

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT LOCAL TASK FORCE**
Thursday, June 4, 2026, 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Capitola Community Room
420 Capitola Road, Capitola CA 95010



Hybrid Meeting Information:

ZoomGov Meeting Link: <https://santacruzcounty-us.zoomgov.com/j/1616217151>

Meeting ID: 161 621 7151

One tap mobile

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Find your local number: <https://santacruzcounty-us.zoomgov.com/u/acV5vxapOL>

Please note: Members/alternates attending remotely cannot vote or count toward a quorum unless arranged in advance with “just cause” and approved by a quorum present in the room.

Agenda

- 1) **Welcome and Quorum Verification**
- 2) **Oral communications – Public:** *Informational item* for members of the public to raise issues not on the agenda and within the commission’s subject matter jurisdiction. State law prevents the commission from addressing issues in detail that are not included on the meeting agenda, but it can direct staff to provide a brief answer or schedule the issue for inclusion on a future agenda.
- 3) **Oral communications - Task Force members/alternates:** *Informational item* for commission members and alternates to report on issues of interest within the commission’s subject matter jurisdiction.
- 4) **Review Meeting Minutes (Attachment A) – Motion to approve** March 5, 2026 meeting minutes.
- 5) **Jurisdictional Updates – Informational Item** for staff members to provide brief updates on issues within the commission’s subject matter jurisdiction.
- 6) **Reusable Dishware Implementation Challenges (Attachment B) – Informational Presentation** to summarize survey findings published in May 2026 on implementing reusable food ware ordinances in North America.
- 7) **SB 54 Update – Informational item** – Staff will provide an SB 54 update and things to watch.
- 8) **Edible Food Recovery – Informational Update and Discussion** – Staff and partners will discuss MOU language and coordinate updates as needed.
- 9) **Legislative Update (Attachment C) - Staff update** to provide overview of bills introduced in the 2025/2026 legislative cycle affecting solid waste, recycling, edible food, organic waste, waste diversion, universal waste, hazardous materials management, and related topics.
- 10) **Call for meeting agenda items**
- 11) **Adjourn**



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT LOCAL TASK FORCE
Thursday, March 5, 2025, 3:00 – 4:45 pm
Scotts Valley City Hall – Council Chambers
1 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley CA 95066



Meeting Minutes

- 1) **Welcome and Quorum Verification** - Quorum was present in the room prior to the meeting start time. Both the chair and vice chair were absent and Sandy Brown, Santa Cruz County alternate, called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. Staff called roll and meeting attendance was noted as follows:
 1. Voting Members/Alternates Present: Sandy Brown (County alternate/volunteer chair) Jacob Guth (County, citizen rep), Erika Senyk (Capitola), Leslie O'Malley (Santa Cruz, alternate), Greg Wimp (Scotts Valley), Antonio Banderas (Watsonville, alternate), Tami Stolzenhaler (Watsonville, alternate).
 2. Members/Alternates Present but Not Voting: Claudia Villalta-Mejia (County, citizen rep alternate – not voting because member present)
 3. Members/Alternates Absent: Justin Cummings (County), Felipe Hernandez (County, chair), Ramon Gomez (County, alternate), Susan Westman (Capitola, alternate), Bob Nelson (Santa Cruz), Scott Newsome (Santa Cruz), Rene Golder (Santa Cruz, alternate), Rodolfo Onchi (Scotts Valley, alternate), Ari Parker (Watsonville, vice chair), Will Smith (Watsonville).
 4. Task Force Staff Present: Beau Hawksford (County), Kasey Kolassa (County - online), Darcy Pruitt (County)
 5. Agency Staff Present: Bret Williamson (County-online), Christina Horvat (County), Mary Ann LoBalbo (County), Mindy Esqueda (Scotts Valley).
 6. Guests Present: E. Jacob Somera (Terranova Bioremediation, guest presenter), Jakki Castorena-Davila (Environmental Innovations, guest presenter), Laura Chain (CalRecycle-online).
- 2) **Oral communications – Public:** No oral communications received from the public.
- 3) **Oral communications - Task Force members/alternates:** No oral communications received from members/alternates.
- 4) **Review Meeting Minutes** – Jacob Guth made a motion to approve the December 4, 2025 meeting minutes. Antonio Banderas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 5) **Jurisdictional Updates** – Watsonville and the County provided updates to the Task Force:
 - a. Watsonville provided information on its progress to update the city's bag reduction ordinance. Watsonville's City Council approved the ordinance amendments proposed by the Task Force and the ordinance is in effect.
 - b. County staff provided brief updates.
 - i. The County's Waste Characterization Study samples were collected in the week of February 6th. SCS Engineers submitted a draft report and County staff are reviewing the draft report.
 - ii. The County applied for and was awarded a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Construction Grant for \$250,000 dollars to offset some of the costs of HHW collection facility upgrades planned as part of the Ben Lomond Transfer Station

Attachment A
December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes

Project. The Ben Lomond project is scheduled to begin in June 2026 and will benefit all county residents that share use of the Ben Lomond HHW facilities.

- iii. The County's Buena Vista HHW collection facility has begun accepting end-of-life solar panels by appointment. The program is fee based and includes a state-mandated 220 lbs. per visit acceptance limit. The program accepts both broken (\$100/panel) and intact (\$65/panel) solar panels. Charges cover the County's packaging and disposal costs. Solar panels are classed as universal waste because they contain heavy metals and must be handled by a certified hauler. The County's program is intended to reduce the number of illegally dumped solar panels throughout the County.

- 6) **Guest Presentation on Polyurethane Recycling and Circularity (Attachment 1)** – Jacob Somera of startup TerraNova Bioremediation made a presentation to the Task Force on TerraNova's research and development (R&D) work to create a true loop for polyurethane feedstock development and circularity to shift production from a petrochemical based disposable product to renewable feedstock through the reuse of waste materials that can be reused again and again.

Current polyurethane production focuses on either production from oil extraction or single step recycling that focuses on obtaining a renewable feedstock but does not provide for circularity. TerraNova is in an advanced R&D stage to recycle plastic waste (Monomer A - polyamines) and organic waste (Monomer B- polycyclic carbonate) to make the two materials needed to make recycled polyurethane from waste products (plastics and organic waste).

TerraNova has developed the processes necessary to use fungi to ferment the two waste streams needed to make the two monomers needed. They are working with regional manufacturers to optimize and scale up their fermentation process to develop market ready raw materials. Their goal is to divert waste and reduce the need for off-shore drilling. TerraNova seeks to develop local/regional waste diversion partnerships to obtain waste materials that can be fermented into the raw materials needed by chemical manufacturers to produce new polyurethane products.

City of Watsonville, City of Santa Cruz, and County agreed to provide contact information and support TerraNova's R&D work by providing the waste materials needed to scale their fermentation processes.

- 7) **Reusable Dishware Discussion (Attachment 2)** – Jakki Castorena-Davila of provided an in-depth overview of the issues to introduce reusable dishware at scale that should be considered before deciding to implement a mandatory reusable dishware ordinance. The presentation provided an overview of the information given to the Task Force in December. Jakki also provided additional information on different dishwashing models and the costs to implement an on-site model.

The primary reason to focus on reusable dishware is that it offers a reliable, cost-saving way to reduce single use plastic waste, especially for dine-in service. Many food service providers already use some reusable items, adding more reusable dishware is easy to scale with the right kind of support, and offers a straightforward program to food service providers.

The presentation included new information on three (3) reusable dishwashing models that support reusable dishware programs:

- Onsite dishwashing model - most common choice to incorporate dishwashing machines and staff to wash dishes where they're used. Most resilient and efficient since the system (dishes, staff, place of use) is centralized and not impacted by outside forces.
- Centralized dishwashing model - commercial dishwasher at a central location where staff

Attachment A
December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes

collect used dishware, wash it, and return it sterilized for reuse. Works well for centralized kitchens that deliver food and backhaul dishes w/no added trips.

- **Offsite Model** – Kitchen hires third-party dishwashing service to collect used dishware to wash offsite and return for reuse. Expensive but good when onsite dishwasher isn't feasible.

The presentation included sample costs for on-site dishwashing at a school site that serves 300 meals/day (54,000 meals/year). The initial one-time investment cost estimate to purchase the dishwasher, dish washing support equipment, dish collection station equipment and stainless steel reusable dishware (\$31,588), ongoing annual costs for added labor, dishwasher maintenance, dish soap, utilities, and replacement dishware (\$4,757) and ongoing annual savings for avoided costs to buy disposable dishware and pay for waste hauling (\$5,880).

The presentation also covered options to use services that wash reusable dishware off site for large venues, schools, and other sites where dishwashing on-site doesn't work. While off-site models are the most expensive to operate long-term, they avoid significant startup costs seen in on-site dishwashing models.

8) SB 54 Update (Attachment 3) – County Staff walked through the SB 54 needs assessments that were published at the beginning of 2026:

- **Source Reduction Baseline Survey** – establishes the baseline weight and number of plastic covered materials sold into California in 2023 to set the 25% reduction target.
- **Collection, Processing & End Markets Studies** -evaluates current infrastructure to manage covered material and the actions and investments needed to meet the recyclability, compostability, and recycling rates required by SB54.
- **Source Reduction & Material Design Studies** - evaluates existing source reduction, reuse & refill infrastructure, covered material design considerations, and source reduction needed to meet SB 54 requirements.
- **Consumer Education & Access Study** - evaluates local access to source reduction, reuse/refill, recycling, and composting services. Also assesses opportunities to improve local recycling & composting in a changing system.

On January 1, 2026, CalRecycle published their SB 54 updated Covered Materials Category (CMC) list. The new CMC list includes recycling rates for all SB 54 covered materials or notes where insufficient information is available to calculate the current statewide recycling rate. Corrugated cardboard, white paper, and glass already meet or exceed the 65% recycling goal set by SB54. Metal containers, including aluminum and bimetal cans, are recycled less frequently at a rate between 40-45%. Most other covered materials, especially plastic, are recycled less than 20% of the time.

On January 9, 2026, Cal Recycle withdrew proposed SB 54 regulation from the Office of Administrative Law's review. Cal Recycle noted their plan to revise food and agricultural commodities packaging regulations. The prior regulations would have created a loophole allowing food and agricultural producers to use plastic packaging in the marketplace for those commodities that would undermine SB 54's goals.

On February 6, 2026, an Oregon federal trial court issued an injunction that may dismantle Oregon's Plastic Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility [EPR] law on Constitutional grounds. The potentially conflicting requirements of Oregon's and other state's plastic packaging EPR laws could impermissibly affect interstate commerce. A major issue in the case is whether a state compel plastic producers to join a private Producer Responsibility Organization, accept non-negotiable contracts, and submit to a fee-setting process that is both opaque and changeable, without meaningful public oversight or recourse. Future case rulings could impact other EPR laws, like California's SB 54.

Attachment A
December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes

- 9) **SB 1053 Update (Attachment 4)** – County Staff provided the status of County Code Chapter 5.48 update. The proposed revisions discussed in the Task Force have received additional scrutiny when returned to County Counsel for review prior to delivery to the Board of Supervisors to request approval. County staff will provide additional updates once the counsel recommendations and text amendment proposals are complete.
- 10) **Legislative Update** – County Staff provided an overview of bills passed and bills the passed through the legislature but were vetoed by the Governor in the 2025 legislative cycle. Two of the composting bills we were watching passed and became law: AB 411 which allows composting of certain livestock carcasses and AB 279 increases the size of permit exempt agricultural composting operations that meet specific feedstock, volume, and zoning requirements. Many of the bills we were watching languished in committee and may be taken up in 2026. These bills include AB 864 which would require DTSC to develop rules to increase material recovery from solar photovoltaic panels and SB 377 which would require the Public Utilities Commission to work with the Air Resources Board to advance the development and use of biomethane.
- 11) **Call for meeting agenda items: Discussion re durables, SB 54 update, Portland’s deconstruction program**
- 12) **Meeting Adjourned at 4:53**

TerraNova Bioremediation Corporation



A True Loop for Polyurethanes

3.05.2026

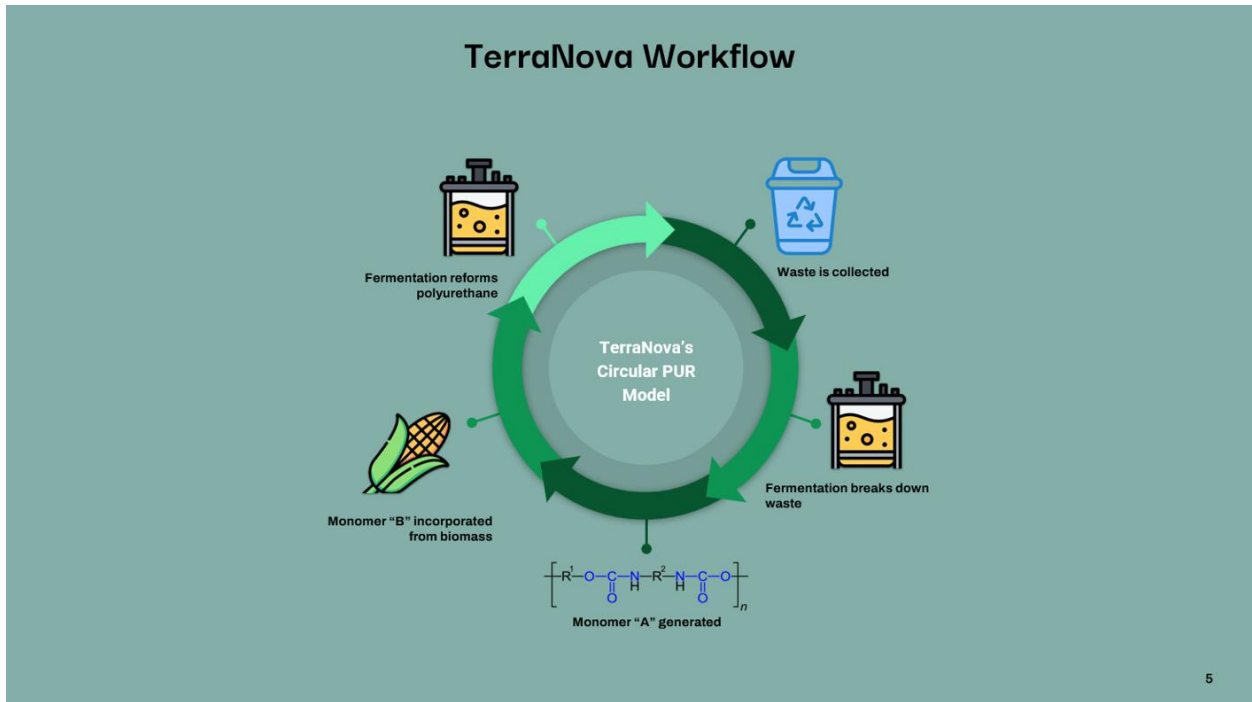
*The Global shift from petrochemicals
starts here:*





COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

	Renewable Feedstock	End-of-Life Solution	Circularity
TerraNova Bioremediation	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alternative PUR Companies	Yes	No	No
Oil-derived PUR	No	No	No



TerraNova Bio's Solution

Organic Waste

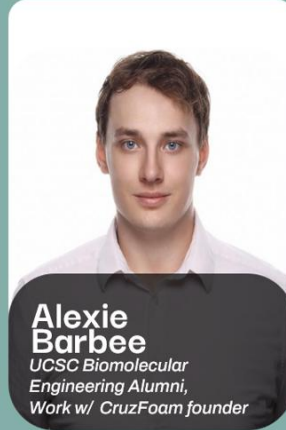
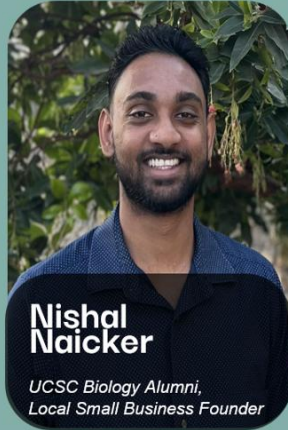
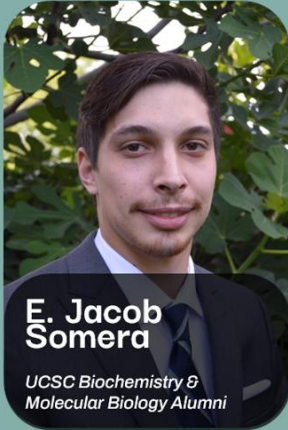
PUR Waste

Polyhydroxyurethane (PHU)

- Fungi break down PUR in 1-2 weeks
- Can be optimized to days/ hours
- Monomer A = polyamines
- Monomer B = polycyclic carbonate
- PUR waste → polyamines
- Organic waste → fats, oils → polycyclic carbonates
- Polyamines & polycyclic carbonates = safe alternatives to petrochemical monomers

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MEET THE TEAM



Our Story

- Started at UC Santa Cruz
- All fungi collected from Santa Cruz Mountains
- Now working at Wrigley Building
- Working to scale our lab-scale R&D
- Engaging with regional manufacturers (Design Octaves)

Go-to-Market Strategy

- Vertically integrated cities (Santa Cruz + Watsonville)
- Waste streams are already separated
- Regional commerce + public interested in our technology
- City can purchase/ license technology
 - Offsets time spent selling
 - More time for innovative research
- Common goal of waste diversion + no offshore drilling

Pilot in Santa Cruz Co.

Over next 1.5 years, we can develop a pilot to divert waste

Click to add subtitle
9

What Waste Streams Can be Used? - PUR Waste (US #7, China #113)

<u>Material</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Mattresses	1	Landfill - SC City	Bye Bye Mattress
Carpet Padding	1 Bin	GreenWaste	Not carpet itself
Insulation Foam (Construction)	1 Bin	TBD	Inside walls, ceilings,
Scrap Waste	10-20 pounds	Local Businesses	Leftovers from manufacturing

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What Waste Streams Can be Used? - Organic Waste

<u>Material</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Agricultural Biomass	1 55 gallon drum	Landfill - SC City	Various waste
Grease Traps	5-10 gallons	TBD	From Restaurants, Biofuels
Yard Waste	1 Bin	TBD	Needs more R&D

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What Waste Streams Can be Used?

