



# INSIDE SOLID WASTE

Winter 2024



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Inside Solid Waste is produced quarterly by Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force



## TOP STORIES

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3 City of Alhambra Introduces the  
“Alhambra Recycles” Campaign

4 Zero Waste Plan

6 SoCalGas Hosts Fifth Annual Power of  
Waste Workshop

7 Senate Bill 1383 Update

## Household Hazardous Waste Permanent Collection Centers



**SWMC**

Inside Solid Waste

Task Force Public Education and  
Information Subcommittee

CHAIR

**Mike Mohajer**

For information, call  
Vanessa A. Olivas at (626) 458-2528  
Monday - Thursday, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



Visit [lacountyiswmtf.org](http://lacountyiswmtf.org) to find agendas, meeting minutes and copies of the Inside Solid Waste newsletter. If you are interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education and Information Subcommittee or if you would like to submit an article for Inside Solid Waste, please contact Vanessa A. Olivas at (626) 458-2528 or [volivas@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:volivas@pw.lacounty.gov). Quarterly meetings are held at Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters.

### **City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E Permanent Collection Centers**

Open Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., unless otherwise noted.  
Services suspended during rainy weather.  
For information, call (800) 98-TOXIC (988-6942).

### **Gaffey Street Collection Center**

1400 N. Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731

### **Hyperion Treatment Plant**

7660 W. Imperial Highway, Gate B, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293

### **Washington Boulevard Collection Center**

2649 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90021

### **Randall Street S.A.F.E. Center**

11025 Randall Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352

### **UCLA Location** (E-waste accepted on Saturdays only)

550 Charles E. Young Drive West, Los Angeles, CA 90095  
Open Thursday - Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### **Los Angeles/Glendale Collection Center (Temporarily closed)**

4600 Colorado Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90039

## **Los Angeles County Permanent Collection Centers**

### **Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center**

Antelope Valley Public Landfill,  
1200 West City Ranch Road, Palmdale, CA 93551  
Open 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### **EDCO Environmental Collection Center**

EDCO Recycling and Transfer Center,  
2755 California Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90755  
Open 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### **About Household Hazardous Waste**

Items accepted: paint and solvents, used motor oil and filters, anti-freeze and other automotive fluids, cleaning products, pool and garden chemicals, aerosol cans, all medicines except for controlled substances, auto batteries, household batteries, computers, monitors, printers, network equipment, cables, telephones, televisions, microwaves, video games, cell phones, radios, stereos, VCRs and electronic toys. **Not accepted: business waste, ammunition, explosives, radioactive material, trash, tires and bulky items such as furniture, refrigerators, washing machines/dryers and stoves.**



## City of Alhambra Introduces the “Alhambra Recycles” Campaign



The City of Alhambra (City) is proud to officially launch a new public outreach and educational campaign focused on residential and commercial food waste recycling. The campaign offers practical actions that everyone can take to divert food scraps, yard trimming, and other organic materials from landfills. Organic waste, collected separately by Alhambra’s franchise waste hauler, is processed into compost and provided back to the community, in accordance with Senate Bill 1383.

Although organics recycling was rolled out to all Alhambra residences and businesses in 2021, the City works continuously to increase participation and improve understanding about the new food waste recycling program.

As part of their outreach efforts, the City created a robust social marketing campaign that was uniquely designed to motivate Alhambra’s diverse population of residents and businesses. The multi-faceted campaign includes videos, flyers, and signs in English, Spanish, and Chinese that offer practical, actionable information for both residents and commercial businesses.

The campaign also introduces “Compost Charlie,” an animated worm mascot specially designed for the City to add a fun and whimsical element to their instruction. In addition to appearing on digital and print materials, Compost Charlie is featured in the City’s free online game ([bit.ly/AlhambraOrganics](http://bit.ly/AlhambraOrganics)) in which players earn points by correctly sorting common household items into the 3-bin system for landfill, recyclables, and organic waste.

“With this campaign, we hope residents and businesses see that participating in the organics recycling program can be a rewarding process that ultimately becomes as second-nature as separating your bottles, cans, and other recyclables,” said the City of Alhambra’s Recycling Assistant, Mr. Joris Eigirdas. “Placing all organic waste in the green organics cart not only helps the environment by reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions but can save residents and businesses money on their trash bill.”

The Alhambra Recycles Campaign includes the following new resources:

- Alhambra Recycles logo
- Compost Charlie mascot voted on by the community
- Redesigned user-friendly recycling webpage
- Online advertisement campaign in English, Spanish, and Chinese
- Outreach flyers and informational videos in English, Spanish and Chinese
- Interactive online sorting game
- Outreach toolkits for residents and businesses
- Community workshops catered to residents, businesses, and multi-family properties

Alhambra residents and businesses are encouraged to visit [bit.ly/AlhambraOrganics](http://bit.ly/AlhambraOrganics) to access all resources and stay up to date. Questions and comments should be directed to [recycle@cityofalhambra.org](mailto:recycle@cityofalhambra.org).

