environment safe. Fewer FOGs in our pipes and drains help eliminate future repairs that may impact the vendors' operations.

### **What should I put in the container?**

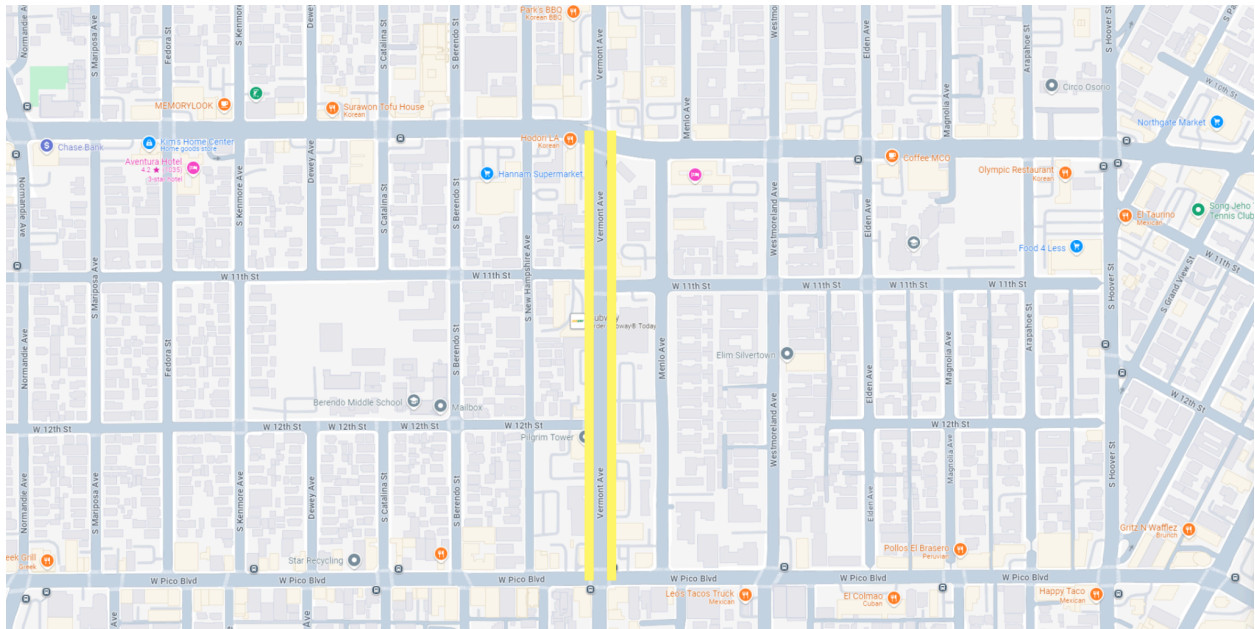
Any sort of Fats, Oil or Grease from cooking, frying, grilling, etc. of food - including cooking oil, frying grease, runoff grease from cooking meat or seafood.

### **What should I NOT put in the container?**

Any soup, water, dish washing liquid, water from cleaning and washdowns.

## Where does this program take place?

On Vermont Avenue between Olympic Boulevard and Pico Boulevard.



## I am a vendor in the program area. How can I properly dispose of FOG?

To properly dispose of FOG, you should follow these steps:

1. Use a container to collect the FOG materials. If you have a container with a cover, that is best. Collect the FOG materials whenever the container is full or at the end of the night.
  2. Carefully pour the FOG materials into the City-provided labeled collection container.
  3. Check the surrounding area for spillage and clean any spillage that occurs.
- *For more information, you can also watch our VIDEO (insert link)*

## Is it mandatory for me to participate in the program?

Participation in the program is voluntary, but highly encouraged. Vendors' participation in this program not only helps to protect public health and the environment, but also helps lead to fewer harmful FOGs in our pipes and drains. Reducing and/or eliminating FOGs in the City's infrastructure can help eliminate future repairs that may impact the vendors' operations and profits.

## How often will the City-provided collection containers be emptied?

The vendor responsible for disposal will regularly monitor the fullness of their containers and will empty them as needed in a City-provided collection container.

## What should I do if I spill FOG outside the container?

For small spills, clean up with rags or paper towels.

For larger spills, contact LASAN's 24/7 Customer Care Center at (800) 773-2489 so that they may properly contain and dispose of the spilled material.

**What are the next steps if this Pilot program is successful?**

If this pilot program is successful, it may be expanded to other areas of the City.

**I have more questions / I don't see my question. Who can I contact?**

You may contact the LA Sanitation Community Outreach Team at (213) 485-3221 ~or~  
lasan.cleanwater.outreach@lacity.org

**I would like to report damage to the FOG container. Who can I contact?**

If there is damage to the container, please call 562-686-0426 and report the issue.