- **Organic Waste (anything with fats, oils, grease)**
 - Agricultural waste
 - Biomass
 - No R&D on ag plastics but there is potential
 - Hoses, irrigation lines
 - Generally not used in sheets
 - Focus on seeds and skins, but anything really:
 - Grapes, tomatoes, corn, almonds, melons, banana peels, etc.
 - Pumice from crushes
 - Yard Waste
 - Grease/ oil traps from restaurants

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Thank You!

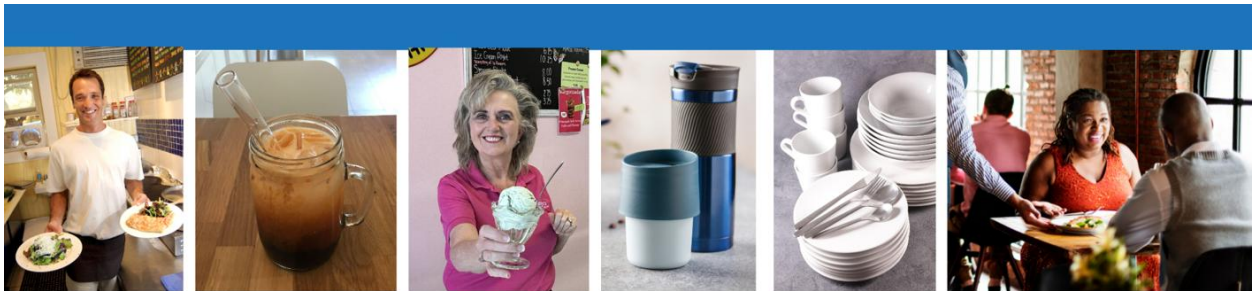
**TerraNova Bioremediation
Corporation**





Reusable Dishware Discussion Solutions for Different Settings

Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force
March 5, 2026



Reusable Dishware Programs: Case Studies, Lessons & Opportunities
Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force





Different Municipalities: Voluntary vs Mandated Initiatives

Disposable Foodware Ordinances

- Styrofoam bans
- Compostable foodware
- Fiber-based compostable foodware
- Reusables for Dine-in
- Accessories by Request (AB 1276)

Voluntary Programs (Incentive-based)

- Reusable Assistance Grants
- Green Business Assistance
- Reuse To Go Programs



Why Prioritize Reuse?

- Compostable product standards, costs, availability, and functionality are challenging for businesses
- Waste haulers and composters often give mixed messages about what's acceptable
- SB 54 rules are still evolving, adding uncertainty
- Reuse offers the most reliable, cost-saving way to cut single-use plastic waste - especially for dine-in

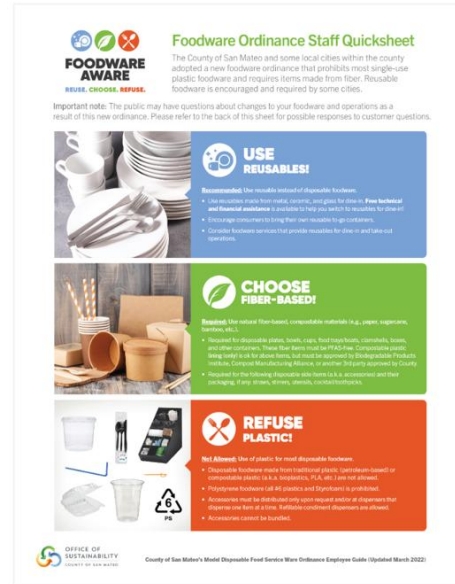


Attachment A: December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes
 [Attachment 2]
 Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware Discussion Presentation Slides



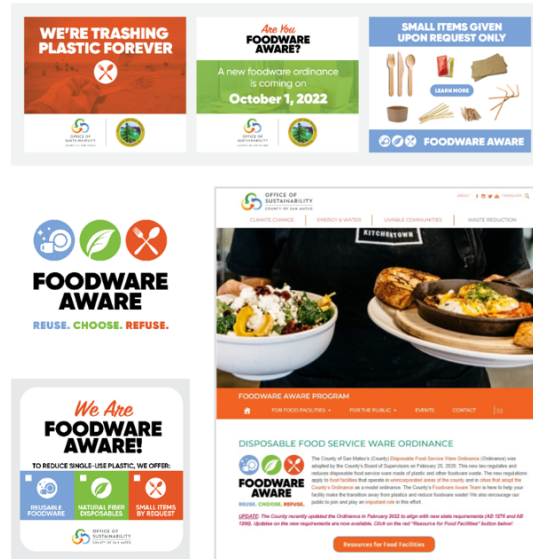
San Mateo County (SMC):
 A County-Led Framework

- County adopted a Model Foodware Ordinance
 - Fiber-base compostables
 - Reuse encouraged, not required
 - Accessories by request (AB 1276)
- 17 jurisdictions adopted (3 incorporated reusable requirement)
- County leads education and enforcement for adopting cities
- Provides a unified, consistent approach for thousands of food facilities
- Foodware Aware Program offers outreach, education, technical assistance, and resources



SMC Foodware Aware Campaign:
 A proven model for success

- Developed program branding, educational materials and website
- Created purchasing guides, window clings, table tents and signage
- Sent 4,580 mailers, completed 2,281+ calls and site visits, and provided 507 technical assistance sessions
- 140+ reuse grants to transition businesses
- Culturally competent outreach via Spanish and Chinese-speaking CBO partners
- Expos and vendor partnerships





Example of Custom Resources

ASK FOR ACCESSORIES
(also required by state law AB 1276)
PREGUNTE POR ACCESORIOS
(también lo exige la ley estatal AB 1276)

Help Us Reduce Waste
Ayúdenos a reducir los residuos

smcfoodware.org

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Plastic-Free Guide for Boba Shops

The San Mateo County Disposable Foodware Ordinance bans single-use plastic foodware, including compostable plastic (bioplastic, PLA, CPLA, TPLA), for drinking cups, utensils, straws, and food containers. Instead, restaurants and cafes are required to use fiber-based compostable foodware or reusable foodware. Boba shops across the Bay Area have successfully made this switch and are taking other actions to be more sustainable.

Urban Ritual | San Mateo, CA

- Eliminated plastic cups and implemented branded fiber boba cups, lids and straws.
- Partnered with Okapi Reusables to offer a rentable reusable cup service.
- Market their sustainability efforts as a marketing tool to get more customers.

Nano's Ohana | Half Moon Bay, CA

- Sells branded reusable boba cups that come with a reusable lid and straw.
- Customers receive a discount when they bring their own boba cup or straw.
- Invested in reusable foodware for special weekend menu items, which saves the business \$3,300 every year.

Mr. Green Bubble Tea | Menlo Park, CA

- Provides drinks in reusable mason jars.
- Uses reusable toasters, utensils, and a bussing station with eye-popping signage for their customers.
- Promotes dining on-site, which elevates the entire cafe experience as a memorable event.
- Uses a separate and detachable lid rather than a seal.

Teaspoon | Palo Alto, CA

- Serves boba tea in reusable mason jars with reusable straws when the customer stays on-site. Serves water in reusable plastic tumblers.
- A Bring-Your-Own cup discount is highly visible to guests.
- Developed a Bubble Straw Club with Girl Scout Troop 60016. Customers receive a free boba tea after bringing their own reusable straw 25 times.
- Sells stainless steel straws and branded boba tea cups in the cafe.



Why the SMC Model Matters for Santa Cruz County

- Demonstrates how a County can lead a multi-city rollout
- Reduces duplication of effort for each city
- Ensures consistent messaging to businesses
- Even voluntary reuse adoption increases when supported with:
 - Education
 - Materials
 - Technical assistance
 - Mini-grants





Reuse for Dine-In: Low Hanging Fruit

- Many restaurants already use some reusable items
- Delivers meaningful cost savings for businesses
- Improves the dining experience and presentation
- Easy to scale with jurisdiction support
- Clear, straightforward requirements for operators
- Fewer operational barriers than switching to compostables or other single-use alternatives
- Source reduction: turns off the single-use “spigot” entirely



ReUse Assist Mini-Grant Program

Make the Switch to Reusables
Save Money • Improve Customer Experience • Reduce Waste



Replacing disposable foodware with real plates, cups, and utensils can save \$2,000 - \$18,000 per year.

Get up to \$500 in FREE reusable foodware and hands on support!

STOPWASTE | ReUse Assist

- **5-Step Model:** Recruit → Identify → Deliver → Support → Track
- Works with or without ordinance
- Helps overcome business cost & capacity barriers
- Captures metrics
- Scalable pilot-to-citywide approach

300 conversions and counting

Implemented in Seaside, Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Oakland, Alameda County, and San Mateo County



Reuse Solutions for Take-Out

Third Party Reusable Services

Example - Okapi: App-based reusable dishware rental services available at restaurants and cafes



BYO Education Campaigns

Normalize bringing your own cup or container and help businesses implement BYO-friendly practices



Lessons Learned - What Works Best

1. Provide simple, clear requirements for dine-in
2. Provide multiple outreach touchpoints including 1:1 outreach
3. Provide grants or incentives to offset upfront cost
4. CBO partnerships to reach immigrant-owned businesses
5. Produce consistent materials across jurisdictions
6. Provide opportunities and signage
7. Explore to-go system partnerships and BYO campaigns



Reusable Dishwashing Models



Onsite Model – The most common reusable food ware choice with dishwashing machines and staff to wash dishes where they're used

- Most resilient as problems at other sites don't affect onsite dishwashing system



Centralized Model – With a commercial dishwasher at a central location, staff collect used food ware, wash it, and return it sterilized for reuse

- Model works well for centralized kitchens that deliver food and backhaul dishes w/no added trips.



Offsite Model – Kitchen hires a third-party service to collect used food ware, wash it offsite, and return it for reuse

- Expensive alternative, but good for pilot programs or when new dishwashers aren't feasible.

Sample School One Time Costs

[54,000 meals/year (300 meals/day)]



Item	Details	Approximate Costs/Savings	Notes
▶ Upfront (One-Time) Costs			
Dishwashing machine	Door-type, high temp, 40 racks per hour. Cost includes installation.	\$26,000	Each rack fits 13 trays or 50 utensils, resulting in 30 racks needed for 300 sets of dishes.
Dish Room Support Equipment	6 dish racks, 1 dish rack shelf, 1 dish rack dolly, 4 flatware baskets, 2 utensil organizers, 1 floor mat, 3 dishwashing aprons, 1 dish drying rack	\$2,171*	
Collection Station Equipment	1 dish cart, 3 bus tubs	\$143*	Cost does not include collection station signage (recommended).
Stainless-steel Reusable Foodware	345 each: trays @ \$8.85, forks @ \$0.36, spoons @ \$0.28	\$3,274*	Buy approximately 15% more foodware than meals served.
Total upfront costs		\$31,588	

Sample Annual Costs & Savings

[54,000 meals/year (300/day)]



▶ Ongoing Annual Costs			
Dish machine repair & maintenance	Average cost of one service/repair call per year	\$374	
Additional Labor	Nutrition Service Assistant, 1 hr/day, 180 days	\$3,150	Based on estimate of \$17.50/hr
Dish machine chemicals	Detergent, Drying agent	\$541*	
Utilities		\$550	Based on average US (water) and CA (electricity) rates in 2025.
Foodware replacements	12 trays, 100 utensils	\$142	
Total annual costs		\$4,757	
▶ Ongoing Annual Savings			
Avoided purchases of disposable foodware	Plastic spork kits @\$0.02, molded fiber trays @\$0.08, 54,000 meals/yr	\$5,400	
Reduced waste hauling costs	1 cy/week reduction in garbage volume.	\$480	Based on 2025 Fremont Unified School District collection rates.
Total annual savings		\$5,880	

Example Onsite Dishwashing



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: CRAGMONT ELEMENTARY IN BERKELEY, CA

Cragmont Elementary School in the Berkeley Unified School District serves 155 lunches each day, 180 days a year. They replaced disposable molded fiber trays, plastic spork packets and paper cups with stainless steel trays, forks and cups. The reusable foodware, purchased partially with a grant from StopWaste, is washed in Cragmont's existing on-site dish washing machine, with minimal additional labor. The change prevents 100,000 single-use items and saves the school \$500 annually in avoided foodware purchases and reduced waste collection costs.

Special thanks to



For their reusable food ware guide: [RFW-In-Schools-Quick-Guide-20251201-3.pdf](https://www.stopwaste.org/files/2025/12/RFW-In-Schools-Quick-Guide-20251201-3.pdf)

Large Venue Reusables



Portland startup, Bold Reuse, helps sports teams and schools slash waste with “return on site” reusable dishware.

- Durable food ware made from reusable plastics, glass, or steel
- Collected on site, washed off site, returned sanitized for reuse
- Replaces disposable food ware





SB 54 Updates:

- **Needs Assessments Published,**
- **CMC List w/Recycling Rates Released,**
- **Federal Injunction in Oregon Plastic Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Lawsuit, and**
- **SB 54 Regulations Delayed**

Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force
March 5, 2026

CalRecycle Published Eight (8) Needs Assessment Reports



- [The Current State of Collection Report](#)
- [The Current State of Processing Report](#)
- [The Current State of End Markets Report](#)
- [The Needed State of Collection Processing and End Markets Report](#)
- [Evaluation of Reuse and Refill Systems and Covered Materials that Utilize Other Source Reduction Strategies](#)
- [Analysis of Actions & Investments Needed to Achieve Source Reduction Goal](#)
- [Consumer Education and Access Report](#)
- [Statewide Needs Assessment Summary Report](#)

Needs Assessments Evaluate Management to Meet SB 54 Goals



Source Reduction Baseline Survey – establishes the baseline weight and number of plastic covered materials sold into California in 2023 to set the 25% reduction target.

Collection, Processing & End Markets Studies – evaluates current infrastructure to manage covered material and the actions and investments needed to meet the recyclability, compostability, and recycling rates required by SB54.

Source Reduction & Material Design Studies – evaluates existing source reduction, reuse & refill infrastructure, covered material design considerations, and source reduction needed to meet SB 54 requirements.

Consumer Education & Access Study – evaluates local access to source reduction, reuse/refill, recycling, and composting services. Also assesses opportunities to improve local recycling & composting in a changing system

Updated SB 54 Covered Material Category (CMC) List



Table 1. Covered Material Category List (As of January 1, 2026)

Category ID	Material Class ¹	Material Type ¹	Form ^{2,3}	Recyclable ⁴	Compostable ⁴	Recycling Rate ^{5, 6, 7}
25_G1N	Glass	Glass	Bottles and Jars w/o plastic component	Y		65%
25_G1P	Glass	Glass	Bottle and Jars w/ plastic component	Y		
25_G2N	Glass	Glass	Other Forms w/o plastic component			
25_G2P	Glass	Glass	Other Forms w/ plastic component			
25_G3N	Glass	Glass	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/o plastic component	Y		
25_G3P	Glass	Glass	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/ plastic component	Y		
25_C1N	Ceramic	Ceramic	All Forms w/o plastic component			0%
25_C1P	Ceramic	Ceramic	All Forms w/ plastic component			
25_C2N	Ceramic	Ceramic	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/o plastic component			Insufficient Information
25_C2P	Ceramic	Ceramic	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/ plastic component			

Updated SB 54 Covered Material Category (CMC) List



Category ID	Material Class ¹	Material Type ¹	Form ^{2,3}	Recyclable ⁴	Compostable ⁴	Recycling Rate ^{5 & 7}
25_M1N	Metal	Aluminum	Non-aerosol container w/o plastic component	Y		<39%
25_M1P	Metal	Aluminum	Non-aerosol container w/ plastic component	Y		
25_M4P	Metal	Aluminum	Aerosol can w/ plastic component	Y		
25_M2N	Metal	Aluminum	Foil sheets w/o a plastic component	Y		<9%
25_M2P	Metal	Aluminum	Foil sheets w/ a plastic component	Y		
25_M3N	Metal	Aluminum	Foil Molded Containers w/o plastic component	Y		
25_M3P	Metal	Aluminum	Foil Molded Containers w/ plastic component	Y		
25_M5N	Metal	Aluminum	Other Forms w/o plastic component	Y		
25_M5P	Metal	Aluminum	Other Forms w/ plastic component	Y		<45%
25_M6N	Metal	Tin/Steel/Bimetal	Non-aerosol container w/o plastic component	Y		
25_M6P	Metal	Tin/Steel/Bimetal	Non-aerosol container w/ plastic component	Y		
25_M7P	Metal	Tin/Steel/Bimetal	Aerosol can w/ plastic component	Y		
25_M8N	Metal	Tin/Steel/Bimetal	Other Forms w/o plastic component	Y		
25_M8P	Metal	Tin/Steel/Bimetal	Other Forms w/ plastic component	Y		

Updated SB 54 Covered Material Category (CMC) List



Category ID	Material Class ¹	Material Type ¹	Form ^{2,3}	Recyclable ⁴	Compostable ⁴	Recycling Rate ^{5 & 7}
25_PF8N	Paper and Fiber	OCC	Waxed Cardboard w/o plastic component		Y	0%
25_PF8P	Paper and Fiber	OCC	Waxed Cardboard w/ plastic component			
25_PF9N	Paper and Fiber	OCC	Cardboard w/o plastic component	Y	Y	68%
25_PF9P	Paper and Fiber	OCC	Cardboard w/ plastic component	Y		
25_PF10N	Paper and Fiber	Paperboard	All Forms w/o plastic component	Y	Y	30%
25_PF10P	Paper and Fiber	Paperboard	All Forms w/ plastic component	Y	Y*	
25_PF11N	Paper and Fiber	White Paper	All Forms w/o plastic component	Y	Y	71%
25_PF11P	Paper and Fiber	White Paper	All Forms w/ plastic component	Y	Y*	
25_PF12N	Paper and Fiber	Other/Mixed Paper	All Forms w/o plastic component	Y	Y	
25_PF12P	Paper and Fiber	Other/Mixed Paper	All Forms w/ plastic component	Y	Y*	Insufficient Information
25_PF16N	Paper and Fiber	Paper and Fiber	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/o plastic component		Y	
25_PF16P	Paper and Fiber	Paper and Fiber	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/ plastic component		Y*	
25_P1P	Plastic	PET (#1)	Bottles, Jugs, and Jars (Clear/Natural)	Y		16%
25_P2P	Plastic	PET (#1)	Bottles, Jugs, and Jars (Pigmented/Color)	Y		5%

Federal Injunction Prohibits Enforcement of Oregon's EPR



On February 6th a federal trial court issued a 2-page injunction that may set the stage to dismantle Oregon's Plastic Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility [EPR] law on Constitutional grounds.