## Zero Waste Plan



Sustainable solid waste management is critical for protecting public health, conserving natural resources, and combating climate change. On September 13, 2022, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the Zero Waste Plan which promotes a sustainable waste management system focused on a circular economy. The Zero Waste Plan is an update to the 2014 Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Future Plan, which guided the County in implementing policies and developing programs to meet established waste diversion goals. Los Angeles County Public Works worked closely with the County’s Chief Sustainability Office, other County departments, and public stakeholders to develop the Zero Waste Plan.

New laws and substantial developments in the recycling sector have occurred since 2014, most notably China’s National Sword Policy and new organic waste diversion mandates. As a result, the County revised the Zero Waste Plan which is a waste management planning document that lays out the general framework for programs and policies that the County can implement

to maximize natural resource reuse, recover materials for beneficial uses, and ultimately reduce reliance on limited landfill space for disposal.

It is important that we reduce waste, reuse, and recover materials and resources to the greatest extent possible. The Zero Waste Plan includes long-term targets to divert waste from landfills in the unincorporated communities. These targets include an 80-percent diverted waste target by 2025, which amounts to disposing no more than three pounds per person per day; a target of 90 percent diverted by 2035, amounting to no more than 1.5 pounds disposed in landfills; a target of 95+ percent diverted by 2045, amounting to no more than 0.75 pounds disposed in landfills.

The Zero Waste Plan is intended to be a resource for residents, businesses, public agencies, the waste industry, environmental organizations, and other interested stakeholders seeking to contribute to a more sustainable waste management future. At the top of the waste management hierarchy, the Zero Waste Plan emphasizes the importance of preventing or eliminating waste



altogether. In addition, the Zero Waste Plan includes a more in-depth discussion of the role of equity and environmental justice in the development or expansion of infrastructure, including the implementation of programs and services.

There are three areas of focus within the plan which include: Regional/Countywide, County Unincorporated Communities, and County Operations. Additionally, the plan includes three strategies with supporting initiatives to reduce waste and divert material from landfills. These strategies include Programs and Services, Measuring Results, and Facilities and Infrastructure. Across the three strategies, there are 16 initiatives in total and many sub-initiatives that will be developed and implemented by stakeholders to achieve the initiative. These initiatives include a mix of “upstream” activities that identify ways to keep materials out of the waste stream entirely and “downstream” activities that manage materials that are currently disposed of at landfills in a sustainable manner.

Overall, the County strives to set an example by developing creative and innovative waste diversion

programs to ensure that the environmental justice mandates of clean air, water, and pollution-free communities for all are part of the daily lives of County residents, regardless of race, color, nationality, economic status, or geographical location. On Tuesday, August 21, 2023, a teleconference kick-off meeting was held with 174 individuals joining the call. Representatives from Public Works, County Departments, Cities, waste haulers, developers, and environmental groups were among those who attended. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session. Public Works will continue to meet with stakeholders to engage them and develop and implement programs for the initiatives. In addition, Public Works will provide the Board with annual reports on the progress of the Zero Waste Plan implementation.

If you would like to learn more about any of the focus areas, strategies, or initiatives in the Zero Waste Plan, visit [zerowaste.lacounty.gov](https://zerowaste.lacounty.gov).

## SoCalGas Hosts Fifth Annual Power of Waste Workshop



Los Angeles County Public Works Principal Engineer, Christopher Sheppard, presents about organic waste diversion and renewable natural gas at SoCalGas “Power of Waste” conference, in Downey, on October 25, 2023.

On October 25, 2023, SoCalGas hosted the fifth annual Power of Waste workshop. This year’s workshop was focused on renewable natural gas (RNG) in California. The workshop was attended by representatives from local jurisdictions, local and state agencies, utility companies, academia, and non-profits. Other attendees included waste haulers, facility developers and operators, and technology developers and vendors.

Mr. Sam Wade, Director of Public Policy for the RNG Coalition, presented on current and upcoming policies supporting RNG development. He mentioned Assembly Bill 678, which expands RNG procurement targets by requiring natural gas corporations in California to procure biomethane. Mr. Wade informed the audience that the California Air Resources Board is proposing to extend the Low Carbon Fuel Standard program to 2030 and increase the State’s carbon intensity reduction target to 30 percent. He stated that, on the federal level, the Inflation Reduction Act supports RNG and other forms of renewable energy such as hydrogen and alternative fuels through beneficial tax policies. Mr. Wade also discussed programs such as Green-e, a renewable energy certification and verification program.

One of the workshop panels, “Diverting Organic Waste – 1383 in Action,” focused on the nexus between solid waste and RNG. The panel was moderated by Ms. Julia Levin, Executive Director of the Bioenergy Association of California. She stated that reducing methane and other short-lived climate pollutants is the most urgent climate change mitigation measure,

and that California can produce a substantial amount of renewable energy from diverted organic waste to support a reduction in methane emissions.

