



RESOURCE RECOVERY COALITION OF CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 2022

On behalf of the Resource Recovery Coalition of California, it is my honor to welcome Governor Newsom, our statewide officers, and new and returning members of the Legislature to the final year of the 2021-2022 Legislative Session.

Resource Recovery Coalition members are collection and recycling companies that operate throughout the state. As essential service providers during the COVID-19 pandemic, our members continue to serve and protect the health and safety of our local communities by processing municipal solid waste and keeping our streets clean.

As we battle historic labor shortages and face persistent local budget deficits, this year marks the kick-off of new organic recycling laws under SB 1383 obligations, which will require all jurisdictions to collect and process organic waste from residential and commercial generators, as well as recover edible food for human consumption. We are working diligently with our local municipalities to build the necessary infrastructure to comply with this new regulation, strengthen California's circular economy, and support our short-lived climate pollutant (SLCP) strategy.

While the 2021 Budget Act included important funding to support a circular economy that recognizes waste as a resource, significant investment is still needed in 2022 and beyond. CalRecycle estimates that meeting our organic material recycling obligations alone will cost upwards of \$10 billion by 2030. Without investment in domestic

infrastructure and markets, we continue to jeopardize California's waste diversion goals and mandates. We encourage the legislature to budget at least \$200 million annually through 2030 to help us meet our SLCP reduction goals and divert organic material from California's landfills.

We are also engaged in the developing Advanced Clean Fleets regulation as we look to transition to zero emission fleets. Heavy-duty battery electric vehicle (BEV) technology, however, is in its naissance and not yet capable of meeting current operating standards and the charging infrastructure required to power a heavy-

duty BEV fleet is enormous. Furthermore, the unreliability of the electrical grid, especially during public safety power shutoff events, complicates this progress. We strongly support a transition plan that permits the use of renewable natural gas (RNG) derived from organic waste to fuel refuse fleets and provide energy while helping us meet our SLCP reduction strategy.

It is challenging times, but California always perseveres. We look forward to partnering with you this year, and welcome opportunities to collaborate on meeting our shared state goals and strengthen the resiliency of California's waste and recycling system. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Dave Sikich
PRESIDENT



Above: Organic recycling in action courtesy of Green Waste.

Below: Kish Rajan welcomes California Treasurer Fiona Ma to Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery.



The Resource Recovery Coalition of California (Resource Coalition) was founded over 60 years ago by collection and recycling companies that now operate in over 50 cities and counties throughout California. Many of our members are multi-generational family owners who live in the communities they proudly serve. The solid waste and recycling industry impacts every single resident and employee in a community, and because our members are part of that same community, they are committed to being excellent service providers, environmental stewards and supporting the local economy.

The solid waste and recycling industry has evolved considerably over the last several decades, and our members have been at the forefront of that evolution. They don't just collect garbage. Together with their cities and counties, they have invested in innovative technologies and processes to prevent recyclable and organic materials from going to the landfill and using them instead to create new products, compost for agriculture, renewable energy, and low-emission renewable gas. This reduces litter, pollution, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that create poor air quality in their communities. Never have these values and commitment to finding new and better ways to reduce waste and manage our resources been more important than they are now as we strive to build a true circular economy that will achieve California's climate change goals.

The last few years have underscored how critical the waste and recycling industry is—how central it is to everyday public

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health and safety, supporting local economies, and combating climate change. During the pandemic, these essential service providers have kept trucks rolling, not only to prevent a disaster from uncollected garbage in the streets, but also to bring a sense of normalcy to our neighborhoods. The weekly garbage truck is something we can all count on. Beyond that, by maintaining collection and processing of waste, recyclables, and organic material, they provided quality, local jobs during a time of record unemployment and economic uncertainty.

Now, more than ever, we must remain focused in our efforts to achieve our climate change goals. The solid waste and recycling industry plays a central role in several of California's climate objectives, and we are eager to continue to work with the Legislature, the regulatory community, and the Administration on our shared goals of:

- Considerably reducing waste caused by single-use plastic products and packaging and bringing producers into the circular economy and holding them responsible for the non-recyclable materials they put on the market. This includes:
 - o Creating products out of materials that are truly recyclable and moving away from using materials that cannot be recycled or impede recyclability of other materials;
 - o Supporting and enhancing our existing collection and processing systems and investing in infrastructure to get the cleanest and most usable recycled material possible for remanufacturing; and
 - o Developing robust domestic markets for recycled content by using recycled material, rather than new plastics, to make new products.
- Implementing and expanding programs to successfully recycle organic waste. This includes supporting local governments and investing in infrastructure that processes organic material and creates useful products, such as compost and renewable natural gas for transportation fuel and energy.
- Reducing tailpipe emissions from heavy-duty diesel vehicles by supporting the near-term transition to low-emission vehicles until zero-emission vehicles are fully commercialized and adequate charging infrastructure is developed. In addition to reducing transportation emissions, this will strengthen the market for renewable natural gas transportation fuel from organic waste, further supporting our organic material recycling requirements.

Achieving these goals will be challenging, but out of challenges, our members at the Resource Coalition see opportunities—opportunities to innovate and create a better way for waste diversion and resource recovery, opportunities to support our communities with quality jobs and a healthy environment, and opportunities to help California lead on sustainability and combatting climate change.

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2021 was another challenging year for California and our industry, but we made sure to keep using our social media and online platforms to increase awareness about our membership and advocate for policies we believe in. We hope you enjoy these pictures that we posted over the past year that helped us profile our members, provide tips on how to live more sustainably, thank legislators for visiting our sites and showing how our staff and membership always strive to be connected to the community.



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Veronica Pardo and Laura Ferrante supporting Denim Day!



Assemblymember Laura Friedman visits the anaerobic digestion facility at South San Francisco Scavenger.



Assemblymembers Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Dr. Akilah Weber, Buffy Wicks, and Cristina Garcia visit our member company Clover Flat Resource Recovery Park.

We invite you all to follow us on our social media channels at:

FACEBOOK: [@ResourceCoalitionCA](https://www.facebook.com/ResourceCoalitionCA)

TWITTER: [@ResCoalitionCA](https://twitter.com/ResCoalitionCA)

INSTAGRAM: [@ResourceCoalition](https://www.instagram.com/ResourceCoalition)

LINKEDIN: [@Resource Recovery Coalition of California](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Resource-Recovery-Coalition-of-California)



Above: Assemblymember Heath Flora gets a tour of Turlock Scavenger



Above: Sen. Ben Allen, Asm. Tim Grayson, and Asm. Blanca Rubio touring the facilities of our member company, Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery.

Right: Our Executive Director Trish Roath shows us all the best way to recycle those Holiday boxes.



Right: Member company Garden City Sanitation shows off its fleet.



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