- **Dormant Commerce Clause:** The potentially conflicting requirements of Oregon's and other state's plastic packaging EPR laws could impermissibly affect interstate commerce.
- **Procedural Due Process:** The transparency problem - Can a state compel plastic producers to join a private PRO, accept non-negotiable contracts, and submit to a fee-setting process that is both opaque and changeable, all without meaningful public oversight or recourse?

Case rulings could impact other EPR laws, like California's SB 54

SB 54 Regulations Delayed



On January 9, 2026, CalRecycle withdrew proposed SB 54 regulations from the Office of Administrative Law's review, noting its plan to revise regulations on food and agricultural commodities packaging.

Anja Brandon, the Ocean Conservancy's director of plastics policy, said she was not surprised by the withdrawal, stating:

"The draft [SB 54 regulations] proposed would have gone beyond CalRecycle's authority by creating a sweeping categorical exclusion for food and agricultural packaging — effectively a loophole that would have allowed producers to continue putting vast amounts of plastic packaging into the marketplace, completely undermining SB 54's goals and success."

Federal Injunction Limits Oregon's EPR enforcement



Why This Case is a Harbinger for EPR Programs: For years, state EPR laws have been described as an inevitable response to global recycling market failures and municipal budget deficits.

- Until now, no federal court had signaled discomfort with the legal theory behind Extended Producer Responsibility laws.
- That changed when Oregon's system collided with well considered constitutional limits on state power.

The question for the court: how far can states go in outsourcing regulatory power to a single, privately run Producer Responsibility Organization and tying participation in the state's economy to paying fees that businesses say they cannot see, test, or challenge?



SB 1053 – Plastic Bag Ban County Update

Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force
March 5, 2026

Carryout Bag Requirements Ordinance Considerations



- **Regulating Stores Defined by State Law:** Local jurisdiction's regulations cannot exceed state law requirements when a state defined "store" is involved.
- **County Code Definition of Retail Establishment:** County's ordinance includes a "retail establishment" definition that exceeds the state's definition of "store." The County definition includes restaurants, food trucks, and others who sell goods direct to consumers.
- **Film Plastic Carryout Bag Bans:**
 - State law only eliminates film plastic carryout bags in "stores"
 - Local jurisdictions have discretion to ban film plastic carryout bags beyond the state's regulation of "stores."

New Carryout Bag Requirements SB 1053

Local Ordinances Across California

Every store throughout California must comply with the requirements of the law, regardless of where the store is located. If the store is in a city or county that has its own bag ordinance, however, the store may need to comply with the local requirements as well.

[A list of cities and counties that have adopted bag ordinances is available.](#) This page may not contain every local jurisdiction in California with an ordinance that restricts or prohibits the use of certain bags. We recommend checking with your local city or county authority to verify whether your city or county has its own bag ban ordinance that is in effect.



Questions?
Thank you!

Executive Summary

This report examines the implementation of reusable foodware policies across North America and identifies key lessons for improving policy design, enforcement, and reuse infrastructure. Since the City of Berkeley adopted the first modern reusable foodware ordinance in 2019, jurisdictions throughout the United States and Canada have enacted policies requiring reusable dine-in foodware, restricting disposable accessories, charging fees for disposable cups and containers, and encouraging reusable systems at events and public facilities.

While adoption of these policies has accelerated, jurisdictions are in early phases of implementation and some face challenges. A survey conducted by The Story of Stuff Project (SOSP) and Californians Against Waste (CAW), combined with an initial meeting and a stakeholder workshop found that only a minority of jurisdictions with enacted policies have reached full implementation and enforcement. Most jurisdictions continue to face significant operational, staffing, funding, and compliance challenges.

The findings highlight four major themes. First, successful implementation depends heavily on robust education, outreach, and technical assistance for businesses before enforcement begins. Jurisdictions that engaged businesses early, conducted “reuse readiness” assessments, provided multilingual outreach materials, and offered grants or technical assistance reported stronger buy-in and smoother transitions. Businesses require clear guidance on compliant products, reusable systems, and “bring your own” (BYO) container procedures. Participants emphasized that compliance challenges are often less about technical barriers and more about staffing capacity, operational adjustments, and access to practical support.

Second, enforcement remains the largest implementation gap. No surveyed jurisdiction reported feeling fully effective in enforcing reusable foodware policies. Limited staffing and insufficient funding were identified as the primary barriers, compounded by complaint-based enforcement systems, lack of interdepartmental coordination, and weak penalty structures. Quick-service restaurants, events, and large venues were consistently identified as the most difficult sectors to bring into compliance. Participants stressed the need for creative enforcement strategies, including partnerships with community organizations and universities, integration with business licensing systems, stronger penalties for large operators, and dedicated funding streams for inspections and outreach.

Third, jurisdictions identified numerous opportunities to improve policy drafting. Ambiguous language—particularly around terms such as “practicable” or “on-site dining”—creates enforcement challenges and confusion among businesses. Stakeholders recommended clearer definitions, stronger mandatory language, explicit requirements for reusable options in dine-in and takeout settings, and more detailed provisions addressing kiosks, online ordering systems, food courts, events, grocery stores, and mobile food vendors. Participants also emphasized the importance of pairing disposable cup charges with accessible reusable alternatives to create meaningful behavior change rather than simply generating fees.

Finally, the report underscores the importance of building regional reuse infrastructure and systems to support policy success. Jurisdictions increasingly recognize the need for commercial dishwashing facilities, wash hubs, reusable service providers, and interoperable reuse systems for cups and containers. Funding mechanisms—including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs, grants, and regional partnerships—will be essential to scaling this infrastructure. Participants also highlighted opportunities to integrate reuse into tourism, schools, event operations, and delivery platforms in order to normalize a broader “culture of reuse.”

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Overall, the report demonstrates that reusable foodware policies are evolving rapidly and represent a promising strategy for reducing waste, litter, and reliance on single-use packaging. However, achieving meaningful and equitable implementation will require stronger policy language, sustained business support, dedicated enforcement resources, and investment in the systems and infrastructure necessary to make reuse practical and accessible at scale.

Introduction

Reusable Foodware Policies in North America

In [December 2019](#), the City of Berkeley became the first jurisdiction to require local foodservice businesses to use reusable dishware, cups, and utensils for onsite dining. The policy also promoted reuse in takeout service through a 25-cent charge on disposable cups, acceptance of customers' clean reusable cups, and restrictions on automatically providing disposable accessories such as straws, utensils, lids, sleeves, stirrers, and condiment packets unless specifically requested.

Since then, similar reusable foodware policies have since been adopted by a growing number of jurisdictions across North America. "Accessories upon request" policies now number in the hundreds, including three statewide policies. Dine-in reusable requirements have been adopted by 46 jurisdictions, while 18 jurisdictions have enacted cup or container charges.

More recent policy packages include requirements for reusable cups at events, venues, and government facilities; refill stations in public buildings; and restrictions on purchasing packaged water. Model policies have been developed by [StopWaste](#), [The Story of Stuff Project](#), and Upstream, which also released [policy priorities for supporting reuse service providers](#).

Policy Implementation

As jurisdictions adopt reusable foodware policies, implementation timelines vary from immediate rollout to phased approaches over one or two years. Enforcement agencies also differ in strategy, though most prioritize business education and outreach before enforcement begins.

COVID-19 significantly delayed implementation of the earliest policies. As a result, Berkeley did not begin outreach and education efforts until several years after adoption, and enforcement actions were delayed further. Today, six jurisdictions (out of 17 responding to a recent survey) report they are in full implementation of reusable foodware policies, while others remain in various stages of outreach and education. Many report a variety of challenges with implementation and some reflect on how policy drafting might obviate some of these challenges. Collectively, these experiences provide valuable insight into implementation challenges and opportunities to improve future policy design.

The Investigation

The Story of Stuff Project (SOSP) has played a leading role in advancing reusable foodware policies. Their reuse program director was one of the drafters of the Berkeley ordinance. SOSP tracks enacted and emerging policies, advises on policy language, and works closely with jurisdictions developing reuse systems. SOSP also co-founded the West Coast Government Reuse Forum (WCGRF) and serves on its steering committee. The monthly forum brings together local and state representatives from California, Oregon, Washington, Canada, Colorado, and Arizona to share lessons on reusable foodware policies and

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the systems that support them. In North America, most reusable foodware policies enacted to date have been concentrated in California, other West Coast jurisdictions, and Canada.

As jurisdictions are gaining implementation experience, SOSP seeks to identify ways to strengthen both policy drafting and implementation. In January 2026, SOSP convened members of the WCGRF along with consultants and NGOs to discuss challenges and opportunities for reusable foodware policies in North America. Several themes emerged. Enforcement challenges often stem from limited staffing, inadequate resources, and difficulty collecting evidence of violations. Implementation challenges frequently related to unclear policy language, insufficient business training requirements, or limited agency capacity to support local businesses. Participants also identified broader systemic issues, including a California tax structure that incentivizes takeout orders—and therefore disposable packaging—over onsite dining.

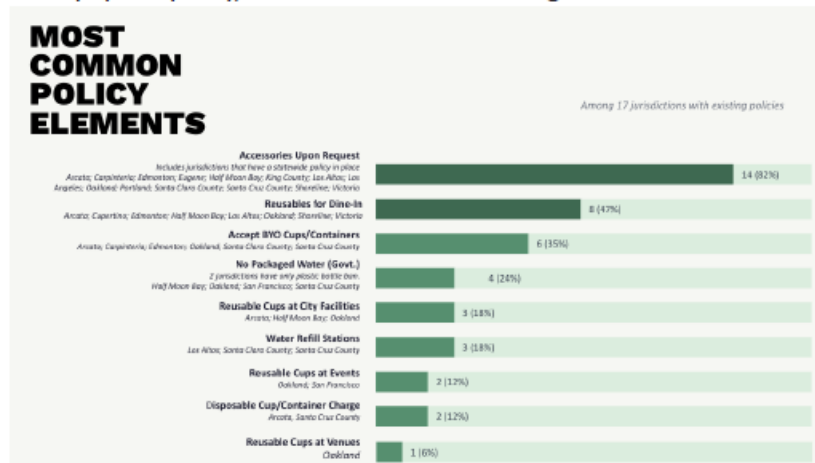
Participants agreed that additional discussion and broader participation would be valuable. In response, SOSP developed a survey and organized a larger workshop focused on implementation challenges and potential solutions. Californians Against Waste (CAW) partnered with SOSP to conduct the survey and workshop. In February 2026, SOSP distributed the survey to jurisdictions with onsite dining reuse policies, cup charges, and BYO cup policies, as well as consultants and NGOs involved in policy drafting and implementation. CAW and SOSP hosted a workshop on March 24, 2026 to present findings and gather additional feedback.

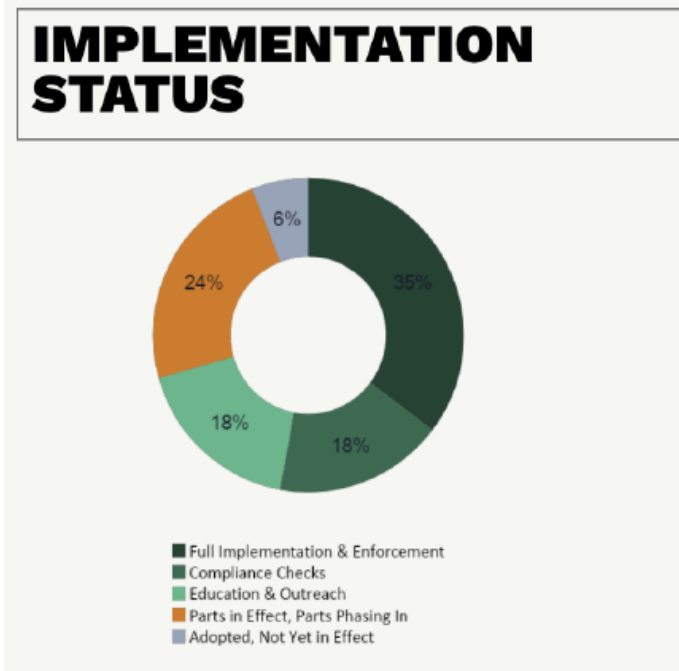
This report summarizes insights from the January meeting, the March workshop, and the survey. It is not intended to be a full analysis or presentation of best practices for drafting a reusable foodware policy or implementing one. Simply put, it’s a report back. SOSP has future plans to write a guidance document to accompany its model reusable foodware policy that will be more comprehensive in substance.

The Results of the Survey

Responses. SOSP sent a survey to nearly 150 contacts, including members of the WCGRF, personal reusable foodware policy contacts, and selected consultants. There were 28 respondents, including 24 jurisdictions. Most respondents were in California. Seventeen (17) of the 28 respondents were from jurisdictions with reusable foodware policies enacted.

Most common reusable policies adopted. For the 17 jurisdictions with policies in place, accessories on request was the most popular policy, with reuse for onsite dining next.





Implementation Status. Of the 17 jurisdictions with policies in place, only 6 (35%) have reached full implementation and enforcement. The dates the policies became effective range from 2020 to 2025. Among the jurisdictions that say they're at full implementation, some report that businesses are complying with reuse for onsite dining or accessories policies, there are definitely challenges reported, which are included below in the enforcement discussion. One respondent reports that compliance with Accessories on Request is going well because businesses understand the cost savings opportunity. One jurisdiction with a cup charge states they are at full implementation and issuing letters of non-compliance or notices of violation.

Compilation of Learnings from the Survey and January and March meetings

Lesson 1. Jurisdictions Should Provide Education and Outreach and Support Local Business before the Enforcement Phase

To get better compliance, jurisdictions should start and prepare businesses early - ideally, before adoption. Examples:

- **Engage business focus groups** (including larger brands/businesses) to help develop outreach toolkits; avoid regulatory/ban language in public outreach. One jurisdiction invited everyone to focus groups and chose representatives (12-20 in the group); tested different messages and graphics over ~18 months. However, the focus groups didn't meet very often because in-person was challenging to attend.; 3-5 virtual sessions were held over 18 months with varied attendance. Regardless, engaging business focus groups helped gain Council support for the policy.
- **Some jurisdictions conduct surveys of the local business community to determine whether they are "reuse ready."** Sometimes performed by outside consultants, these "reuse ready" surveys evaluate what percent of foodservice operators are already using reusables, or using a mix of reusable and disposable, or all disposable. The surveys attempt to characterize the types of businesses (fast food/quick service restaurant (QSR), fast casual, fine dining, cafes, cafeterias, etc. in the jurisdiction and demonstrate the breakdown of reuse readiness by business type. They also evaluate their businesses in terms of dishwashing capacity. Many jurisdictions learn that businesses generally don't have far to go to become all reusable, and that fast food/QSRs have the most disposables and least dishwashing capacity.

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- **Some jurisdictions conduct stakeholder engagement meetings** online and in-person to present the results of reuse ready surveys and gather further feedback and insight, as well as buy-in. They may also meet with individual business owners, business associations, and restaurant groups.
- **Seek to understand which businesses will need the most support.** Review what business models exist, what are the barriers, what are the alternatives - in summary, jurisdictions need to understand business operations, their barriers, and where problems may fall in order to understand where to focus limited resources.

Tips for conducting education and outreach.

- **Business owners need clear positive guidance.** Resources should list what serviceware IS compliant, not just what's banned.
- **Communities are diverse and may need cross cultural communication pieces.** Be aware of the communities that live in a jurisdiction, and provide multi-language outreach where necessary.
- **For events and venues,** staff should meet with the event organizer in advance of the event. First outreach at the event is too late. Staff should send a text with requirements in video format in multiple languages of how to comply. At the event, event organizers should have a checklist ready and use it to determine compliance.
- **Use the Office of small business as a messenger,** especially with all the turnover of restaurants.
- **Find the staff that can meet communities where they are at.** Sometimes it requires additional funding.
- If disposable charges are a tax, then revenue from the tax should be used to educate businesses.
- **Jurisdictions should maintain a list of reusable foodservice ware at all price points and where to purchase them.**
- **Education about a BYO policy.**
 - Create a BYO education campaign to businesses before the policy's effective date that educates businesses that BYO is safe and hygienic.
 - Have environmental health officers educate businesses that BYO must be accepted- with certain exemptions (unclean, unfit, etc.)
 - Have the department inform businesses that an individual BYO plan is required, if applicable. A written plan can / should include training staff at the individual businesses on how to accept BYO containers.

Line up funding for grants and technical support before a policy is enacted. More work needs to be done to support compliance before penalizing small businesses who aren't yet or are struggling to implement. Types of support that can be helpful:

- **Government grants to buy reusable foodware.** A \$500 grant was not enough in one jurisdiction, it's adequate in others. One participant notes that business owners are often too busy to apply, even with grant incentives. You may have to find an outside consultant to help them identify what they need and actually buy it for them.
- **Dishwasher grants** can help with the largest needs, but few businesses apply for them. However, having dishwasher grants available is perhaps most important to getting support from policy makers.
- **Technical assistance.** Several Bay Area jurisdictions have engaged outside consultants to help businesses voluntarily transition to reuse. The case studies and documentation of cost savings from these businesses provide local examples that help make the case for the policy.