Ms. Karla Miller, Manager of the Local Assistance and Market Development branch at California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery stated that landfills are one of the largest producers of methane in the state of California and that implementing Senate Bill (SB) 1383 will reduce methane emissions from landfills.

Mr. Christopher Sheppard, Principal Engineer at Los Angeles County Public Works, presented on the need to develop organic waste processing infrastructure, including anaerobic digestion facilities, and the need to develop robust end markets for RNG and other products created by anaerobic digestion to meet the SB 1383 goals.

Mr. Joshua Mann, Public Sector Solutions Manager for Waste Management, stated that removing contamination from the waste stream is the key to increasing the volume of organic waste diverted and reducing organic waste processing costs.

Mr. John Dannan of Generate Capital presented on opportunities to develop sustainable waste management infrastructure to support SB 1383 and the production of RNG.

Other workshop topics included bridging the supply and demand for RNG, as well as case studies on innovative RNG projects.

For more information, please contact Mr. Christopher Sheppard at [csheppard@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:csheppard@pw.lacounty.gov) or (626) 458-3501.

## Senate Bill 1383 Update: CalRecycle Has Announced \$130 Million In Funding For 23 Infrastructure Projects



The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) recently announced on December 19, 2023, the allocation of \$130 million in funding for 23 infrastructure projects. These projects are aligned to bolster the state's efforts to accelerate climate progress by targeting organic waste recycling as a pivotal element in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Director Rachel Machi Wagoner of CalRecycle expressed optimism about the latest round of grants, highlighting their potential to not only curtail greenhouse gases such as methane but also foster the growth of California-based companies, creating new employment opportunities within our communities.

The core objective of these investments is to divert over 7.7 million tons of food and yard waste away from landfills. The resulting reduction in climate pollution

is projected to be equivalent to removing around 480,000 cars from the roads, contributing substantially to the state's emission reduction goals.

The funded projects take diverse approaches to recycling organic waste. Composting projects create a nutrient-rich superfood for soil which aims to enhance plant growth, minimize pesticide use, and sequester significant amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. Anaerobic digestion projects producing biofuel from organic waste further contribute to reducing carbon emissions in the transportation and energy sectors.

These grants, allocated across 15 counties (including two projects with a total grant allocation of approx. \$10.1 million in Los Angeles County), reflect a strategic move to work towards the diversion goals outlined in Senate Bill (SB) 1383, enacted in 2016. This legislation



mandated a 75 percent reduction in Statewide organic waste disposal by 2025 compared to a 2014 baseline.

CalRecycle has also reported SB 1383 implementation progress, which includes:

- 75 percent of communities now report residential organic waste collection programs.
- Nearly 100 percent of communities reported expanding commercial organic waste collection programs.
- Landfill data shows organic waste disposal dropped by two million tons from 2014 to 2021, even before SB 1383 took effect in 2022.

The momentum continues to build as CalRecycle prepares to conduct its next comprehensive study on the disposal of organic waste in 2024; the results will be

released in 2025. California’s commitment to combating climate change through creative waste management techniques highlights the State’s environmental stewardship. Investing in organic waste recycling projects not only helps the environment but also opens doors for economic growth and employment creation, signaling a more promising and sustainable future for California.

A press release was issued on December 19, 2023, titled [California to help communities recycle 7.7 million tons of food and yard waste](#).

Visit [calrecycle.ca.gov/](http://calrecycle.ca.gov/) for additional information on the 23 Organic Grant Awards.



## Los Angeles County Single-Use Plastics Ordinance



The Reduction of Waste from Single-Use Articles and Expanded Polystyrene Products Ordinance was adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in April 2022. The Ordinance applies to food facilities and retail establishments that are located within the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. It also applies to food facilities located within County facilities, as well as online food-ordering platforms.

The Ordinance (Chapter 12.86 of the Los Angeles County Code):

- Requires full-service restaurants to use multiservice utensils (i.e., reusable foodware) for dine-in customers.
- A full-service restaurant is a type of food facility where each of the following would typically occur when a customer consumes food on the premises:
  1. The customer is escorted or directed to an assigned eating area. An employee of the restaurant may choose the assigned eating area or may seat the customer according to the customer's need for accommodation or other request.
  2. Except for food that is included in a buffet or salad bar, the customer's food and beverage orders are delivered directly to the customer.
  3. If a customer wants additional items with the customer's food or beverage order, the customer requests such items from the server, and the server brings the requested items to the customer.
- Prohibits food facilities such as restaurants,

cafeterias, food trucks, etc., from providing single-use foodware accessories (e.g., straws, forks, condiment packets, napkins, etc.) to customers unless the customer requests them.

