

The background of the top half of the page is a photograph of the California State Capitol building, showing its iconic dome and classical architecture. The image is partially obscured by a white graphic element on the right side.

2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear Legislators, Regulatory Partners, and New Members,

On behalf of the Resource Recovery Coalition of California (RRCC), I extend a warm welcome to Governor Newsom, new and returning legislators, and statewide officers as we begin the 2025-2026 Legislative Session.

California's growing challenges in waste management, recycling, and climate resilience highlight the vital role RRCC members play in safeguarding public health and safety. Through innovative and collaborative efforts in waste collection, recycling, and organic waste management, our members protect communities and advance California's climate and environmental goals, establishing the state as a national leader in sustainable resource management.

RRCC members are key partners in helping cities and counties achieve compliance with SB 1383's organic waste diversion regulations, a cornerstone of California's strategy to reduce short-lived climate pollutants. By investing in advanced technologies, our members have enhanced materials recovery, generated renewable energy, and produced high-quality compost, ensuring environmental safety and contributing to the state's circular economy goals.

To build on this progress, we advocate for budget investments in composting and anaerobic digestion infrastructure, which are critical to achieving the state's organic waste diversion goals and providing local governments and service providers with the necessary resources for regulatory compliance.

Furthermore, as a member of the SB 54 Advisory Committee, I am collaborating with diverse stakeholders to develop strategies to reduce California's reliance on plastic packaging and advance a circular economy. RRCC members remain dedicated to addressing plastic waste and implementing practical solutions to this ongoing challenge.

While the recent withdrawal of the California Air Resources Board waiver request from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has paused the obligation to comply with the Advanced Clean Fleets rule, our members remain committed to adopting cleaner

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RESOURCE RECOVERY
COALITION OF CALIFORNIA

RRCC members serve the state by protecting the health and safety of local communities through efficient waste management and recycling services.

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VERONICA PARDO
Executive Director

technologies and advancing the transition to zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) fleets. This shift continues to present challenges, including infrastructure delays, duty-cycle limitations, payload capacity issues, and vehicle availability. Despite regulatory uncertainty, our members are focused on reducing emissions and driving sustainable innovation in transportation.



LINDSAY GULLAHORN
Legislative Advocate

As part of this commitment to cleaner alternatives, we strongly advocate for the continued use of renewable natural gas (RNG) derived from organic waste as a critical interim solution. RNG provides significant emissions reductions while supporting the circular economy. Establishing a long-term pathway for waste-derived biogas is essential to complement the ZEV transition and ensure California meets its climate targets.

Additionally, we urge strong legislative action to advance the development of hydrogen infrastructure, which will be key to our clean energy future.

The impacts of climate change – droughts, wildfires, and other natural disasters – demand immediate and sustained action. These events highlight the need for a waste management system that protects communities, strengthens public health, and promotes environmental sustainability. RRCC members are ready to work alongside you to meet these challenges and build a healthier, more resilient future for our state.

Thank you for your leadership and partnership. Together, we can shape policies that protect our environment, support our communities, and secure a thriving future for all Californians.

– *Veronica Pardo*
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2024, The Resource Recovery Coalition of California made significant strides in advancing sustainability and strengthening our industry's impact.

By leveraging social media, site visits, and direct engagement, we've connected with policymakers and the public to highlight our role in creating a greener, more resilient California. We're proud to stay at the forefront of innovation and community engagement as we work toward a thriving future for our communities and the environment.



1 + 2: Visited Halo Glass and Gallo Glass with leaders including Assemblymembers Juan Alanis, Heath Flora, Josh Hoover, Tina McKinnor, Senator Bill Dodd, Treasurer Fiona Ma, Deputy Treasurer Khaim Morton, and industry partners. **3.** Hosted Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis at Napa Recycling to showcase innovative recycling and composting operations driving California's circular economy. **4.** Assemblymember Isaac Bryan shared inspiring insights at our annual RRCC Legislative Luncheon, reinforcing his dedication to a greener, more equitable California. **5.** Honored to host Senators Bill Dodd, Anna Caballero, Tim Grayson, and Christopher Cabaldon at our annual PAC Dinner, discussing California's challenges and opportunities. We are grateful for their leadership!



RESOURCE RECOVERY
COALITION OF CALIFORNIA

www.resourcecoalition.org



Single-Use Plastics and Packaging

“California leads the nation: manufacturers take responsibility for waste.”

With SB 54 (Allen, 2022), California’s extended producer responsibility (EPR) law is the most comprehensive in the U.S. We’re working with CalRecycle and stakeholders to develop a framework that will:

- ✦ Reduce plastic packaging waste.
- ✦ Build domestic markets for recycled materials.
- ✦ Shift recycling costs away from residents.
- ✦ Drive sustainable product design.

2025
FOCUS
AREAS

Organic Waste Management

“From waste to resource: building a sustainable future.”

Helping local jurisdictions implement effective organic waste programs remains a top priority. We advocate for budget allocations to expand composting and anaerobic digestion infrastructure – even amidst California’s budget deficit – to divert organic material and meet climate targets.

Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEVs)

“Cleaner, healthier communities: paving the way with ZEVs.”

RRCC members have long supported reducing emissions in the heavy-duty vehicle sector. Early adopters of low-emission technology, many fuel their trucks with renewable natural gas (RNG) made from collected organic waste. A successful ZEV transition requires:

- ✦ **Commercial viability:** ZEVs must meet payload and duty cycle demands.
- ✦ **Cost consideration:** ZEVs and charging infrastructure come at significant costs.
- ✦ **Energy reliability:** Waste collection must continue uninterrupted, even during power outages or disasters.
- ✦ **Hydrogen integration:** Hydrogen holds promise as a fuel for our fleets, but further development is needed to make it a viable, scalable solution for heavy-duty refuse vehicles.

Partnering for Success

“Collaboration is key to California’s climate success.”

We look forward to working with state partners and stakeholders to advance policies and achieve our shared climate goals.

Education and safety are two areas of importance to the Resource Recovery Coalition of California



Safety Comes First! The Louie Pellegrini IV Memorial Safety Road-e-o, established in 1991, is a free, family-oriented event celebrating safety and skill. It features competitions for drivers, mechanics and forklift operators, a carnival with community safety representatives educating attendees on home, waterway and road safety, and prizes and awards for participants.

The Next Generation! The Next Generation Management and Leadership Program is an 8-month series designed to equip future managers and leaders in the refuse and recycling industry. This May, we proudly celebrate the graduation of our 8th class, marking another milestone in developing industry leadership.





RESOURCE RECOVERY COALITION OF CALIFORNIA

For over 60 years, the Resource Recovery Coalition of California has proudly served the state of California, collecting and managing municipal solid waste. Many of our members are multi-generational family businesses living and working in the communities they serve. Beyond supporting local economies, RRCC members are committed to environmental stewardship and exceptional service.

Our Role in California's Climate Goals

The solid waste and recycling industry has evolved, and our members lead the charge. Partnering with cities and counties, we've invested in innovative technologies to:

- ◇ Divert recyclables and organic waste from landfills.
- ◇ Create new products, compost for agriculture, renewable energy, and low carbon fuels.

This work is crucial to California's circular economy and carbon neutrality goals. In a time of unprecedented climate challenges, our commitment to resource management remains steadfast.

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