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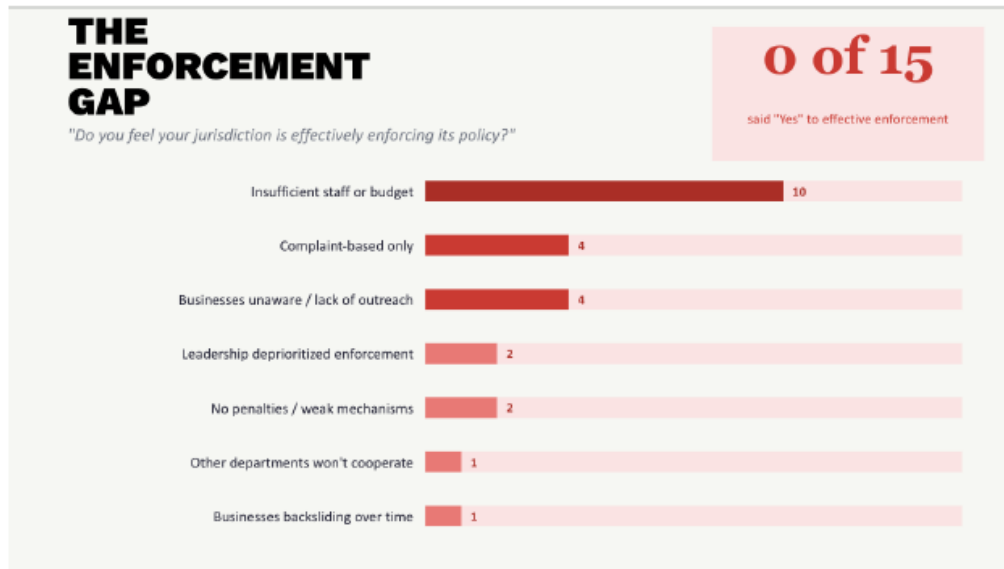
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- One workshop participant’s reflection is that it’s less about technical barriers and more about **labor**; people need to think about it and manage it. Outside consultants that work directly with businesses can help.

Lesson 2. Most jurisdictions have limited staff and resources for enforcement and need creative solutions.

The Enforcement Gap. We asked every jurisdiction with an active policy whether they feel they're effectively enforcing it. *None did.* The number one barrier is insufficient staff or budget, cited by 10 of 15 jurisdictions. This was echoed in both meetings. This challenge feeds into the next challenges cited: having only complaint-based enforcement (four jurisdictions told us they have no proactive compliance checks) and inadequate business outreach.

Additional challenges cited include: a lack of leadership prioritization, no penalties or weak mechanisms for enforcement cited in 2 cases, and a lack of inter-departmental cooperation. If other departments don't see the value in these policies, the enforcement burden falls on one team. In addition, one jurisdiction was told to pause on implementation citing concerns from the business community about over-regulation. This points to a structural problem, not just a staffing problem. In particular with Accessories on Request, jurisdictions are not enforcing this policy. There are a variety of additional challenges to obtaining full compliance, depending on the policy. Gathering evidence is challenging with limited staff.



Where Businesses Fall Short. So what are businesses actually doing wrong? We grouped the compliance failures into four buckets. Events and venues are the hardest. Event producers claim it's too expensive to offer reusable cups, venues think they only need a few reusable cups, and there's a structural split where facilities management and concession vendors are totally separate operations, so nobody feels responsible.

Dine-in is the second biggest gap. Quick-service restaurants are the worst offenders. Some businesses are partially compliant, like real plates but disposable cups, which creates confusion about what

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'compliance' even means. Many businesses are unaware of the reuse policies affecting them.

In California, accessories upon request should be the easiest win, but businesses are still handing out utensils and straws by default, and most jurisdictions are not enforcing the state wide law. One jurisdiction reported an active backsliding on the accessories policy with signage deteriorating and staff ignoring the policy. While our report focuses on the reuse policies, a common reflection about disposable foodware policies is that there is widespread confusion about compliant foodware. Businesses think they're compliant because something says 'eco' on the label, but it doesn't actually meet the ordinance requirements.

Creative Solutions to the Compliance Gap. Meeting and workshop participants ideated various solutions treated here as general ones and those specific to particular reuse policies.

General solutions.

- **Jurisdictions should collaborate with community partners to find noncompliant entities or trends.** Some local NGOs or local reuse coalitions can be eyes and ears in the community. Some are ready to talk to business operators and have developed leave-behind information about local reuse and plastics laws.
- **Partner with a local university.** For example, in California, one jurisdiction's SB 1383 program partners with local universities, from the University of California.
- **Seek assistance from larger regulatory entities,** like the County or a joint powers authority.
- **Use funding from other programs and waste diversion staff to help.**
- **Look for other sources of funding to staff up.**
- **Make sure fees for inspections and outreach are incorporated into the policy** (*policy drafting advice*). A regional surcharge on landfill funds could provide funding in some jurisdictions.
- **Buy-in is needed to address situations where leadership and other departments deprioritize enforcement.** Upfront stakeholder engagement needed both in the business community and also with other departments that would help with enforcement. Demonstrating that the lead department has done sufficient outreach to the business community and has a good understanding of what the challenges will be before the policy is enacted may help gain internal support.
- **Businesses object to complaint based enforcement** because it pits customers against business. If possible, avoid this approach.
- **Use the business licensing process.** Sometimes, entities don't realize until after they get the business license that the local jurisdiction has a law on the books. Business licensing can get ahead of that and actually block permits if a business is not compliant. In Canada it has worked; especially when the environmental program is in the planning department, it allows coordination.
- **Make the fine a meaningful stick.** Some businesses will just accept the fine as the cost of doing business. The penalty should vary depending on the size/ sales of the business.
- **Focus limited enforcement efforts on larger businesses first.** This helps ensure an equity approach. Leave smaller mom and pop businesses for a later stage enforcement.

Cup charges

- Charges should have to be on the menu (*policy drafting suggestion*).

Dine in Reuse. One agency responded that quick service restaurants are the worst offenders.

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- **Place the burden of proof of compliance on the business.** The government can't levy a fine without evidence. Instead of going to the restaurants to determine if they have reusables onsite or aren't using them, one jurisdiction is - sending a letter to all covered businesses and asking for proof of compliance.

Large Venues and Events struggle to comply.

- Event planners should be required to hire greeners.
- Consultants needed to ensure reusables are being used.

Policy Drafting Issues and Suggested Updates

Lesson 3. These policies are new. We must continue to gather insights from jurisdictions as to how to improve the language.

We asked if there are ways the policy could have been drafted to make implementation and enforcement more successful.

General reflections. One jurisdiction said the real problem is a need to educate the business community. Another offered that policies and educational outreach should clarify what IS allowed. Jurisdictions need an enabling regulatory environment for reuse.

- **Engage other regulators and environmental health inspectors.** In particular, to make sure you know about applicable state food safety code updates with respect to those that allow BYO, and allow reuse in takeout and grocery deli and specific requirements regarding washing for reuse so they don't become an obstacle.
- **Make the case for a policy.** Demonstrate and cite case studies of success to show where reuse DOES work. It is effective to link reuse policy more explicitly to economic development (especially with reuse service providers). Prepare your case with data about what the jurisdiction is spending on litter including stormwater programs, waste management, and how foodservice ware and accessories contribute to these costs.

"Practicable" language is hard to enforce. It creates an enforcement loophole in that it lacks teeth. It's not a requirement therefore a local jurisdiction can't issue penalties. Policies should be drafted as mandates not suggestions.

Reuse for Onsite Dining

- **You need a good definition of "on-site dining."** The meaning and scope of "on-site dining" must be more clearly specified, especially for food trucks operating outside of parking lots, and for coffee shops in grocery stores, and at events.
 - One example to consider- the Seattle Municipal Code defines on site dining (on-premise consumption) "consumed on premises" means consumption of food or beverages in the public areas of a food service business, common areas of a food court, outside seating areas and parking lots exclusively for customers of the food service business, rather than taken out for consumption elsewhere. "Food court" means an area of a retail mall, office building, sports facility or other premises where one or more food service businesses are located and customer seating for dining and consumption of beverages is provided in a common area.

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- One suggestion is to add “parklet areas that the food facility uses” since that is a publicly available area a food facility primarily uses for its customers.
- **Be clear about the scope of businesses.** Make sure the policy is clear about whether or not mobile or temporary food facilities are included and food service inside grocery stores and event dining areas and food court seating.
- **Be clear about the seating requirement.** Some policies make it “if you own or operate your seating area” then you need to comply, others based on business type (e.g. restaurants, bars, lodging, attractions, etc). Some say “consumption on premises” which focuses on the business license. Some require a minimum number of seats, which has caused some businesses to rip seats out.
 - Concern about unintended consequences- will some businesses prepackage to avoid regulation? Will they rip out seating- some have- in cases where there are fewer than 5 seats. One jurisdiction raised the number of seats to 5 in response.
- **It is hard to determine if the meal is for here or to go.** A business might have reusables for onsite dining, but if the kiosk doesn’t ask of the order is for here or to go, they just assume it’s to go- same for online orders. To solve this, policies should have the business ask the customer, “for here or to go?”.
 - Require that the cashier ask first and that kiosks and online orders specify if the order is for consumption onsite or for takeaway or delivery.
- **Policy should be clear about applying to “prepared food and beverage”**- i.e. food and beverage is prepared onsite.
 - **Scope of items that must be reusable.** In addition to plates, cups and utensils, consider adding straws to the list of items that should be reusable. Chopsticks should be included in the definition of “utensils.”
 - **Clear language to ensure that reusable cups are being reused at the restaurant** and not sold to a customer to be taken off premises.
 - **Policies should always have penalties for non-compliance.**
 - **Policy regarding new businesses and business licenses.** While it is important to ensure that new businesses applying for permits to operate demonstrate they are “reuse ready” in one jurisdiction that requires a “business tax license” to be used to check for compliance, staff later learned from the City Attorney that this “license” is more of a registrar and that they cannot enforce this requirement by withholding the business tax license. They will need to change the language and find a way to meet the intent.
 - Suggestion- jurisdictions should determine which permits provide the best opportunity to notify future restaurants of the need to have reusables for onsite dining and certify that they do. Options: business license or a planning permits.

BYO policy. Require businesses to create a written plan for BYO, including a plan for training staff.

Reusable Cups at Events, Venues and Government Facilities.

- **No partial targets.** (i.e., “50% reuse by year 1, and 70% reuse by year 2”). Partial targets do not work well and are confusing because staff are unable to verify the percentage. Ideally, policies should require 100% reusable cups, but have a longer education and outreach ramp and don’t have penalties right away.
 - [Paramount Theatre in Oakland](#) switched to 100% reusable cups. They reduced their waste bill by 50%and have a 94% return rate.
- **Event producers and venues need help figuring it out.**

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- Require event producers to hire event greeners since event producers have NO idea how to do this.
- Policies need to recognize that facilities management and concession vendors are separate entities by requiring explicit requirements for each party.
- **Incentivize reuse through lower permit fees or lower rate structures for solid waste services.** Local jurisdictions can provide events discounts on permit fees if they are doing only reusable foodware or cups. One jurisdiction is exploring whether/how to offer solid waste services for events using a rate structure that incentivizes reuse (e.g. if the event contracts for reuse services, they get discounted garbage/compost service rates).
- **Make sure fees for inspections and outreach are incorporated into the policy.**

Cup charges- (some jurisdictions include containers). In jurisdictions where cup/container charges exist, charges are not being implemented evenly. In some businesses people are being charged, but not being offered a reusable for onsite dining. Some solutions and reflections from the discussion:

- **Charges should be on the menu** and on all ordering platforms so people know they are being charged.
- **Policy should be clear about the ask first and make reuse options clear.** The server, the kiosk, and the online ordering platform should *ask the customer if they would like to pay an additional charge for the disposable cup AND list the options for avoiding the charge-* like consume onsite in a reusable cup, BYO or borrow a cup.
- **Amount charged.** A 25 cent charge for cups may no longer be high enough, and policymakers should consider raising it although there are equity concerns. Surveys help to identify the level of charge that would change customer behavior.
- **Address equity concerns by using exemptions.** Those receiving food assistance and medical assistance (like Medicaid in the U.S.) should be exempt from container charges.
- **Who gets to keep the charge?** Many policies let the business keep the charge. If the charge goes to the jurisdiction, it is a tax if some or all of the money goes to the government. This will vary state by state.
 - In Santa Cruz County the cup charge was launched via a voter initiative to allow this tax. It generates \$130,000-\$200,000/year for the County.

Require returnable reusables as a companion to cup charges.

- If we want a big culture shift, we need to make sure charges are paired with a reuse option to incentivize people who won't BYO to opt for a reusable cup. Otherwise, people just pay the charge. [Story of Stuff's model policy](#) includes language for this provision.
- Could use a targets approach that says businesses that do takeout disposables should achieve a percent of takeout orders provided in reusables, but it might be hard to enforce.

Reuse Systems and Infrastructure to Support a Reuse Policy

Lesson 4. Local jurisdictions have a role to play in ensuring there are adequate reuse systems and services in place to support a reusable foodware regulation and many are actively engaged already.

Local government staff engaged in reuse see a need to expand availability of Commercial Reuse Service Providers and local / regional commercial dishwashing solutions

Attachment B
*Challenges in Implementing Reusable Foodware Policies in North America
And How to Overcome Them*

Published by: The Story of Stuff and Californians Against Waste, May 2026

Reuse infrastructure- like dishwashing.

- **Planning.** Jurisdictions can create a waste reduction roadmap that includes a feasibility study on setting up an interoperable system with cups and containers.

- **Need funding mechanisms for reuse infrastructure**
 - **EPR can be a source of funding for shared dishwashing facilities-** ex: MIRROR funding in Oregon, reuse grants from Circular Action Alliance in California and other states where they are active. Funding through EPR creates a chicken vs. egg situation - e.g. infrastructure drives participation vs. participation drives investment!.
 - **Businesses and schools need 3-5 year commitments from EPR law funding**
 - Funding should also include staffing and general assistance
 - **EPR funding should be supportive of wash hubs**
 - Wash hub funding should also make sure they track water and energy use.

- **Need dishwashing (DW) for onsite dining where facilities lack space**
 - First think of DW as something that can be shared.
 - Consider unused DW capacity first. This can be challenging. One jurisdiction notes that they haven't seen businesses be successful in lending washing services to others.
 - Consider what permits will be needed. For example, Oakland is looking to provide a shared wash-hub with funding under SB54. Some health departments/inspectors think there needs to be a permit, some don't think it falls under facilities processing food.
 - Questions raised when thinking about shared wash-hubs:
 - Are wash facilities considering water usage and energy usage?
 - What is the geographic radius people are willing to travel to wash?
 - How can we build a county-wide wash hub that serves schools and businesses?
 - Schools are a specialized case. Most onsite dining policies don't include public schools in California because school districts are separate entities that cities don't directly regulate.
 - Consider a centralized rollout at the city level so that the schools' only job is implementation.

- **The need to create the culture of reuse** is needed beyond proximity, deposits, and accessibility.
 - Destination marketing / tourism boards are a good place to start encouraging reuse in visual cues and imagery - increasingly relevant with more communities viewing tourism as a potential growth sector.

- **Consider the role of takeout and delivery providers and reuse system providers.**

Tourist cities have special challenges and opportunities. Tourist cities have unnecessary trash generation because tourists don't know BYO laws. Sometimes vacation homes do not give renters access to a 3 stream system. Some solutions:

- Tourist cities can encourage those who apply for a renter / bed and breakfast permit to leave signage educating their renters to BYO when they dine out.
- Cities can work with the rentals and parks to have paperwork trifold of the rules in the cities and counties. supply their location reusables so when they get take out, not to get forks and spoons and bring a to go cups!
- Rental / vacation properties should be encouraged to have reusable cups for their renters.