- Requires online food-ordering businesses to include on their platforms a way for food facilities to offer single-use foodware accessories so customers may select which accessories, if any, they choose to be packaged with their order.
- Requires that single-use articles that food facilities provide to customers with ready-to-eat food, such as food containers, cups, dishes and accessories, be either compostable or recyclable.
- Prohibits the retail sale of products made from expanded polystyrene (also known as "Styrofoam"), including coolers, packaging materials, and single-use articles such as cups, plates, and similar items. Pool toys may also be prohibited for retail sale unless the products are encased in a durable material.

Los Angeles County Public Works and the Department of Public Health have started visiting impacted food facilities to provide technical assistance and education as more businesses are phased into the requirement for single-use foodware articles if they choose to use such products.

View/download the Ordinance fact sheet [here](#). For additional information about the Ordinance, visit <https://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/eps>.

## Sustainability Starts at Home



Looking to protect the environment with efforts that really make a difference? Simple but effective changes can begin in your home. Consider using alternative cleaning product recipes to minimize hazardous waste around your home. These recipes are simple, safe, and require ingredients you probably already have in your home. Instead of buying expensive cleaners for your kitchen counter tops, just sprinkle baking soda or borax, add juice from half of a lemon, and gently scrub. To get free alternative recipes, visit [https://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/hhw/alternative\\_recipes.pdf](https://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/hhw/alternative_recipes.pdf).

A typical home can contain many hazardous products used for cleaning, painting, beautifying, and disinfecting the house, yard, and garage. Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes products labeled toxic,

poisonous, corrosive, flammable, combustible, or irritant. Some examples of HHW are cleaners and pesticides, paint products, motor oil and other automotive products, household and car batteries, prescription drugs, medical needles, and electronic waste (E-waste) such as computers, cell phones, microwaves, etc. Improper use, storage, and disposal of HHW/E-waste products can potentially harm our families and pets, pollute our communities, and contaminate our soil, water, and air. To safely dispose of these toxic products, Los Angeles County hosts weekly HHW/E-waste collection events around the County.

Visit [CleanLA.com](https://www.cleanla.com) or call (888) CLEAN-LA for a collection event near you.



# Updates on the City of Los Angeles' Residential Blue-Bin Recycling Program

## RECYCLING

**PAPER/ PAPEL**

**PLASTIC/ PLÁSTICO**

**THESE  
CLEAN & EMPTY  
ITEMS GO INTO  
THE BLUE BIN**

**ESTOS ARTÍCULOS  
LIMPIOS Y VACÍOS  
VAN AL BOTE AZUL**

**METAL/ METAL**

**GLASS/ VIDRIO**

**NOT ACCEPTED/ NO ACEPTADO**

**ALL BATTERIES**  
Baterías

**FOAM**  
Poliestireno

**HOSES**  
Mangueras

**PROPANE TANKS**  
Tanques de propano

**FILM PLASTICS**  
Envoltura de plástico

For more information scan here:  
Para más información escanee aquí:  
or visit/ o visitar: [LACITYSAN.ORG](http://LACITYSAN.ORG)

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. En relación con el Artículo II del Acto de Americanos con Incapacidades, la Ciudad de Los Angeles no discrimina en base de incapacidad física, y si Ud. lo pide, la Ciudad proveerá en un nivel razonable, igual acceso a sus programas, servicios y actividades.

The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, also known as Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment (LASAN), has always been at the forefront of sustainable waste management practices, and its Residential Blue-Bin Recycling Program is a shining example. Designed to cater to the needs of 750,000 residential customers, this program promotes recycling and reduces the amount of waste that ends up in landfills. To ensure its continued success, the program regularly undergoes updates to improve efficiency and align with evolving trends within the recycling industry.

The latest update to the program pertains to the acceptable materials in the blue bin, specifically focusing on plastic products. Under the new guidelines, the program will only accept plastic products labeled #1 (PET or PETE), #2 (HDPE), and #5 (PP). This change is a result of the recent loss of market demand for plastics bearing

codes #3 (PVC), #4 (LDPE), #6 (PS), and #7 (Other). LASAN has made this change to adapt to the changing landscape of the recycling sector and to prioritize the efficient processing of recyclable materials.

While the update affects the acceptance of certain plastics, it is worth noting that other recyclable materials remain unchanged in the program. Items such as glass bottles, aluminum and steel cans, paper products, cardboard, and certain plastic containers labeled #1, #2, and #5 continue to be accepted.

This update serves as a reminder for residents to familiarize themselves with the recently revised guidelines to ensure their recycling efforts are aligned with the program. By adhering to the updated list of acceptable materials, residents can contribute to the overall success of the recycling program and help promote a greener and more sustainable community.