Attachment C

Legislative Update – [Changes since June meeting](#), [Changes since September meeting](#),
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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials

Battery Management

AB 762, as amended, Irwin. Disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device: prohibition. (1) Existing law regulates the manufacture, sale, and disposal of various single-use products, including single-use foodware accessories and condiments and single-use carryout bags. Existing law prohibits a store from, among other things, providing, distributing, or selling a carryout bag at the point of sale, except as specified. Existing law defines terms for these purposes. This bill would prohibit, beginning January 1, 2026, a person from selling, distributing, or offering for sale a new or refurbished disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device in this state. The bill would define a “disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device” to mean a vaporization device that **contains nicotine but not cannabis or a cannabis product, as defined, and that** is not designed or intended to be reused, as specified. Existing law authorizes a city, county, city and county, or the state, to impose civil liability on a person or entity that knowingly violated, or reasonably should have known that it violated, provisions relating to the above-described carryout bag prohibition in specified fine amounts, including \$1,000 per day for the first violation. Existing law requires any civil penalties collected to be paid to whichever office brought the action, as specified, and authorizes the Attorney General to expend any penalties it collects, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to enforce those provisions. This bill would authorize a city, a county, a city and county, or the state, to enforce the above-described disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device prohibition and to impose civil liability on a person or entity in violation of the prohibition in specified fine amounts, including \$500 for the first violation. The bill would require any civil penalties collected to be paid to whichever office brought the action, as specified, and would authorize the Attorney General to expended any penalties it collects, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to enforce these provisions. The bill would specify that any remedies provided pursuant to these provisions are not exclusive and are in addition to the remedies that may be available pursuant to specified provisions relating to unfair competition. The bill would make any person who violates the above-described disposable battery-embedded vapor inhalation device prohibition guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$500. By expanding the scope of an infraction, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. (2) Existing law, the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Licensing Act of 2003, provides for the licensure and regulation of manufacturers, importers, distributors, wholesalers, and retailers of cigarettes and tobacco products by the State Board of Equalization. Existing law requires every person desiring to engage in the sale of cigarettes or tobacco products as, among other things, a wholesaler to file with the board an application for a license, as specified. Existing law authorizes the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration to suspend or revoke a license described above, as specified, of any importer or any manufacturer that has failed to comply with specified provisions relating to monthly reporting of distributors and wholesale costs. This bill would authorize the department to revoke or suspend any license to engage in the sale of cigarettes or tobacco products, as defined, of any person with a license who is in violation of the above-described prohibition for a disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device containing a tobacco product. **The bill would specify that any penalty described above is in addition to the other penalties authorized by the bill. The bill would require costs incurred by a state agency in carrying out these provisions to be recoverable by the Attorney General, upon the request of the agency, from the liable person or persons. The bill would make its provisions severable.** (3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Amended 3/28/2025 in State Assembly, Status: Hearing canceled at author's request. Active bill- in committee process, Hearing canceled at request of author 4/29/2025, Last amended 1.26.2026, Active bill – in committee process.](#)

SB 615, as amended, Allen. Vehicle traction batteries. Existing law requires the Secretary for Environmental Protection to convene the Lithium-Ion Car Battery Recycling Advisory Group to review, and advise the Legislature on, policies pertaining to the recovery and recycling of lithium-ion vehicle batteries sold with motor vehicles in the state. Existing law also requires the advisory group to submit policy recommendations to the Legislature aimed at ensuring that as close to 100% as possible of lithium-ion vehicle batteries in the state are reused or recycled at end of life in a safe and cost-effective manner. The hazardous waste control laws require the Department of Toxic Substances Control to regulate the handling and management of hazardous waste. A violation of the hazardous waste control laws is a crime. This bill would require a battery supplier, as defined, to be responsible for, among other duties, ensuring the responsible end-of-life management of a vehicle traction battery if it is removed from a vehicle that is still in service, as provided, or if the vehicle traction battery is offered or returned to its battery supplier, and reporting information regarding the sale, transfer, or receipt of a vehicle traction battery or battery module to the department, as provided. The bill would impose related duties on a secondary user, as defined, and a secondary handler, as defined, including, among other duties, ensuring the responsible end-of-life management for a vehicle traction battery or returning a vehicle traction battery to the battery supplier, and reporting information regarding the sale, transfer, or receipt of a vehicle traction battery or battery module to the department, as provided. The bill would also require an auctioneer, as defined, and salvage disposal auction, as defined, to report similar information regarding a vehicle traction battery to the department. This bill would require the battery supplier to pay the department's actual and reasonable regulatory costs to implement and enforce these provisions. The bill would establish the Vehicle Traction Battery Recovery Fund (fund) in the State Treasury and would require the department to deposit all moneys received from the battery supplier into the fund, as specified. Moneys in the fund would be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to implement and enforce these provisions. The bill would authorize, upon appropriation by the Legislature, the Director of Finance to make a loan from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to the fund to meet regulatory and startup costs of the department's activities pursuant to these provisions. The bill would require, upon appropriation by the Legislature, moneys in the fund to be expended to reimburse loans made from other funds for those purposes. The bill would require the department to conduct a study to determine whether there is evidence of abandonment of orphaned batteries leading to environmental and health and safety hazards and, on or before January 1, 2030, and every 5 years thereafter, to post the results of its findings on its internet website. The bill would authorize the department to impose civil or administrative penalties for a violation of these requirements. The bill would exempt a violation of these requirements from the criminal penalties imposed pursuant to the hazardous waste control laws, but would require that all reports and records provided to the department pursuant to these provisions be provided under penalty of perjury. By expanding the scope of crimes, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would restrict public access to certain information collected for the purpose of administering this program. Existing constitutional

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest. This bill would make legislative findings to that effect. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last amended 7/07/2025, in Assembly Appropriations, Status: Committee hearing date 8/29/2025. Ordered to inactive file on request of Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry 9/9/2025.](#)

Beverage Container Recycling

AB 1780, as introduced, [Michelle Rodriguez](#). **Beverage containers: redemption payments: exemption.** The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act, a violation of which is a crime, requires a distributor of beverage containers, as defined, to pay to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery a monthly redemption payment for every beverage container sold or transferred, as provided. The act requires the department to deposit those amounts into the California Beverage Container Recycling Fund. The act defines “beverage” to include, among other things, noncarbonated water, carbonated and noncarbonated fruit drinks, and vegetable juice, as specified. This bill would exempt a distributor from making redemption payments to the department for filled beverage containers containing the above-described beverages that the distributor donates to an organization located in California that is exempt from federal income taxation, as specified. The bill would require the distributor to prepare and maintain records of the donations, as specified. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Introduced 2/9/2026. Active Bill - Pending Referral. In Senate, Read first time 5/21/2026.](#)

AB 2481, as amended, [Soria](#). **Beverage containers: recycling: glass: quality incentive payments.** The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act requires a distributor of beverage containers to pay to the department a redemption payment for every beverage container sold or offered for sale, as provided. The act requires the department to deposit those amounts into the California Beverage Container Recycling Fund. The act requires the fund to be continuously appropriated to the department for specified purposes, including, among other things, to pay refund values, administrative fees, and processing payments associated with the collection and recycling of empty beverage containers. The act continuously appropriates up to \$15,000,000 annually from the fund to the department for quality incentive payments for empty glass beverage containers to an operator of a curbside recycling program or other certified entity, as specified. This bill would authorize the department to make quality incentive payments from the fund, [for empty glass beverage containers that are substantially free from contamination and used by other manufacturers](#), including, but not limited to, manufacturers of fiberglass insulation in this state that use glass cullet, as specified. By authorizing a new use for continuously appropriated funds, the bill would make an appropriation. [Last Amended 4/16/2026. Active Bill - Pending Referral. In Senate, Read first time 5/27/2026.](#)

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SB 14, as amended, Blakespear. State agencies: solid waste diversion: single-use plastic bottles. (1) The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, which is administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, establishes an integrated waste management program. The act requires each state agency to divert at least 50% of all solid waste through source reduction, recycling, and composting activities. “State agency” is defined, for purposes of these requirements, to include the California Community Colleges. The act requires each state agency to develop and adopt an integrated waste management plan to reduce solid waste, reuse materials whenever possible, recycle recyclable materials, and procure products with recycled content in all state agency offices and facilities, including any leased locations, as provided. The act requires each state agency to submit an annual report to the department summarizing its progress in reducing solid waste by at least 50%, as provided. This bill would require a state agency to include in its integrated waste management plan descriptions of actions to be taken to source reduce certain materials, as specified. The bill would require, on or before July 15, 2027, each state agency to submit an adopted integrated waste management plan to the department for review and approval, and would, on or before January 1, 2028, require the department to complete its review of the plans, as specified. The bill would require a state agency’s annual report to include summaries of the state agency’s compliance with the requirement to reduce solid waste by 50% and the requirements relating to the adoption of an integrated waste management plan. By imposing new duties on community colleges, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill would require the department to provide advice to help state agencies and facilities reduce solid waste by at least 50%. The bill would, on or before January 1, 2027, require the department to publish on its internet website a list of products available for purchase by state agencies that would reduce the overall amount of plastic or paper waste generated. (2) Existing law requires plastic beverage containers sold by a beverage manufacturer, as specified, to contain a specified average percentage of postconsumer recycled plastic. Between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2029, inclusive, existing law requires that percentage to be no less than 25% postconsumer recycled plastic per year, and on and after January 1, 2030, no less than 50% postconsumer recycled plastic per year. This bill would require, on and after January 1, 2026, reportable purchases by state agencies of plastic beverage containers to be of plastic beverage containers with no less than those above-referenced percentages of postconsumer recycled plastic per year. (3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above. [Last amended: 7/09/2025](#), [Status: Placed on Assembly Appropriations suspense file](#). [Committee hearing date 8/29/2025 - Held in committee and under submission](#). [Active Bill – In committee process](#).

SB 633, as amended, Blakespear. Beverage containers: recycling. The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act requires plastic beverage containers sold by a beverage manufacturer, as specified, to contain a specified average percentage of postconsumer recycled plastic per year. The act requires the manufacturer of a beverage sold in a plastic beverage container subject to the California Redemption Value to report to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery certain information about the amounts of virgin plastic and postconsumer recycled plastic used for plastic beverage containers subject to the California

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Redemption Value for sale in the state in the previous calendar year. [Existing law requires the department to post this reported information on its internet website, as provided](#). Existing law provides that a violation of the act or a regulation adopted pursuant to the act is a crime.

This bill, [beginning on or before March 1, 2027](#), would require a manufacturer of a beverage sold in a plastic beverage container subject to the California Redemption Value to also report to the department by country of origin the amount in pounds of imported postconsumer recycled plastic used for plastic beverage containers subject to the California Redemption Value for sale in the state in the previous calendar year and to provide proof that the postconsumer recycled content used by the manufacturer for plastic beverage containers has been validated by a third party, as specified. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. [The bill would require the department to post on its internet website the reported amounts of imported postconsumer recycled plastic used for plastic beverage containers in an aggregated form and would exempt the unaggregated amounts reported to the department from disclosure under the California Public Records Act](#). Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest. [This bill would make legislative findings to that effect](#). The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last amended 7/14/2025](#). [Hearing postponed by committee 8/29/2025](#). [Active Bill - In Committee Process \(Assembly Natural Resources\)](#).

SB 674, as amended, Cabaldon. Beverage containers: recycling: redemption payment and refund value. The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act, a violation of which is a crime, requires a distributor of beverage containers, as defined, to pay to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery a monthly redemption payment for every beverage container sold or transferred, as provided. The act requires the department to deposit those amounts into the California Beverage Container Recycling Fund. The fund is continuously appropriated to, among other things, pay refund values and administrative fees to processors that receive empty beverage containers from recyclers. The act specifies that a beverage container that is a box, bladder, or pouch, or similar container, containing wine or distilled spirits has a redemption payment and refund value of \$0.25. This bill would reduce the redemption payment and refund value for one of those wine or distilled spirit beverage containers, if it has a capacity of less than 24 fluid ounces, from \$0.25 to \$0.10, beginning January 1, 2026. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Active Bill – In Committee Process](#). [Held in committee and under submission](#).

SB 955, as introduced, Blakespear. Beverage containers: supermarkets: reverse vending machines. The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to designate convenience zones annually and to ensure that at least one certified recycling center that meets specific requirements is located within each convenience zone. The act defines “convenience zone” as the area within a one-mile

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SB 1341, as introduced, Cabaldon. **Beverage containers: wine and distilled spirits: processing fees.** The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act requires a beverage manufacturer to pay to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery a processing fee for each beverage container, as defined, sold or transferred in this state. The act requires the department to deposit the fee into the California Beverage Container Recycling Fund, a continuously appropriated fund. The act requires the department to pay processing payments to processors and recycling centers from the fund, as specified. The act requires the processing payment to be at least equal to the difference between the scrap value of the beverage containers and the sum of certain actual operational costs for certified recycling centers and a reasonable financial return for recycling centers, as specified. The act requires the processing fee to be 65% of the processing payment, except as specified. [This bill would state the intent of the Legislature that the department, in calculating the processing fee for a beverage container that is a box, bladder, pouch, or similar container containing wine or distilled spirits, establish the processing fee at a](#)

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[level that does not impose an economic burden on beverage manufacturers and generates sufficient funds to make processing payments to recyclers, as specified. Introduced 2/20/2026. Last amended 5/18/2026. Read third time in Senate, 5/22/2026. Read first time in Assembly, Held at Desk 5/22/2026. Active Bill - Pending Referral.](#)

Biofuels

SB 377, as amended, Grayson. Biomethane procurement targets. Existing law vests the Public Utilities Commission with regulatory authority over public utilities, including gas corporations. Existing law requires the commission, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board, to consider adopting specific biomethane procurement targets or goals for each gas corporation and core transport agent, as specified. Existing law requires, if the commission adopts specific biomethane procurement targets or goals for each gas corporation and core transport agent, the commission to, among other things, ensure that the biomethane available for any procurement program is either delivered to California through a dedicated pipeline, or through a common carrier pipeline and meets 2 specified requirements related to the injection of the biomethane and specified environmental benefits, as prescribed. This bill would instead require that biomethane delivered to California through a common carrier pipeline meet either of the specified requirements, rather than both. The bill would also add the displacement of conventional natural gas that results in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as one of the specified environmental benefits, as specified. Existing law requires the commission to consider options to promote the in-state production and distribution of biomethane, including whether to allow recovery in rates of the costs of investments to (1) facilitate direct investment in the procurement and installation of utility infrastructure necessary to achieve interconnection between the natural gas transmission and distribution pipeline network and biomethane generation and collection equipment and of gathering lines for a dairy cluster biomethane project, (2) provide for the installation of utility infrastructure to achieve interconnection with facilities that generate biomethane, and (3) ensure that these investments for infrastructure are prudent and reasonable and provide a direct benefit to, and are in the interests of, all classes of ratepayers. This bill would require, on or before June 1, 2026, the commission to allow recovery in rates of the costs of those investments. Under existing law, a violation of the Public Utilities Act or an order, decision, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the commission is a crime. Because the provisions of this bill would be part of the act and because a violation of a commission action implementing its requirements would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last amended 3/17/2025, in Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications, Status: Hearing canceled at author's request. Active bill- in committee process, Hearing canceled at request of author 4/7/2025. Returned to Secretary of Senate pursuant to Joint Rule 56. Inactive Bill - Died](#)

Carbon Capture and Methane Reduction

AB 2334, [as amended](#), Bennett. Solid waste: methane reduction: working group.

Existing law establishes the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, which is administered under the control of an executive officer known as the Director of Resources

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Recycling and Recovery. This bill would require the Director of Resources Recycling and Recovery to establish a working group to study the need for and value of alternative methods of methane reduction, as specified. The bill would require the working group to submit its findings and recommendations to the director on or before January 1, 2029. [Introduced 2/19/2026](#), [Last amended 4/13/2026](#) Active bill – in committee process.

SB 285, as amended, Becker. Net zero greenhouse gas emissions goal: carbon dioxide removal: regulations. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 establishes the State Air Resources Board as the state agency responsible for monitoring and regulating sources emitting greenhouse gases. The act requires the state board to approve a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit equivalent to the statewide greenhouse gas emissions level in 1990 to be achieved by 2020 and to ensure that statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 40% below the 1990 level by 2030. The act requires the state board to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and to update the scoping plan at least once every 5 years. Existing law requires the state board, as part of its scoping plan, to establish specified carbon dioxide removal targets for 2030 and beyond. Existing law, the California Climate Crisis Act, declares the policy of the state both to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, but no later than 2045, and achieve and maintain net negative greenhouse gas emissions thereafter, and to ensure that by 2045, statewide anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 85% below the 1990 levels. This bill would, for the purpose of meeting, or tracking progress against, any state requirement to achieve net zero emissions of greenhouse gases, authorize only qualified carbon dioxide removal, as defined, to be used to counterbalance the state’s or an entity’s greenhouse gas emissions and would require qualified carbon dioxide removal used for those purposes to meet certain requirements, as specified. Existing law requires the state board to establish a Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization, and Storage Program to, among other things, evaluate the efficacy, safety, and viability of carbon capture, utilization, or storage technologies and carbon dioxide removal technologies and facilitate the capture and sequestration of carbon dioxide from those technologies, where appropriate. In furtherance of the objectives of that program, existing law authorizes the state board, by January 1, 2024, to adopt protocols to support additional methods of utilization or storage of captured carbon dioxide. This bill would indefinitely authorize the state board to adopt those protocols, and protocols to support methods of utilization or storage of removed carbon dioxide. [Last amended 3/25/2025](#), [Held in Senate Appropriations Committee under submission](#), [Status: Placed on Appropriations suspense file](#). [Inactive Bill - Died](#)

Composting and Organic Waste Recycling

AB 1812, as introduced, Aguiar-Curry. Solid waste: compostable products.

Existing law prohibits a person from selling or offering for sale a product, as defined, that is labeled with the term “compostable” or “home compostable” unless, among others, the product [meets a specified ASTM standard specification, has OK compost HOME certification, and meets a standard adopted by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery](#). Existing law requires the department to review revisions to the ASTM standard specification, as provided. Existing law authorizes the department to adopt a standard different from an ASTM standard if adopted or developed by a standard-setting organization recognized by the department, the standard adds qualifications to an ASTM standard specification, and the standard is more stringent than an ASTM

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[standard specification](#), as provided. Existing law exempts a fiber product that is demonstrated to not incorporate any plastics or polymers from complying with any of these ASTM standards. This bill would instead prohibit a person from selling or offering for sale a product that is labeled with the term “compostable” or “home compostable” unless the product has OK compost HOME certification or meets a standard adopted by the department. The bill would repeal the requirement for the department to review revisions to the ASTM standard specification. The bill would instead authorize the department to adopt an existing standard different from an ASTM standard specification if the standard is adopted or developed by a standard-setting organization recognized by the department. This bill would exempt a fiber product that is demonstrated to not incorporate any plastics or polymers from requirements for labeling compostable products, as specified, unless the department adopts a standard for compostable fiber products. This bill, on and after January 1, 2027, would prohibit a person from selling or offering for sale a product in this state that is labeled with the term “compostable” or “home compostable” that is made wholly or partially of plastic, as defined. Existing law requires a compostable bag that meets an ASTM standard specification described above to comply with certain labeling requirements. This bill would repeal those labeling requirements. [Introduced 2/10/2026](#), [Last amended 3/23/2026](#) Passed. [Ordered to Senate](#)

AB 2100, [as amended](#), [Connolly](#). **Organic waste: manure management: interagency task force: project approval.** (1) The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 establishes the State Air Resources Board as the state agency responsible for monitoring and regulating sources emitting greenhouse gases. The act requires the state board to adopt rules and regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions reductions to ensure that the statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 40% below the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit, as defined, no later than December 31, 2030. Existing law requires the state board to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, as provided, and to update the scoping plan at least once every 5 years. Existing law requires the state board to develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants in the state. Existing law requires the state board, in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, to adopt regulations to reduce methane emissions from livestock manure management operations and dairy manure management operations by up to 40% below the dairy sector’s and livestock sector’s 2013 levels by 2030. This bill would require the Department of Food and Agriculture to convene an interagency task force to evaluate the role of alternative manure management practices in achieving certain goals and to make specified findings and recommendations based on its evaluation. The bill would require the task force to include representatives from specified state agencies, external scientific and technical experts, and other stakeholders, as provided. The bill would require the task force to coordinate scenario modeling of alternative manure management practices adoption within the dairy and livestock industry under different policy and funding conditions, assess how alternative manure management practices can help the state meet groundwater [sustainability plans](#), water quality plans, and [nature-based climate solutions](#), and facilitate interagency data sharing, technical consultation, and identification of research needs, as provided. The bill would authorize the state board to incorporate the task force’s findings and recommendations into updates to the above-described comprehensive strategy, the 2027 update to the scoping plan, and other planning documents as appropriate. (2) Existing law requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, in

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partnership with various government agencies, to identify and recommend actions to address, with regard to both state agencies and the federal government, the permitting and siting challenges associated with composting and anaerobic digestion, and to encourage the continued viability of the state's organic waste processing and recycling infrastructure. This bill would require the Department of Food and Agriculture to convene relevant government agencies, with input from the regulated community, to create an efficient and effective process for approving new projects that manage livestock and dairy manure through on-farm composting or by selling or transferring manure to offsite users. [Introduced 2/18/2026](#). [Last amended 3/25/2026](#). [Active Bill - In Committee Process](#).

AB 2112, [as amended](#), [Bains](#). [Greenhouse gases: soil carbon sequestration](#).

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 establishes the State Air Resources Board as the state agency responsible for monitoring and regulating sources emitting greenhouse gases and requires the state board to ensure that statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 40% below the 1990 level no later than December 31, 2030. The act declares the policy of the state to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, but no later than 2045, and to achieve and maintain net negative greenhouse gas emissions thereafter. The act also requires the Natural Resources Agency, in collaboration with specified entities, to determine an ambitious range of targets for natural carbon sequestration, and for nature-based climate solutions, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions for 2030, 2038, and 2045 to support state goals to achieve carbon neutrality and foster climate adaptation and resilience. The act requires the Natural Resources Agency and the state board to establish an expert advisory committee composed of specified entities to provide recommendations on addressing barriers to efficient implementation of the provisions relating to climate targets. This bill would additionally require that expert advisory committee to include an expert in soil carbon sequestration. The bill would establish the Climate-smart Organics Management for Protecting Our Soil and Terrain (COMPOST) Act of 2026. The bill would require the Natural Resources Agency, in collaboration with specified entities, to, on or before January 1, 2028, develop an integrated nature-based climate strategy to link waste diversion goals with soil health practices on natural and working lands. The bill would require the strategy to include multiagency recommendations and incentives to increase climate-friendly on-farm compost production and use, including compost application on grasslands and priority rangeland for improved vegetation and carbon storage. The bill would require the recommendations to be consistent with specified publications, standards, and strategies, including the reduction of at least 5,000,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions in the state annually.

This bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to use best available science, mapping, and land management planning tools to support prioritization, siting, and deployment of soil amendment strategies to maximize climate benefits. The bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to publish, and annually update, the nature-based climate strategy for compost on its internet website. [Introduced 2/18/2026](#). [Last amended 4/20/2026](#) [Active Bill – In Committee Process](#)

SB 725, as introduced, [Dahle](#). [Recycling: organic byproducts](#). Existing law requires the California Environmental Protection Agency, in coordination with the department, the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Air Resources Board, the Department of Food and Agriculture, and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to develop and implement policies to aid in diverting organic waste from landfills by promoting the use of agricultural, forestry, and urban organic waste

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as a feedstock for compost and by promoting the appropriate use of that compost throughout the state to improve the state’s soil organic matter. This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation that would promote the recycling of organic byproducts by increasing the opportunities for organic byproducts to be recycled into livestock feed. [Status: Referred to Senate Rules Committee \(3/12/2025\)](#). [Inactive Bill - Died](#)

SB 1031, as amended, Blakespear. Solid waste: compostable products.

Existing law prohibits a person from selling or offering for sale a product, as defined, that is labeled with the term “compostable” or “home compostable” unless, among others, the product is labeled in a manner that distinguishes the product from a noncompostable product upon reasonable inspection by consumers and to help enable efficient processing by solid waste processing facilities. This bill would instead require the product to be labeled in a manner that distinguishes the product from a noncompostable product upon reasonable inspection by consumers and by solid waste processing facilities during receiving and processing. The bill would require a plastic product that meets certain ASTM standard specifications regarding the compostability of plastics to be labeled with the word “compostable,” as specified. This bill would require the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to conduct a study evaluating the health effects of degraded compostable plastics and their additives, as provided. The bill would require the office to provide biennial status updates, which may include a compilation of the study findings into a report, and to post the final report on its internet website. [Last Amended 5/14/2026](#). [Active Bill - In Floor Process](#). [In Senate, Read second time](#). [Ordered to third reading 5/18/2026](#).

Construction Debris Diversion

AB 2559, as amended, Ward. Solid waste: construction debris: diversion: deposits.

Existing law, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, establishes an integrated waste management program and requires the department to adopt rules and regulations, as necessary, to carry out the act. Existing law requires each city, county, and regional agency, if any, to develop a source reduction and recycling element, household hazardous waste element, and nondisposal facility element of an integrated waste management plan. The act requires the source reduction and recycling element to divert from disposal 50% of all solid waste subject to the element through source reduction, recycling, and composting activities, with specified exceptions. This bill would require a city or county that requires a refundable deposit, performance security, or similar financial guarantee as a condition of issuing a construction, demolition, or building permit for the purpose of ensuring compliance with a construction or demolition debris requirement to return the full amount of the deposit if documentation demonstrating compliance with the terms of the deposit is provided, as specified. [Introduced 2/20/2026](#). [Last amended 4/8/2026](#). [Active Bill - In Committee Process](#).

Electronic Waste

AB 2549, as amended, Zbur. Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003: manufacturer notices.

The Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 (act) requires a retailer selling a covered electronic device, including a covered battery-embedded product, as defined, in this state to collect from a consumer at the time of retail sale a covered electronic waste recycling fee, as specified. The act

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imposes certain obligations on a manufacturer of a covered electronic device sold in the state. Existing law requires a manufacturer of a covered electronic device that is a covered battery-embedded product, as defined, to provide a specified notice to any retailer that sells that product informing the retailer that the covered battery-embedded product is subject to a recycling fee, as provided. Existing law requires the notices to identify the covered electronic device by brand and model number. Existing law incorporates the requirements and other provisions of the act by reference as requirements and provisions of the hazardous waste control laws. The act also expressly authorizes the Department of Toxic Substances Control to enforce the act, and all regulations adopted pursuant to the act, through the hazardous waste control laws. A violation of the hazardous waste control laws is a crime. This bill would require the manufacturer to send notices regarding the products to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) in accordance with specified timeframes set forth in the bill. The bill would also require the notices to contain the universal product code (UPC), as defined, and make conforming changes. By changing the definition of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require CalRecycle to develop, on or before March 1, 2027, a standardized form for notices submitted by a manufacturer pursuant to this provision. The bill would require the form to require each notice to identify the battery-embedded covered product manufactured by that manufacturer by brand, model number, and UPC, and the covered battery-embedded waste recycling fee. The bill would require CalRecycle, on or before May 1, 2027, to create and maintain a searchable database for the notices sent by a manufacturer pursuant to this requirement, to post that information on its internet website, as provided, and to consult with manufacturers and retailers to develop a standardized online upload process for these purposes. The bill would require that a retailer have 60 days to comply with the fee requirements from the earlier of the date of receipt of the notice directly from a manufacturer, or the date the notice is first published in the online database. [The bill would specify procedures for addressing complaints or information alleging a violation of laws relating to a covered battery-embedded product, as provided.](#) Existing law sets forth definitions for purposes of the act. This bill would expand the definition of a “retailer” to include a “marketplace facilitator,” as defined. The bill would define a “discount store” and a “thrift retail store,” as provided, for purposes of the act. The bill would define a “universal product code” to mean an all-numeric code that represents a consumer package of a particular brand, size, type, and manufacturer by using a series of alternating bars and spaces for electronic scanning. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last Amended 5/14/2026. Active Bill - Pending Referral, In Senate. Read first time. 5/27/2026](#)

Hazardous Waste Management

AB 864, as amended, Ward. Hazardous waste: solar photovoltaic modules.

Existing law requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control to adopt regulations for the identification and management of hazardous wastes. Existing law authorizes the department to adopt regulations designating end-of-life photovoltaic modules that are identified as hazardous waste as a universal waste and subject to regulations applicable to universal waste management. Existing regulations define surplus materials, as provided, and specify that surplus material is not a recyclable material. [Existing federal regulations exclude from being classified as hazardous waste](#)

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[under federal law certain hazardous secondary material that is generated and then transferred to another person for the purpose of reclamation if specific conditions are met. This bill would make the universal waste designation applicable to a solar photovoltaic module that is intended for recycling and cannot otherwise be resold, reused, or refurbished only until the department adopts regulations implementing alternative management standards for solar photovoltaic modules. The bill would require the department to institute a rulemaking to develop alternative management standards for solar photovoltaic modules that facilitate greater material recovery. The bill would require the department to adopt the above-referenced federal transfer-based exclusion regulation for solar photovoltaic modules. The bill would also designate a solar photovoltaic module that can be resold, reused, or refurbished as surplus material. The bill would make a conforming change. Last amended: 7/17/2025, Status: Referred to Senate Appropriations suspense file, Committee hearing date 8/29/2025. Ordered to inactive file at the request of Senator McNerney 9/10/2025.](#)

AB 872, as amended, Blanca Rubio. Environmental health: product safety: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. (1) Existing law, known as the Green Chemistry program, requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control to adopt regulations to establish a process to identify and prioritize chemicals or chemical ingredients in consumer products that may be considered as being chemicals of concern. Existing law requires the regulations to include criteria by which chemicals and their alternatives may be evaluated by the department, as provided. Existing law requires the department, following the completion of an alternatives analysis, to provide a regulatory response that may include, but is not limited to, not requiring any action and restricting or prohibiting the use of the chemical of concern in the consumer product. This bill would, beginning January 1, 2028, prohibit a person from distributing, selling, or offering for sale a covered product, as defined, that contains intentionally added PFAS, as defined, unless the department has issued a regulatory response for the covered product pursuant to the Green Chemistry program or the prohibition is preempted by federal law. The bill would authorize a manufacturer of a covered product to petition the department to evaluate a covered product and would require the department to evaluate and provide a regulatory response for a covered product under the Green Chemistry program, as specified. This bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2028, to adopt regulations to carry out these provisions. The bill would require the department to analyze and comment on the presence of PFAS in industrial processes and products, as specified. The bill would authorize the department to identify and categorize commercially active PFAS present in products distributed in California, as specified. The bill would authorize the department to report on other issues relating to products containing PFAS and emissive compounds. (2) Existing law requires the department, on or before January 1, 2029, to adopt regulations to enforce specified covered perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) restrictions, which include prohibitions on the distribution, sale, or offering for sale of certain products that contain specified levels of PFAS. Existing law requires the department, on and after July 1, 2030, to enforce and ensure compliance with those provisions and regulations, as provided. Existing law requires manufacturers of these products, on or before July 1, 2029, to register with the department, to pay a registration fee to the department, and to provide a statement of compliance certifying compliance with the applicable prohibitions on the use of PFAS to the department, as specified. Existing law authorizes the department to test products and to rely on third-party testing to determine compliance with prohibitions on the use of PFAS, as specified. Existing law requires the department to issue a notice of violation for a product in violation of the prohibitions on the use of PFAS, as provided. Existing law authorizes the department to assess an administrative penalty for a

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violation of these prohibitions and authorizes the department to seek an injunction to restrain a person or entity from violating these prohibitions, as specified. This bill would require the department to use this existing authority to enforce the prohibition on products that would be prohibited by the provisions in paragraph (1). (3) Existing law requires the department, in consultation with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and all appropriate state agencies, to adopt regulations to establish a process to identify and prioritize chemicals or chemical ingredients in consumer products that may be considered as being a chemical of concern, as specified. Pursuant to that authority, the department adopted regulations known as the Safer Consumer Products Regulations. This bill would authorize, but not require, that those regulations evaluate uses of PFAS in products that would be prohibited by the provisions in paragraph (1). [Last amended: 4/10/2025](#), [Status: Re-referred to Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials](#). [Inactive Bill - Died](#)

AB 998, as amended, Hadwick. Household hazardous waste: vape pens.

Under existing law, the Department of Toxic Substances Control generally regulates the management and handling of hazardous waste and hazardous materials. Existing law authorizes certain entities to operate household hazardous waste collection facilities, as defined, under permits issued by the department. A violation of the hazardous waste control laws is a crime. [This bill would, until January 1, 2029, require the department to evaluate opportunities to increase safety and convenience related to the management and disposal of vape pens confiscated from students by a school, as provided, and identify any recommendations that require future legislative action.](#) The bill would authorize a household hazardous waste collection facility to conduct physical treatment activities involving the disassembly of household hazardous waste to separate batteries, valves, electronic components and other parts containing liquids or gases, including, but not limited to, the disassembly of vape pens, in a manner that does not result in the unauthorized release of hazardous materials. Existing law authorizes a public agency, or its contractor, to conduct a materials exchange program at a household hazardous waste collection facility to make reusable household hazardous products or materials available to recipients, as a part of its household hazardous waste collection program, if the public agency, or its contractor, complies with specified requirements. The bill would prohibit a public agency, or its contractor, from including vape pens in a materials exchange program. Because a violation of these provisions would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last amended: 7/17/2025](#), [Status: Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file](#). [In committee: Held under submission](#).

AB 1617 as introduced, Alanis. Household hazardous waste: reporting.

Existing regulations require each public agency that is responsible for household hazardous waste management to complete and submit a “Form 303 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Report” (Form 303) electronically to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery each year. Existing regulations require the reporting timeframe to be July 1 of the previous fiscal year through June 30 of that fiscal year, with the information required to be submitted to the state by October 1 of the following fiscal year. Existing law requires a public agency, or its contractor,

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operating a household hazardous waste collection facility to, on or before October 1 of each year, submit a copy of the completed Form 303 to the officer or agency authorized to implement and enforce specified hazardous materials laws. This bill would require that Form 303 to instead report information for the prior calendar year. [Introduced 1/21/2026](#), [Active Bill - In Committee Process](#), [Senate Environmental Quality Committee Hearing Date: 6/3/2026](#).

AB 2245, as amended, [Michelle Rodriguez](#). **Lubricants waste: packaging: producer responsibility.**

(1) Under existing law, as part of the hazardous waste control laws, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) generally regulates the management and handling of hazardous waste and hazardous materials. Existing law authorizes a public agency, as defined, to operate a household hazardous waste collection facility under permit from DTSC. The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, which is administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), requires a city and a county to prepare and submit to CalRecycle a countywide integrated waste management plan. The act requires the plan to include a household hazardous waste element that identifies a program in each city and county for the safe collection, recycling, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes that are generated by households. The California Oil Recycling Enhancement Act, administered by CalRecycle, establishes a used oil recycling program to promote and develop alternatives to illegal disposal of used oil. The act imposes a charge for every gallon of lubricating oil sold or transferred in the state, or imported into the state for use in the state, as specified. This bill would create a producer responsibility program for lubricants waste that is not covered by the act, and packaging associated with lubricant products, and would require a producer responsibility organization (PRO) to provide a convenient collection and management system for covered products at no cost to residents. The bill would define “covered product” to mean a petroleum-based automotive product and other related products, including original packaging, as specified. The bill would require a producer of a covered product to register with the PRO, which would be required to develop and implement a producer responsibility plan for the collection and the safe and proper management of covered products. The bill would require CalRecycle, in coordination with DTSC, to adopt regulations to implement the program with an effective date no earlier than January 1, 2029. This bill would require the PRO, within 12 months of the effective date of the regulations, to submit a product responsibility plan to CalRecycle. The bill would require the plan to include specified elements, including a funding mechanism that provides sufficient funding to carry out the plan. The bill would require, within 6 months of receipt of the plan, CalRecycle, in collaboration with DTSC, to approve, approve in part, or disapprove the plan, as specified. The bill would require CalRecycle to notify the PRO of its decision. If CalRecycle does not approve the plan in full, then the bill would require CalRecycle to specify the reasons for disapproval or identify the portions of the partially approved plan that do not comply with the program, as applicable. The bill would require the PRO to submit a revised plan if its plan is not fully approved. This bill would require the PRO to implement its plan within 90 days of approval. The bill would require the plan to be fully funded in a manner that equitably distributes the plan’s costs among participant producers, as specified. The bill would require the PRO to reimburse local jurisdictions for costs associated with the collection and management of covered products, pursuant to mutually agreed upon terms, if the PRO’s plan relies on local jurisdictions to collect or manage covered products. This bill would require the PRO to prepare and submit to CalRecycle an annual report describing the activities carried out pursuant to the plan. The bill would require the PRO to retain specified documents, annually audit its accounting books, and make documents available to CalRecycle for review, as specified. The bill would require all reports

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SB 404, as amended, Caballero. Hazardous materials: metal shredding facilities.