To ensure a smooth transition and increase public awareness of the changes, LASAN has implemented a variety of educational tools and outreach efforts. These initiatives include updated labels for blue bins, social media campaigns, neighborhood meetings, and community events. Moreover, LASAN has employed Recycling Ambassadors who are instrumental in educating residents on the proper use of bins. LASAN's website ([www.lacitysan.org](http://www.lacitysan.org)) and Customer Care Center (1-800-773-2489) serve as valuable resources by providing comprehensive information and addressing any questions about the updates to the recycling program.

Overall, the City's Residential Blue-Bin Recycling Program remains a vital tool in advancing sustainability and reducing waste. With the latest update restricting accepted plastics labeled #1, #2, and #5, LASAN aims to

ensure proper recycling of materials that have viable markets. By staying informed and following the revised guidelines, residents can continue to play an active role in making Los Angeles cleaner and more sustainable.

For more information about the program, please contact Mr. Ronaldo Milo at [Ronaldo.Milo@lacity.org](mailto:Ronaldo.Milo@lacity.org) or Ms. Bernadette Halverson at [Bernadette.Halverson@lacity.org](mailto:Bernadette.Halverson@lacity.org).

## New Report on Lithium Valley



Photo of Governor Gavin Newsom

The “Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area” in Imperial County, California, has been identified as a potential domestic United States (U.S.) resource of lithium due to the presence of brine-hosted lithium in the deep subsurface geothermal reservoir. Lithium is a key mineral in the production of high-performance batteries that are essential for electric vehicles (EV) and renewable energy storage systems. A November 22, 2023, report funded by the U.S. Department of Energy provides an overview of opportunities and challenges associated with developing the lithium resource in the Salton Sea geothermal reservoir, as well as potential environmental and societal impacts to the County and surrounding region.

According to this [report](#), which was developed by Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, the geologic history of the region suggests that lithium in the subsurface brine could have come from multiple sources such as water and sediments from the Colorado River, rocks from the mountain ranges around the Imperial Valley, and lithium-bearing volcanic rocks and igneous intrusions from past geologic events. In addition, the report estimated that with expected technological advances, the region could produce more than 3,400 kilotons of lithium which is enough to support over 375 million batteries for EV.

Even before this report was published, experts believed that this area, dubbed “Lithium Valley,” could provide enough lithium to meet all of America’s battery demand needed to transition the U.S., as well as one-third of the world to EV.

On March 20, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom visited Lithium Valley and viewed a demonstration of safe lithium mining and battery production. The Governor met with local elected officials, community groups, and other stakeholders to discuss community priorities during the significant economic transformation in the region.

Following the release of the report, Governor Newsom declared, “We’ve been all-in on Lithium Valley, building up a global hub for clean energy and making sure that local communities benefit from this once-in-a-generation opportunity. This is further evidence that California is poised to become the world’s largest source of batteries for our cars, homes, and businesses.”

For more information, and to read more on the background of Lithium Valley, visit [gov.ca.gov/2023/11/28/new-report-highlights-the-promise-of-lithium-valley/](https://gov.ca.gov/2023/11/28/new-report-highlights-the-promise-of-lithium-valley/). If you have any questions regarding the subject matter, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at [MikeMohajer@gmail.com](mailto:MikeMohajer@gmail.com) or (909) 592-1147.

## Organic Waste Recovery: A Bifurcated Approach



When plastic products are accepted into the organic waste stream, can nonacceptable products be collected separately from acceptable products consistent with national compost certification standards? The bulk of existing data and public comment suggest it is not feasible. Under current U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP) regulations, the only acceptable compost feedstock includes non-synthetic products such as food waste, yard clippings, and non-glossy paper without colored ink. Plastics and other synthetic materials are labeled as nonacceptable compost feedstocks. Managing organic waste stream containing plastics requires additional operational and labor costs.

By January 1, 2024, pursuant to Section 42357(g)(1)(B) of the state Public Resources Code, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) had to determine the feasibility to separate the collection of acceptable and nonacceptable products for compost feedstock under USDA’s NOP regulations. On December 21, 2023, CalRecycle determined that it is not feasible to separate the collection of products to recover organic waste that is suitable for use in organic agricultural applications from the collection of products

not suitable for use in organic agricultural applications.

In June 2023, CalRecycle surveyed all 34 mixed material composting facilities in the state. The survey attempted to capture handling of plastic and paper products incorporated into finished compost. Results showed none of the facilities incorporate plastic or plastic containing materials into the final compost product. Furthermore, all paper or fiber products with plastic components are excluded as feedstock. Respondents expressed several concerns related to accepting plastic and plastic containing materials:

- Contamination (microplastics and perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) affecting the quality and marketability of finished compost.
- Loss of compost product certifications such as Organic Input Material or Organic Materials Review Institute.
- Inability to distinguish certified compostable plastics from fossil-based plastics.
- Certified compostable plastics biodegrade at different rates and may not meet the required timeframe required by the facility.
- Certified compostable plastics are difficult and/or expensive to process at facilities.