Existing law authorizes the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), in consultation with the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, the State Water Resources Control Board, and affected local air quality management districts, to adopt regulations to establish management standards for metal shredding facilities for hazardous waste management activities within the DTSC's jurisdiction, as provided. Existing law provides that treated metal shredder waste that is managed in accordance with those regulations is deemed to be solid waste, and not hazardous waste, as provided. This bill would repeal those provisions. The bill would establish a comprehensive scheme for the regulation of metal shredding facilities that would be administered by the DTSC pursuant to authority separate from laws governing the control of hazardous waste. The bill would prohibit an owner or operator from operating a metal shredding facility, as defined, in

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the state unless they have a permit from the DTSC or are deemed to have a permit. The bill would prescribe the requirements for obtaining a permit, for being deemed to have a permit, for operating a metal shredding facility, and for transporting certain materials related to metal shredding, as specified. The bill would require, before a decision is made to approve or deny the application, the DTSC to hold a public meeting, as provided. [The bill would require the department to take final action on a permit application by an existing facility within 3 years, as provided. The bill would require the department to post on its internet website general information about each metal shredding facility that has applied for or obtained a permit, and to conduct at least one site visit to the applicant's facility after receipt of the permit application.](#) The bill would provide that certain materials related to metal shredding are not hazardous waste if they meet specified requirements. The bill would require any report required to be submitted by a metal shredding facility pursuant to a permit issued to be signed by the owner or operator and certified under penalty of law, including criminal penalties, as specified. Because the bill would expand the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require an owner or operator of a metal shredding facility to report to the DTSC certain emergency situations, as specified. The bill would require an owner or operator of a metal shredding facility to submit to the DTSC a closure plan and a cost estimate for closing the metal shredding facility, as specified. [The bill would also require the owner or operator of a metal shredding facility to provide written notice to the department at least 60 days before transferring ownership or operation of the facility.](#) The bill would authorize the DTSC to enforce these provisions by revoking permits and by other specified means. The bill would authorize the DTSC to adopt regulations for the operation of metal shredding facilities as necessary to implement the requirements of the bill. The bill would require the DTSC to post information provided by owners and operators regarding a metal shredding facility on the department's internet website in a manner that is readily accessible to the public, except as otherwise required pursuant to existing law. Existing law authorizes the DTSC to collect an annual fee from all metal shredding facilities subject to the requirements of hazardous waste control laws or the DTSC's management standards for metal shredding facilities, as provided. Existing law requires the DTSC to adopt regulations necessary to administer the fee and authorizes the DTSC to adopt those regulations using emergency procedures, as provided. Existing law requires the Controller to establish a separate subaccount in the Hazardous Waste Control Account and for all fees collected to be placed into that subaccount, to be available for expenditure by the DTSC upon appropriation by the Legislature. This bill would instead require the DTSC to impose an annual fee on all metal shredding facilities subject to the provisions of this bill, as specified. The bill would require the DTSC to adopt regulations necessary to administer the fee and would authorize the DTSC to adopt the regulations using emergency procedures, as specified. [The bill would require a person who applies for a metal shredding facility permit to enter into a written agreement with the department pursuant to which that person would be required to reimburse the department for the direct costs reasonably incurred by the department in processing the application, as provided.](#) The bill would require the Controller to establish a new and separate Metal Shredders Facility Account and would require all fees collected to be placed into that account and made available for expenditure by the DTSC solely for the purpose of implementation and administration of these provisions, upon appropriation by the Legislature. The bill would include findings that changes proposed by this bill address a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair and, therefore, apply to all cities, including charter cities. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last amended: 7/17/2025](#), [Status: with Assembly Appropriations, committee hearing scheduled for 8/29/2025](#). [Vetoed by Governor 10/13/2025](#), [In Senate. Consideration of Governor's veto pending](#). [Inactive Bill - Vetoed](#)

SB 561, as amended, Blakespear. Hazardous waste: Emergency Distress Flare Safe Disposal Act. (1) Under existing law, as part of the hazardous waste control laws, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) generally regulates the management and handling of hazardous waste and hazardous materials. Except as specified, a violation of the hazardous waste control laws is a crime. This bill would create a manufacturer responsibility program for the safe and proper management of emergency distress flares. The bill would define “covered product” to include certain pyrotechnic devices that meet the criteria for household hazardous waste, as specified. The bill would require a manufacturer of a covered product, individually or through a manufacturer responsibility organization, to develop and implement a manufacturer responsibility plan for the collection, transportation, and the safe and proper management of covered products, as specified. The bill would establish a process and timeline for DTSC to review and approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve a plan and for the implementation of an approved plan. The bill would require that an approved plan be published on DTSC’s internet website, except for specified manufacturer data that would not be open to public inspection. The bill would require, on or before January 1, 2027, DTSC to adopt regulations to implement the act. This bill would require a manufacturer or manufacturer responsibility organization to prepare and submit to DTSC and make publicly available an annual report describing the activities carried out pursuant to the plan. The bill would require the annual report to include an application for renewal of the manufacturer’s responsibility plan. The bill would require all reports and records provided to DTSC pursuant to the act to be provided under the penalty of perjury. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill would require a manufacturer or manufacturer responsibility organization to pay DTSC all actual and reasonable regulatory costs for DTSC to implement and enforce the act, as provided. The bill would authorize DTSC to use funds appropriated for purposes that are consistent with this act to implement and enforce the act and would require DTSC to repay those funds, as specified below. The bill would establish the Marine Flare Recovery Fund in the State Treasury and would require the charges collected by DTSC to be deposited into that account for expenditure by DTSC, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to cover DTSC’s cost to implement and enforce the act and to repay the use of specified funds, as described above. This bill would prohibit a manufacturer, retailer, dealer, importer, or distributor from selling, distributing, offering for sale, or importing a covered product in or into the state that contains perchlorate. By adding new requirements to the hazardous waste control laws, this bill would expand the scope of a crime and would impose a state-mandated local program. (2) Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest. This bill would make legislative findings to that effect. (3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last amended: 6/23/2025](#), [Status: with Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials committee. Second hearing canceled at the request of author 7/11/2025](#).

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SB 811, as amended, Caballero. Hazardous materials: metal shredding facilities.

Existing law authorizes the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), in consultation with the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, the State Water Resources Control Board, and affected local air quality management districts, to adopt regulations to establish management standards for metal shredding facilities for hazardous waste management activities within the DTSC's jurisdiction, as provided. Existing law provides that treated metal shredder waste that is managed in accordance with those regulations is deemed to be solid waste, and not hazardous waste, as provided. This bill would repeal those provisions. The bill would establish a comprehensive scheme for the regulation of metal shredding facilities that would be administered by the DTSC pursuant to authority separate from laws governing the control of hazardous waste. The bill would prohibit an owner or operator from operating a metal shredding facility, as defined, in the state unless they have a permit from the DTSC or are deemed to have a permit. The bill would prescribe the requirements for obtaining a permit, for being deemed to have a permit, for operating a metal shredding facility, and for transporting certain materials related to metal shredding, as specified. The bill would require, before a decision is made to approve or deny the application, the DTSC to hold a public meeting, as provided. The bill would require the department to take final action on a permit application by an existing facility within 3 years, as provided. The bill would require the department to post on its internet website general information about each metal shredding facility that has applied for or obtained a permit, and to conduct at least one site visit to the applicant's facility after receipt of the permit application. The bill would provide that certain materials related to metal shredding are not hazardous waste if they meet specified requirements. The bill would require any report required to be submitted by a metal shredding facility pursuant to a permit issued to be signed by the owner or operator and certified under penalty of law, including criminal penalties, as specified. The bill would require the DTSC to have primary responsibility for enforcing these provisions, would require the DTSC to conduct an annual compliance evaluation inspection of each metal shredding facility, and would authorize the DTSC to refer violations to a district attorney or the Attorney General for prosecution. The bill would also require the DTSC to inform the local health officer and the director of environmental health of a county, city, or district within 15 days after the DTSC becomes aware of any unlawful disposal of materials, as provided, and of any enforcement action against a metal shredding facility as a result of that unlawful disposal. Because the bill would expand the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require an owner or operator of a metal shredding facility to report to the DTSC certain emergency situations, as specified. The bill would require an owner or operator of a metal shredding facility to submit to the DTSC a closure plan and a cost estimate for closing the metal shredding facility, as specified. The bill would also require the owner or operator of a metal shredding facility to provide written notice to the department at least 60 days before transferring ownership or operation of the facility. The bill would authorize the DTSC to enforce these provisions by revoking permits and by other specified means. The bill would authorize the DTSC to adopt regulations for the operation of metal shredding facilities as necessary to implement the requirements of the bill. The bill would require the DTSC to post information provided by owners and operators regarding a metal shredding facility on the department's internet website in a manner that is readily accessible to the public, except as otherwise required pursuant to existing law. Existing law authorizes the DTSC to collect an annual fee from all metal shredding facilities subject to the requirements of hazardous waste control laws or the DTSC's management standards for metal shredding facilities, as provided. Existing law requires the DTSC to adopt

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials regulations necessary to administer the fee and authorizes the DTSC to adopt those regulations using emergency procedures, as provided. Existing law requires the Controller to establish a separate subaccount in the Hazardous Waste Control Account and for all fees collected to be placed into that subaccount, to be available for expenditure by the DTSC upon appropriation by the Legislature. This bill would instead require the DTSC to impose an annual fee on all metal shredding facilities subject to the provisions of this bill, as specified. The bill would require, beginning in the 2027–28 fiscal year, the rates established by the DTSC to be reviewed and increased or decreased annually, as provided. The bill would require the DTSC to adopt regulations necessary to administer the fee and would authorize the DTSC to adopt the regulations using emergency procedures, as specified. The bill would require a person who applies for a metal shredding facility permit to enter into a written agreement with the department pursuant to which that person would be required to reimburse the department for the direct costs reasonably incurred by the department in processing the application, as provided. The bill would require the Controller to establish a new and separate Metal Shredding Facility subaccount to be administered by the Director of Toxic Substances Control and would require all fees collected to be placed into that subaccount and made available for expenditure by the DTSC solely for the purpose of implementation and administration of these provisions, upon appropriation by the Legislature. Existing law requires the DTSC to require metal shredding facilities to monitor hazardous waste constituents requested by the DTSC and to report the results of that monitoring to the DTSC. Existing law also requires the DTSC to collect and analyze light fibrous material at the fence lines to determine the potential for release of hazardous waste. Existing law requires, on or before July 1, 2027, the DTSC to develop a procedure for community notification of the public for the area in which the metal shredding facility is located if that monitoring indicates any release of light fibrous material. In addition, existing law requires, on or before January 1, 2027, an air pollution control district or an air quality management district the jurisdiction of which includes metal shredding facilities, in consultation with the DTSC and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), to develop requirements for facilitywide fence-line air quality monitoring at metal shredding facilities. Existing law authorizes any reasonable regulatory costs incurred by the DTSC in implementing, and requires that the OEHHA's costs to implement, the above-described duties be reimbursed from a subaccount established in the Hazardous Waste Control Account for the deposit of fees from metal shredding facilities. This bill would limit the scope of those provisions to metal shredding facilities that are subject to the other provisions of the bill and would provide for the reimbursement of those costs from the Metal Shredding Facility Subaccount. The bill would include findings that changes proposed by this bill address a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair and, therefore, apply to all cities, including charter cities. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last Amended 1/22/2026, Active Bill - Pending Referral.](#) [Active Bill - In Committee Process.](#) [Referred to Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials 5/4/2026](#)

SB 1263, as introduced, [McGuire](#). **Contractors: debris removal.**

Existing law, the Contractors State License Law, provides for the licensure and regulation of contractors by the Contractors State License Board. Existing law prohibits contractors from performing specified acts. Existing law requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery or another state agency tasked to manage contracts for wildfire debris cleanup and

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials removal by the Office of Emergency Services to prequalify contractors to enter into contracts to perform prescribed wildfire debris cleanup and removal work in communities impacted by wildfires. Notwithstanding the prequalification requirement, this bill would prohibit a contractor from engaging in debris removal in a declared disaster area, unless the contractor has one of specified license or classifications. During a declared federal, state, or local emergency or for a declared disaster area due to a natural disaster, the bill would require any licensee authorized to perform debris removal under these provisions to pass an approved hazardous substance certification examination and comply with hazardous waste operation and emergency response requirements, as specified. [Introduced 2/19/2026](#), [Active Bill - In Committee Process](#)

Illegal Dumping

AB 1153, as amended, Bonta. [Illegal](#) disposal site abatement. The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, which is administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, establishes an integrated waste management program. The act requires the department to initiate a program for the cleanup of solid waste disposal sites and for cleanup of solid waste at codisposal sites where no responsible party is available to pay for timely remediation, and where cleanup is needed to protect public health and safety or the environment. This bill would authorize the [department, upon appropriation by the Legislature](#), to expend funds [to remove and dispose](#) of recreational vehicles, as defined, [to develop](#) enforcement strategies, and [to develop](#) local enforcement teams and illegal dumping enforcement officers, as specified. [Amended: 4/22/2025](#), [Status: Hearing postponed by Assembly Natural Resources committee 5/23/2025](#). [Last amended 1/22/2026](#), [Active Bill – Pending Referral](#). [Active Bill - In Committee Process](#). [Senate Environmental Quality Committee Hearing Date 6/3/2026](#).

AB 2310, as amended, Carrillo. [Illegal dumping](#).

Existing law makes it unlawful to dump waste matter in certain locations, such as upon a public or private highway or road, upon private property without the consent of the owner, or in or upon a public park or other public property, as specified. Existing law also makes it unlawful to place, deposit, or dump rocks, concrete, asphalt, or dirt in certain locations, as specified. A person violating these provisions is guilty of an infraction, as specified. Existing law makes a violation of these provisions in commercial quantities, as defined, a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail and by a fine, as specified. Under existing law, a private owner is not restricted in the use of their own private property, unless the placing, depositing, or dumping of the waste matter on the property creates a public health and safety hazard, a public nuisance, or a fire hazard, as determined by a local health or fire department or the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. This bill would make it a crime to transport waste matter, rocks, concrete, asphalt, dirt, or other construction debris for the purpose of placing, depositing, or dumping it in the locations described above. The bill would make a person violating these provisions 4 or more times guilty of a misdemeanor, as specified. The bill would also make it unlawful to transport for the purpose of placing, depositing, or dumping waste matter, rocks, concrete, asphalt, dirt or other construction debris in commercial quantities, as defined, in the locations described above. The bill would specify that the fact that a person is operating a vehicle with actual or apparent rocks, concrete, asphalt, dirt, or other construction debris in their vehicle does not in itself constitute reasonable suspicion to stop or detain the person, or probable cause to arrest the person. For a person who violates these provisions in commercial quantities in excess of 25 cubic yards, the bill would make

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that violation a misdemeanor punishable in a county jail for not more than one year and by a fine, as specified. For commercial quantities in excess of 50 cubic yards, the bill would make a violation punishable as a misdemeanor or a felony, as specified. By expanding the application of a crime and creating new crimes, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would specify that a private owner or a person with the owner's permission is prohibited from placing, depositing, dumping, or transporting waste matter, rocks concrete, asphalt, dirt, or construction debris on their property if the activity requires a permit or license from a state or local agency and one was not obtained, or creates a public health and safety hazard, a public nuisance, or a fire hazard, as determined by specified entities. The bill would prohibit a person from being charged with dumping commercial quantities under these provisions if it was completed during the course of the person's employment and at the direction of their employer, as specified. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last Amended 5/18/2026 Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate 5/26/2026. Active Bill - Pending Referral](#)

SB 1230, as introduced, Valladares. Solid waste: illegal dumping: penalties: resources.

(1) Existing law prohibits the dumping of waste matter upon a road or highway or in other locations, as specified. A violation of this prohibition, generally, is an infraction punishable by specified fines that escalate for subsequent convictions. Under existing law, the dumping of commercial quantities of waste, as defined, is punishable as a misdemeanor and also includes escalating fines. This bill would increase the fine for the dumping of waste matter from not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,500 to not less than \$1,500 nor more than \$3,000 for the 2nd conviction, and from not less than \$750 nor more than \$3,000 to not less than \$3,000 nor more than \$5,000 for the 3rd and any subsequent convictions. The bill would increase the fine for the dumping of commercial quantities of waste from not less than \$3,000 nor more than \$6,000 to not less than \$6,000 nor more than \$10,000 for the 2nd conviction and from not less than \$6,000 nor more than \$10,000 to not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$15,000 for the 3rd and any subsequent convictions. The bill would increase the fine for the dumping of commercial quantities of waste by a business that employs more than 10 employees from not less than \$3,000 nor more than \$10,000 to not less than \$6,000 nor more than \$10,000 for the 2nd conviction and from not less than \$6,000 nor more than \$20,000 to not less than \$15,000 nor more than \$25,000 for the 3rd and any subsequent convictions. (2) Existing law establishes the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery and vests the department with all of the authority, duties, powers, purposes, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the former California Integrated Waste Management Board, except as specified. This bill would require the department to be the lead state agency to act as a resource for cities and counties to address illegal dumping and would require the department to create an internet website with resources to help cities and counties combat, prevent, and clean up illegal dumping, as specified. [Introduced 2/19/2026. Active Bill - In Floor Process, Ordered to third reading in Senate.](#)

Landfill Management

AB 28, as amended, Schiavo. Solid waste landfills: subsurface temperatures.

(1) The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), generally regulates the disposal, management,

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials and recycling of solid waste, as defined. The act authorizes CalRecycle to certify a local enforcement agency and requires CalRecycle and certified local enforcement agencies to perform specified functions with regard to the regulation of solid waste management, including issuing and enforcing solid waste facility permits. The act prohibits a person from operating a solid waste facility without a solid waste facilities permit, as provided. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 charges the State Air Resources Board with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases that cause global warming in order to reduce emission of greenhouse gases. The act requires the state board to adopt rules and regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions reductions, as provided. This bill would require the state board to amend its regulations on methane emissions from a municipal solid waste landfill (MSW landfill) to establish requirements for the monitoring of landfill gas temperature. The bill would require the operator of an MSW landfill to monitor landfill gas temperature in accordance with those regulations. If the gas temperature is 131 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for longer than 2 consecutive monthly monitoring periods covering 60 consecutive days, and if other criteria established by CalRecycle are met or exceeded, the bill would require the operator of the MSW landfill to take specified actions, including, but not limited to, filing a corrective action plan for review by the local enforcement agency, as defined, and the department. If the gas temperature is 146 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for longer than 2-3 consecutive monthly monitoring periods covering 60 consecutive days, and if other criteria established by CalRecycle are met or exceeded, the bill would require additional actions, including, but not limited to, the operator of the MSW landfill submitting corrective action plans to a multiagency coordination group, established by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), as specified. If the gas temperature is 170 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for longer than 3 consecutive monthly monitoring periods covering 60 consecutive days, and if other criteria established by CalRecycle are met or exceeded, the bill would require additional actions, as specified. The bill would require CalRecycle to establish the other criteria by emergency regulation. If an operator of an MSW landfill fails to provide notice of a sustained gas temperature by the specified due date, the bill would authorize CalRecycle or a local enforcement agency to impose a penalty of \$10,000 per day. The bill would require CalRecycle or a local enforcement agency to impose a penalty not to exceed \$1,000,000 for each week that the gas temperature is 170 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for longer than 3 consecutive monthly monitoring periods covering 60 consecutive days, if specified criteria are met or exceeded. The bill would require all penalties to be deposited into the Landfill Subsurface Fire Mitigation Account, which the bill would create, to be used upon appropriation by the Legislature to mitigate harm to a person or community adversely affected by a solid waste landfill with a gas temperature of 131 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for longer than 2 consecutive monthly monitoring periods covering 60 consecutive days. The bill would require any permit suspended pursuant to these provisions to be reinstated when, among others, gas temperature decreases to below 131 degrees Fahrenheit for 3 consecutive monthly monitoring periods covering 60 consecutive days or longer, as specified. This bill would make an operator of an MSW landfill liable to CalRecycle and the local enforcement agency for their costs, as specified. The bill would exempt from the Administrative Procedure Act specified requirements that the bill authorizes CalRecycle to impose on the operator of an MSW landfill. By creating new duties for a local enforcement agency, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. Existing federal regulations require the owner of an MSW landfill with a gas collection and control system to operate each interior wellhead in the collection system with a landfill gas temperature less than 131 degrees Fahrenheit, unless the federal Environmental Protection Agency approves a higher

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Bills relating to waste management, recycling, and hazardous materials operating temperature, as provided. This bill would require an operator of an MSW landfill to provide notice to the local enforcement agency, CalRecycle, and any other state agency designated by CalEPA regarding a request for a higher operating temperature, as specified. (2) This bill would declare its provisions to be severable. (3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above. [Last amended: 9/03/2025, Status Ordered to inactive file at the request of Senator Blakespear. 9/03/2025. Active Bill – In floor process.](#)

SB 594, as amended, Padilla. Waste discharge permits: landfills.

Under existing law, the State Water Resources Control Board and the 9 California regional water quality control boards regulate water quality and prescribe waste discharge requirements in accordance with the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and the federal national pollutant discharge elimination system permit program established by the federal Clean Water Act. The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 prohibits a regional board from issuing a waste discharge permit for a new landfill, or a lateral expansion of an existing landfill, that is used for the disposal of nonhazardous solid waste if the land has been primarily used at any time for the mining or excavation of gravel or sand, except as specified. This bill would prohibit a state agency from issuing a waste discharge permit for a new Class III landfill, as defined, [unless certain conditions are met, including, but not limited to, the county board of supervisors for the county in which the proposed project resides has held a separate publicly noticed hearing to consider whether the proposed landfill is consistent with the goals, policies, and objectives of the environmental justice element of the county's general plan.](#) To the extent that the bill would require counties to perform additional duties related to application for a new Class III landfill, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above. [Last amended: 6/24/2025, Active Bill - In Committee Process. Status: first hearing canceled at the request of author 7/01/2025.](#)

Organic Waste Reduction

AB 643, as amended, Wilson. Climate change: short-lived climate pollutants: organic waste reduction. Existing law establishes methane emissions reduction goals that include a target to reduce landfill disposal of organics by 75% of the 2014 level of the statewide disposal of organic waste by 2025. Existing law requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board, to adopt regulations to achieve the organic waste reduction goals. Existing law authorizes a local jurisdiction to count [specified recovered organic waste products](#) towards [up to 10%](#) of its recovered organic waste procurement target. This bill would [additionally](#) authorize a local jurisdiction to [count](#) organic material used as a beneficial agricultural amendment towards [up to that 10%](#) of its recovered organic waste procurement target if the material is processed at a facility authorized by the department using specified approved

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Plastics

AB 823, as amended, Boerner. Solid waste: plastic microbeads: plastic glitter.

The Plastic Microbeads Nuisance Prevention Law imposes a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 per day for each violation of the prohibition, as provided, and authorizes the Attorney General and local officials to enforce the prohibition. This bill would, on and after January 1, 2029, prohibit a person from selling, offering for sale, distributing, or offering for promotional purposes in this state a personal care product containing plastic glitter, or a personal care product in a non-rinse-off product or a cleaning product containing one ppm or more by weight of plastic microbeads that are used as an abrasive, as specified. The bill would authorize, until January 1, 2030, a person to continue to sell, offer for sale, distribute, or offer for promotional purposes in this state an existing stock of personal care products containing plastic glitter, as specified. By adding these prohibitions to the Plastic Microbeads Nuisance Prevention Law, the bill would impose the civil penalty for violations of these prohibitions. Last amended: 5/23/2025, Status: Senate 3rd reading of Assembly Bills 8/27/2025. Vetoed by Governor 10/11/2025, Consideration of Governor's veto pending. Inactive Bill – Vetoed.

AB 2226, as introduced, Blanca Rubio. Reusable grocery bags.

Existing law prohibits a store, as defined, from providing a precheckout bag, as defined, to a customer unless the precheckout bag is a compostable bag that meets certain criteria or a recycled paper bag. Existing law defines a “precheckout bag” for this purpose to mean a bag provided to a customer before the customer reaches the point of sale, that is designed to protect a purchased item from damaging or contaminating other purchased items in a checkout bag, or to contain an unwrapped food item. This bill would repeal those provisions. Active Bill - In Committee Process. Hearing postponed by committee on 4/2/2026, 4/10/2026, and 4/23/2026.

SB 1180, as amended, Allen. Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act: California Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund.

Existing law, the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act (act), regulates certain single-use packaging and plastic single-use food service ware, as provided. As part of its comprehensive statutory scheme, the act requires producers of covered materials to reduce and recycle covered plastic material and to ensure that covered materials that are offered for sale, distributed, or imported in or into the state on or after January 1, 2032, are recyclable or compostable, as provided. The act establishes, until January 1, 2037, the California Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund, which consists of all environmental mitigation surcharges, interest, penalties, and other amounts collected pursuant to the act, as provided. The act requires, upon appropriation by the Legislature, that 60% of the moneys in the fund be expended to monitor and

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reduce the historical and current environmental justice and public health impacts of plastics, and that 40% of the moneys in the fund be expended to monitor and reduce the environmental impacts of plastics on terrestrial, aquatic, and marine life and human health.

This bill would, among other things, require each expenditure made upon appropriation from the fund to comply with specified requirements, including, among others, prioritizing programs, projects, and initiatives that benefit communities most burdened by the impacts of plastic pollution and that provide multiple benefits. The bill would require each of those expenditures to achieve one or more of specified purposes, including, among others, sustained mitigation of the adverse health impacts of plastics, supporting a reduction in plastic production, use, and disposal, and supporting research, data collection, and monitoring activities, as specified. The bill would require each department, agency, or entity implementing a grant program funded by the fund to take specified actions, such as providing technical assistance and using a single standardized, simplified application across all of those entities. The bill would require reimbursement of a grantee's or subgrantee's indirect costs by applying one of 4 enumerated rates. The bill would authorize moneys from the fund to be expended on implementing the bill and would prohibit moneys from the fund from being expended on specified purposes. The bill would expand the entities eligible to receive grants from the fund, as specified. This bill would require the Secretary for Environmental Protection to annually publish a list of all program, project, and initiative expenditures made pursuant to the fund, as specified. [Last Amended 5/14/2026, In Assembly, Read first time. 5/20/2026 Held at Desk, Referred to Committee on Natural Resources. 5/26/2026](#)

Recycling

[AB 1149, as amended, Jackson. Recycling: market development payments: polyethylene terephthalate plastic.](#)

The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act requires a distributor of beverage containers to pay to the department a redemption payment for every beverage container sold or offered for sale, as provided. The act requires the department to deposit those amounts into the California Beverage Container Recycling Fund. The act requires the fund to be continuously appropriated to the department for specified purposes, including, among other things, to pay refund values, administrative fees, and processing payments associated with the collection and recycling of empty beverage containers. Until July 1, 2027, the act authorizes the department to pay a market development payment to a reclaimer for empty plastic beverage containers and to a product manufacturer for plastic flake, pellet, sheet, or other form of plastic purchased from a reclaimer, as provided. Through the 2025–26 fiscal year, the act continuously appropriates money from the fund to the department for market development payments to reclaimers and product manufacturers for empty plastic beverage containers, as provided. This bill would require the department to establish a singular market development payment for empty polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic beverage containers collected for recycling and a singular market development payment for PET plastic collected and processed into flake or pellet, as specified. By authorizing a new use for continuously appropriated funds, this bill would make an appropriation. The bill would authorize the department to expend up to \$35,000,000 annually for market development payments to reclaimers and product manufacturers. The bill would extend the department's authority to pay a market development payment from July 1, 2027, to July 1, 2029, inclusive. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute. [Last Amended 4/29/2026. Active Bill - In Committee Process, Re-referred to Senate Committee on](#)

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[AB 2253](#), as amended, Boerner. [Solid waste: products: environmental marketing claims](#).

Existing law requires a manufacturer or supplier making an environmental marketing claim relating to the recycled content of a plastic food container product to maintain specified information and documentation in written form in its records in support of that claim. Existing law requires the maintained information to include that the recycled content for materials has been diverted from the solid waste stream either during the manufacturing process (preconsumer) or after consumer use (postconsumer) and that the recycled content claim conforms to the uniform standards for recycled content contained in the Federal Trade Commission Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims. Existing law provides for the imposition of a civil penalty by a city, county, or the state for a violation of these provisions. This bill would expand the application of those provisions from plastic food container products to all products. The bill would revise the reference to the Federal Trade Commission Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims to specifically refer to those guides as they read on January 1, 2026. The bill would additionally require documentation in written form that the recycled content claim is based on the actual physical recycled content used in the production of the product, calculated as specified, without the use of certain types of accounting. The bill would define “postconsumer” for purposes of these provisions. [Last Amended 4/8/2026](#), [Read second time](#). [Ordered to third reading 5/18/2026](#). [Active Bill - In Floor Process](#)

Stewardship

AB 80, as amended, Aguiar-Curry. [Carpet recycling](#).

(1) The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, generally regulates the disposal, management, and recycling of solid waste. The act establishes stewardship programs for various products, including, among others, carpet. The act includes a product stewardship for carpet program and a successor carpet producer responsibility program, and requires the product stewardship for carpet program to become inoperative upon the completion of certain conditions related to the implementation of the successor carpet producer responsibility program. Existing law, the product stewardship for carpet program, requires a manufacturer of carpets sold in this state, individually or through a carpet stewardship organization, to submit a carpet stewardship plan to the department, which is required to include specified elements, including achieving specified carpet recycling rates and a funding mechanism that provides sufficient funding to carry out the plan. Existing law authorizes the department to administratively impose a civil penalty of [\\$10,000 per day](#) on any person in violation of the program [or \\$25,000 per day](#) if the violation is intentional, knowing, or negligent, [as specified](#). This bill would instead authorize [the department to impose administrative, rather than civil, penalties in those amounts, and to impose an administrative](#) penalty of \$25,000 per day if the violation is intentional or knowing. Existing law requires a carpet stewardship organization to include nonvoting board members with representation from, among others, a retailer that sells carpet. This bill would instead require the stewardship organization to create a governing board for the stewardship program, as specified. (2) Existing law, the successor carpet producer responsibility program, requires producers of covered products to form and join a single producer responsibility organization (PRO) for the collection and recycling of a covered product. Existing law

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[AB 2462, as introduced, Pellerin. Unsafe products: disposal: penalties.](#)

Existing law, the Product Recall Safety and Protection Act, provides for the establishment and enforcement of various product safety standards for consumer products, and prohibits a commercial dealer, manufacturer, importer, distributor, wholesaler, or retailer from placing into the stream of commerce a product that is unsafe, knowing that the product is unsafe. For purposes

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of the act, a manufacturer is any person who makes, and places into the stream of commerce, a product. This bill would instead state that a manufacturer is a person who manufactures a product and who owns or is the licensee of the brand or trademark under which the product is sold, as specified. Under the act, a manufacturer is required to provide for the safe return or appropriate disposal of an unsafe product at no cost to the end consumer or retailer in a manner that is in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances. This bill would instead require the safe return or appropriate disposal of the unsafe product to be at no cost to the end consumer, a recycling center, a municipal facility that accepts the product for recycling or disposal, a retailer that sells the product, a permitted solid waste facility, a household hazardous waste collection facility, and a thrift retail store. Existing law provides that any violation of the act is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per occurrence, up to a maximum of \$20,000. This bill would instead authorize the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to administratively impose an administrative penalty on a person in violation of the act of \$2,500 per day or \$5,000 per day if the violation is intentional or knowing, as specified. The bill would require the department to establish through regulations a process by which the penalties will be assessed, including an informal hearing, as specified. The bill would create the Product Recall Penalty Account in the State Treasury and would require the department to deposit the penalties collected into the account. The bill would require moneys in the account, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be available for expenditure by the department for certain purposes. The bill would authorize the department to refer enforcement to the Department of Toxic Substances Control for unsafe products identified as hazardous waste, and would create the Hazardous Product Recall Penalty Account in the State Treasury. The bill would require moneys in the account, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be available for expenditure by the Department of Toxic Substances Control for certain purposes. [Introduced 2/20/2026, Active Bill - In Committee Process](#)

SB 501, as amended, Allen. Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022: covered batteries. Existing law, the Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022 (battery recycling act), establishes a stewardship program, administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, with the Department of Toxic Substances Control, as provided, for the collection, transportation, and recycling, and the safe and proper management, of covered batteries in the state in an economically efficient and practical manner. The battery recycling act defines a “covered battery” to mean a device consisting of one or more electrically connected electrochemical cells designed to receive, store, and deliver electric energy. Existing law defines a “covered battery” to include a loose battery that is designed to be easily removed from a product by the user of the product with no more than common household tools. Existing law excludes from the definition of a covered battery a primary battery weighing over 2 kilograms. Existing law defines a “primary battery” for this purpose to mean a nonrechargeable battery, including, but not limited to, alkaline, carbon-zinc, and lithium metal batteries. Existing law also excludes from the definition of a covered battery a rechargeable battery weighing over 5 kilograms and having a watt-hour rating of more than 300 watt-hours. This bill would revise the description of a loose battery, for purposes of the definition of a covered battery, by providing that a key, application, or other locking device provided to the consumer by the producer of the product or battery that is warranted by the producer of the product or battery to serve solely to prevent theft of the battery or tampering by persons other than the consumer and not to inhibit the consumer’s ability to remove, replace, or recycle the battery would not prevent a battery from being considered designed to be easily removed from a product by the user of the product with no more than common household tools. The bill would **remove the**

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exclusions from the definition of a covered battery for a primary battery and a rechargeable battery, described above. The bill would categorize all covered batteries as either a small format battery or a medium format battery. The bill would define a “small format battery” to include a rechargeable battery weighing no more than 11 pounds with a rating of no more than 300 watthours and a nonrechargeable battery weighing no more than 4.4 pounds. The bill would define a “medium format battery” to include a rechargeable battery weighing more than 11 pounds but no more than 25 pounds, a rechargeable battery with a rating of more than 300 watthours but no more than 2,000 watthours, and a nonrechargeable battery weighing more than 4.4 pounds but fewer than 25 pounds. The act requires a producer of covered batteries, individually or through a stewardship organization, to develop and implement a stewardship plan for the collection, transportation, and recycling, and the safe and proper management, of covered batteries in the state. The act requires the stewardship plan to describe how the producer or stewardship organization will provide a certain number of collection sites for covered batteries in each county, as provided. This bill would instead require the stewardship plan to describe how the producer or stewardship organization will provide a certain number of collection sites for small format batteries and medium format batteries, as specified. The battery recycling act requires all reports and records provided to the department to be provided under penalty of perjury. By expanding the scope of the act, the bill would expand the scope of the crime of perjury, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last amended 1/14/2026, Active bill- pending referral. Active Bill - In Committee Process, Referred to Committees on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials and Natural Resources 5/4/2026.](#)

SB 1010, as amended, [Ashby. Refrigerant Stewardship and Recovery Act.](#)

The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, generally regulates the disposal, management, and recycling of solid waste. The act establishes stewardship programs for various products, including, among others, carpet, mattresses, and pharmaceutical and sharps waste. This bill would enact a stewardship program known as the Refrigerant Stewardship and Recovery Act, which would require a producer of certain household appliances containing refrigerants, known as “covered products,” to form and join a producer responsibility organization, or PRO. The bill would require the PRO to be approved by the department pursuant to the requirements of the bill, as provided. The bill would require the department to adopt regulations to implement the program no later than January 1, 2029. The bill would require the PRO to submit to the department, for approval or disapproval, a complete plan for the collection, transportation, consolidation, dismantling, refrigerant recovery, recycling, reclamation, destruction, and the safe and proper management of covered products in the state. Upon approval of a plan, the bill would make a producer subject to specified civil penalties, unless the producer is a participant in a PRO and all covered products are accounted for in the plan. The bill would require the PRO to review the plan at least every 5 years after approval. The bill would also require a PRO to submit an annual report to the department, as provided. The bill would require all reports and records provided to the department to be provided under penalty of perjury. By expanding the scope of the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would restrict public access to certain information collected for the purpose of administering the program. This bill would require the department to post on its internet website

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a list of producers that are in compliance with the requirements of the program. The bill would require PROs to pay fees to the department, not to exceed the department's actual and reasonable regulatory costs to implement and enforce the act. The bill would establish the Refrigerant Stewardship Recovery Fund in the State Treasury for the deposit of all moneys received from PROs and would make the moneys in the fund available to the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for purposes of the program. The bill would also authorize the department to impose administrative civil penalties for a violation of the program's requirements, not to exceed \$10,000 per day, or not to exceed \$50,000 per day for an intentional or knowing violation, as specified. The bill would create the Refrigerant Stewardship Recovery Penalty Account in the fund for the deposit of penalties, which would be available for expenditure upon appropriation by the Legislature, as specified. Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest. This bill would make legislative findings to that effect. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason. [Last Amended 3/25/2026](#).
[Active Bill - Pending Referral, Read third time, passed in Senate, Ordered to Assembly.](#)