The top and most common concern expressed by facilities is contamination reducing the quality of the finished compost product; and hence, its value in the market. By incorporating nonacceptable materials into compost production, composters risk failing to meet compost certification standards and reduce consumer confidence in their final product. Contamination removal methods reported in the survey were de-packaging and the rejection of incoming loads, as well as manual and mechanical sorting of finished compost. The survey results demonstrated that composters agree that adding a separate stream is not possible and/or cost prohibitive. Composting facilities may invest in technology and labor to support bifurcation but may not get enough feedstock or produce enough compost to justify the expense. Also, there may not be a market for the finished compost.

Public comment confirmed cross contamination at every stage of composting is a concern. The public questions their own capacity to separate acceptable and nonacceptable products properly to aid composting facilities with processing multiple organic waste streams. Labeling and verification of compostable products is not clear. However, the public would be asked to dispose of organic waste and compostable plastic in the same

organic waste bin and all other plastics in another. Properly disposing of organic waste along with compostable and fossil-based plastics in the correct bin is a challenge. Composting industry representatives and compost consumers doubted a bifurcated organic waste stream could produce quality compost free of contaminants.

Current existing organic waste collection operations and infrastructure are not capable of supporting bifurcation without substantial financial investment or loss for composting facilities in California.

For more information on Organic Materials and Compost Feedstock Profiles, contact CalRecycle at [organics@calrecycle.ca.gov](mailto:organics@calrecycle.ca.gov).

If you have any questions regarding the subject matter, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at [MikeMohajer@gmail.com](mailto:MikeMohajer@gmail.com) or (909) 592-1147.

## Senate Bill 54 – Needs Assessment Development



California continues to build the framework for Senate Bill (SB) 54 (Allen, 2022) to address waste from single-use packaging and plastic service ware. SB 54, also known as Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act, requires the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) conduct a statewide needs assessment to evaluate current management of covered materials under the statute.

CalRecycle is facilitating collaboration among all interested parties to develop the needs assessment. This assessment aims to gather data to implement the regulations to reach single-use packaging and plastic food service ware waste reduction goals in the state.

By 2032, SB 54 requires that California:

- Reduce 25 percent single-use plastic packaging and food service ware.
- Recycle 65 percent of single-use plastic packaging and food service ware.
- Make 100 percent of single-use packaging and plastic food service ware recyclable or compostable.

The needs assessment is divided into two phases. During phase one, CalRecycle will evaluate the current

management system for plastic and non-plastic materials including but not limited to glass, aluminum, metal, wood, and other organic materials. Phase two requires CalRecycle to formulate an action plan and budget to introduce regulations that meet SB 54 mandates.

For phase one of the assessment, CalRecycle is in the process of conducting research studies and actively exploring multiple data collection methods. CalRecycle's SB 54 workshop on December 14, 2023, introduced five studies that aim to complete the required mandatory evaluations.

### Proposed Studies and Objectives

**Study #1:** Source Reduction Baseline Study: Gather information from producers of the weight and number of plastic components of plastic covered materials.

**Study #2:** Collection, Processing, and End Markets Study: Evaluate waste collection, examine technical enhancements, and identify end market options.

**Study #3:** Source Reduction and Covered Material Design Study: Evaluate source reduction options, including reuse and refill and inspect product design for recyclability and compostability.

**Study #4:** Consumer Education and Access Study:





Evaluate consumer knowledge, access to recycling services, and needed education on recycling and composting.

**Study #5:** Current and Needed State of Funding and Statutory Provisions Study: Evaluate resources available in relation to recycling, reuse, and source reduction of material.

In early 2024, CalRecycle will publish contract solicitations for the first four studies. Third party contractors will be given the opportunity to bid on contracts. The fifth study will be completed internally by CalRecycle. The budget for each contracted study ranges from \$100,000 to \$2.2 million with a total budget of \$4 million. Public feedback continues to be accepted on the scope of each study, as well as the proposed timeline and budget.

In addition to research studies, CalRecycle is soliciting voluntary data from all interested parties relevant to single use packaging and plastic service ware. CalRecycle announced plans to extract existing data from multiple available sources: Recycling and Disposal Reporting System (RDRS), Electronic Annual Report (EAR), Solid Waste Information System (SWIS), and Materials Characterization Studies (MCS). However, interested

parties in local governments and communities are highly encouraged to provide data and data leads. CalRecycle aims to compile all relevant data, existing and newly collected to assess the unique needs of every California community. A published assessment is expected in 2025 and the assessment will be updated every five years or as needed.

For more information on SB 54's rulemaking timeline including CalRecycle's December 14, 2023, workshop and PowerPoint presentation, visit [calrecycle.ca.gov/packaging/packaging-epr/](https://calrecycle.ca.gov/packaging/packaging-epr/).

To assist CalRecycle in implementing SB 54, submit all relevant data or information to [packaging@calrecycle.ca.gov](mailto:packaging@calrecycle.ca.gov) with the subject line: SB 54 Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act.

Entities interested in receiving updates on upcoming contract solicitations for the needs assessment, e-mail [packaging@calrecycle.ca.gov](mailto:packaging@calrecycle.ca.gov) to be added to the Potential Bidder List. Please include: Potential Bidder List in the e-mail subject line and include your organization's name and contact information.

If you have any questions regarding the subject matter, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at [MikeMohajer@gmail.com](mailto:MikeMohajer@gmail.com) or (909) 592-1147.

## WINTER 2024 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) continuously monitors and analyzes legislation that may impact solid waste management in Los Angeles County. Below are summaries of legislation the Task Force has tracked during the second half of the 2023/2024 Legislative Session.

### California State Legislation:

Bill Number / Author	Status
<p><b>AB 2</b> Ward</p> <p>Would require CalRecycle to establish a statewide solar photovoltaic (PV) end-of-life program by imposing a covered solar PV recycling fee, based on reasonable costs to administer covered electronic waste recycling beginning October 1, 2026. The fee system will cover the cost to recycle raw materials and other valuable components to be turned into new solar panels.</p>	<p>Amended June 28, 2023 In Senate Appropriations</p>
<p><b>AB 347</b> Ting</p> <p>Would require Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to adopt guidance regarding the perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) prohibition and the internet posting and labeling requirements for cookware, and to post that guidance on its internet website by January 1, 2025. Requires DTSC to select and test at least 200 random test samples of juvenile products, food packaging and cookware for compliance with those PFAS prohibitions and the manufacturers' labeling and internet posting duties.</p>	<p>Amended September 8, 2023 In Senate, Inactive file</p>
<p><b>AB 817</b> Pacheco</p> <p>Would allow, until January 1, 2026, a subsidiary body of a local agency to teleconference without meeting all the teleconferencing requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) to expand the pool of people that serve on advisory bodies and commissions, remove a significant barrier to entry in civic life, and reduce the environmental impact from travel.</p>	<p>Amended January 17, 2024 In Senate, pending referral</p>

**Bill Number / Author****Status****AB 861**

Santiago

Amended May 18, 2023

In Senate Environmental Quality

Requires Department of Toxic Substances Control to contract with an entity that has expertise in remediating contaminated sites for the purpose of reviewing the department's residential cleanup near the former Exide Technologies lead-acid battery recycling facility in the City of Vernon. The bill would require the contractor to use only existing data in its review, but, if necessary, the bill would authorize the contractor to take, review, and analyze limited samples.

**AB 863**

Aguiar-Curry

Amended July 6, 2023

In Senate, Inactive file

Would make a carpet stewardship organization that violates a provision of the carpet stewardship law three times ineligible to act as an agent on behalf of manufacturers to design, submit, and administer a carpet stewardship plan and would apply, in that event, the successorship process.

**AB 1238**

Ward

Amended March 21, 2023

In Senate Environmental Quality

Would require Department of Toxic Substances Control to develop alternative management standards for managing photovoltaic modules, Would specify parameters for the standards, including, but not limited to, that they promote the safe collection, reuse, and recycling of photovoltaic modules.

**AB 1659**

Gabriel

Amended June 28, 2023

In Senate Appropriations

Would prohibit a manufacturer from selling a small electronic device, for the first time, and first sold in California, on or after January 1, 2026, unless that small electronic device meets certain criteria, including being equipped with a USB Type-C receptacle. Requires a wholesaler or retailer of a small electronic device manufactured on or after January 1, 2026, to offer to make the sale without a charging device, and to display certain information depending on the existence and specifications of an included charging device.

## Bill Number / Author

## Status

### AB 2190

Mathis

Introduced February 7, 2024  
In Assembly, Pending referral

Expands the definition of energy infrastructure project to include any project using hydrogen as fuel. Therefore, authorizing the Governor to certify energy infrastructure projects that use hydrogen as a fuel.

### AB 2199

Berman

Introduced February 7, 2024  
In Assembly, Pending referral

Modifies the expectations for county task force(s) that assist in the establishment or expansion of solid waste facilities.

### AB 2201

Addis

Introduced February 7, 2024  
In Assembly, Pending referral

Would amend the definition of "chemical manufacturer" to also include a person who manufactures a chemical mixture that is used in a consumer product.

### AB 2236

Bauer-Kahan

Introduced February 8, 2024  
In Assembly, Pending referral

Would revise the single-use carryout bag exemption list to include a bag used solely to contain or wrap specified uncooked foods and other specified items. The bill would revise the definition of recycled paper bag to require it be made from 100% postconsumer recycled materials. Also, the bill would update requirements for reusable grocery bags at point of sale.

**Bill Number / Author**

**Status**

**AB 2244**

Ting

Introduced February 8, 2024  
In Assembly, Pending referral

May expand on requirements for manufacturers and suppliers relating to environmental marketing claims for plastic food container products

**AB 2311**

Bennett

Introduced February 12, 2024  
In Assembly, Pending referral

Would expand the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grant program to provide financial assistance for the recovery of edible food.

**AB 2346**

Lee

Introduced February 12, 2024  
In Assembly, Pending referral

Would authorize local jurisdictions to be credited for the procurement of recovered organic waste products through an agreement with a direct service provider and would allow the direct service provider agreement to include the procurement of recovered organic waste products on a prospective or retrospective basis as long as the purchase of those products occurs during the year for which the local jurisdiction seeks credit.

**AB 2514**

Aguiar-Curry

Introduced February 13, 2024  
In Assembly, Pending referral

Would exempt counties with fewer than 70,000 residents from the reduction targets for the amounts of organic waste disposed in landfills. Would define pyrolysis, for purposes of the act and for the Warren-Alquist State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Act, as the thermal decomposition of organic material at elevated temperatures in the absence of gases such as air or oxygen.

**Bill Number / Author**

**Status**

**SB 615**

Allen

Amended April 12, 2023  
In Assembly Environmental Safety  
and Toxic Materials

Would require vehicle traction batteries in the state to be recovered and reused, repurposed, or remanufactured and eventually recycled at the end of their useful life in a motor vehicle or any other application. Would also require a vehicle manufacturer, dealer, automobile dismantler, automotive repair dealer, and nonvehicle secondary user to be responsible for ensuring the responsible end-of-life management of a vehicle traction battery once it is removed from a vehicle or other application to which the vehicle traction battery has been used. Would make a vehicle or battery manufacturer responsible for collecting a stranded battery, as defined, and repurposing the battery, if possible, but would require the manufacturer to ensure the battery is recycled if it cannot be reused.

**SB 707**

Newman

Amended July 3, 2023  
In Assembly Natural Resources

Would enact the Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2023, which would require producers either independently or through the creation of one or more stewardship organizations, to establish a stewardship program for the collection and recycling of a covered product. This bill would define a “covered product” to include any postconsumer apparel or postconsumer textile article that is unwanted by a consumer.

**SB 903**

Skinner

Introduced January 4, 2024  
In Senate Rules

Intent bill to phase out the sale of products with avoidable perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

**SB 972**

Min

Introduced January 25, 2024  
In Senate Environmental Quality

Would require California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), the State Board, and the California Environmental Protection Agency to hold at least two joint meetings per calendar year to coordinate their implementation of policies that affect specified targets for reducing organic waste in landfills and CalRecycle’s regulations adopted to achieve those goals. In those meetings, the agencies shall specifically address duplicative permitting processes for organic waste facilities and conflicting state directives to local governments on renewable natural gas and zero-emission vehicles.

**Bill Number / Author****Status****SB 1045**

Blakespear

Introduced February 7, 2024  
In Senate Environmental Quality

Would require the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, together with the State Air Resources Board, and the State Water Resources Control Board, develop regulations that facilitate permits and regulation of composting facilities.

**SB 1046**

Laird

Introduced February 7, 2024  
In Senate Environmental Quality

Would require the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to streamline the permitting process for jurisdictions to develop small and medium compost facilities to process organic waste.

**SB 1053**

Blakespear

Introduced February 8, 2024  
In Senate, Pending referral

Effective January 1, 2026, this bill would revise the single-use carryout bag exemption list to include a bag used solely to contain or wrap specified uncooked foods and other specified items. The bill would revise the definition of recycled paper bag to require it be made from 100% postconsumer recycled materials.

**SB 1066**

Blakespear

Introduced February 12, 2024  
In Senate, Pending referral

Would require a producer of a covered product to register with a product responsibility organization, which would be required to develop and implement a producer responsibility plan for the collection, transportation, and the safe and proper management of covered products.

**Bill Number / Author**

**Status**

**SB 1135**

Limon

Introduced February 13, 2024  
In Senate Rules

Beginning in the 2025–26 fiscal year through the 2035–36 fiscal year, would transfer 1% of the annual proceeds of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, not to exceed \$120,000,000 per fiscal year, to the California Compost Tax Credit Fund, which the bill would establish. This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, and before January 1, 2036, would allow a credit against those taxes for each taxable year to a qualified taxpayer in an amount equal to amounts paid or incurred during the taxable year for the application of compost on agricultural lands, ranchlands, or rangelands to improve soils, sequester carbon, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information on these bills, please visit the Task Force website, [lacountyiswmtf.org](http://lacountyiswmtf.org) or contact Perla Gomez with Los Angeles County Public Works, at (626) 300-2616, Monday - Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or Mike Mohajer, a Member of the Task Force at [MikeMohajer@gmail.com](mailto:MikeMohajer@gmail.com) or (909) 592-1147.