



International Compost Awareness Week

Bring out the balloons and fireworks! Put on your favorite old pair of overalls and your gardening gloves! The 15th annual International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) is underway, from May 5-11, 2014, and compost-related events are planned across the globe, and across California.

According to the founding US Composting Council:

ICAW is a multi-media publicity and education event that showcases composting and compost products. It features everything from composting in your backyard to large-scale commercial composting facilities and businesses serving entire communities.

This year's focus is two-fold:

- *Compost: The Solution to Sustainable Soil and Water and Compost in Your Everyday Life*, from the grocery store that is diverting its leftover organics, to the community hospital that collects all the leftover foodscrap from the kitchen and cafeteria to ensure they are composted!
- Since 2000, when International Compost Awareness Week began, ICAW has grown in both visibility and activities due to its friends (sponsors and compost advocates). We invite everyone from businesses and homeowners, kids and teachers, to communities, environmental groups and government agencies, as well as members of the composting industry, to celebrate this week!

On May 8, at our State Capitol in Sacramento, the California Compost Coalition and Californian's Against Waste have organized a Legislative Luncheon focused on this year's theme "*Compost: The Solution to Sustainable*

Soil and Water", hosted by Assembly Member Wes Chesbro with co-hosts: Assembly Member Das Williams, Assembly Member Susan Eggman, Assembly Member Brian Dahle, and Assembly Member Phil Ting. A prestigious group of legislators, staff, and other stakeholders will hear from industry leaders and an organic farmer about the compost industry's economic impact and importance to the agriculture industry, with particular focus on "The Soil and Water Connection". We look forward to advancing the understanding of compost by our policymakers and its role in enhancing water quality and reducing water use in our drought-stricken state.



Legislative Update

AB 1594 (Williams) – would eliminate the solid waste diversion credit for green waste used as Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) at a solid waste landfill. CalRecycle regulations (Title 14) contain an approved list of ADC materials, which includes processed green material. Jurisdictions currently receive landfill diversion credit for the use of green materials as ADC, which is a major barrier to compost facility development due to its low cost and reduction of available feedstock supply. ADC green materials would also be subject to the \$1.40 per ton disposal fee.

AB 1594 passed out of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on April 28 on a 5-3 party line vote and moves to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 21. The bill has been opposed by the Solid Waste Industry Group (an ad hoc group of local governments and solid waste companies) who have voiced concerns over the \$1.40 fee, in addition to the timeline conflicts that may arise with the approval of AB 1826.

AB 1826 (Chesbro) – would establish a mandatory commercial organic waste diversion program, requiring businesses that generate a specified quantity of organic waste to arrange for recycling services. CCC has maintained a Support, if amended position in an effort to reduce current bill language thresholds for program enrollment – currently 8 cubic yards of organic waste in 2016, and 4 cubic yards in 2017, with a final goal of 1 cubic yard in 2019. Our solid waste clients have advised us that the 8 and 4 cubic yard thresholds are too high, disallowing any significant increase in organic waste volume due to the limited number of businesses who produce that level of organic waste which are not already enrolled some kind of program, thus restricting the potential

revenue generation necessary to fund new or expanding programs. For example, only most all grocery stores would need a program in 2016. Large restaurants with over 60 employees, a typical Denny's, would need to have an organic collection program starting 2017. Medium sized restaurant of under 60 employees and fast food establishments would need not have a program until 2019. We will continue to push for a 2 cubic yard threshold in 2016. SWIG is also looking for amended bill language which, in their case, seeks to set a 2019 deadline for businesses who generate 1 cubic yard of organic waste and 4 cubic yards of MSW.

AB 1826 passed out of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on April 28 on a 5-2 party line vote and passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 7.

AB 2390 (Muratsuchi) – will provide a much needed, long-term guarantee for the value of low carbon fuel standard (LCFS) credits. The legislation will establish a Green Credit Reserve with authority to enter into contracts to purchase LCFS credits from project AD project developers that produce carbon negative fuel from organic wastes. By guaranteeing a value and a buyer for LCFS credits at the project development stage, the Reserve will provide the certainty needed to secure financing to develop the AD projects. This is particularly important for the infrastructure investments needed to convert organic waste and biogas to low carbon transportation fuels. Fuels from organic waste are the lowest carbon fuels available, in some cases carbon negative due to the methane destruction and fossil fuel displacement, but investments in the infrastructure needed to produce these fuels require long-term certainty.

Bill Watch

[AB 1594 \(Williams\)](#)

TOPIC: Solid waste: recycling: diversion: green material. ADC

STATUS: 4/28/14 - Do pass as amended and be re-referred to the committee on Appropriations.

LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations

CALENDAR: Expect 5/21 hearing

SPONSOR: CCC

> **SUPPORT**

[AB 1826 \(Chesbro\)](#)

TOPIC: Solid waste: organic waste

STATUS: 4/29/14 - From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Committee on Appropriations (Ayes 5, Noes 2, April 28). Re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.

LOCATION: 4/29/14 Assembly Appropriations.

CALENDAR: 5/7/14, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 4202, Assembly Appropriations, Gatto, chair.

> **SUPPORT, IF AMENDED**

[AB 2390 \(Muratsuchi\)](#)

TOPIC: Low Carbon Fuel Standard; Green Credit Reserve

STATUS: 4/30/14 - In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to Appropriations suspense file.

LOCATION: 4/30/14 Assembly Appropriations suspense file.

> **WATCH**

[SB 498 \(Lara\)](#)

TOPIC: Solid waste: biomass conversion.

STATUS: 4/24/14 - Referred to Committees on Natural Resources and Environmental Safety & toxic Materials.

LOCATION: 4/24/14 Assembly Natural Resources

> **WATCH**

AB 32 Scoping Plan First Update

CARB adopted the Scoping Plan in 2008 and enacted over 100 measures to reduce GHGs to 1990 levels by 2020, in which California is on track to meet. The First Update looks beyond the 2020 goal toward the mid-term period (2030) in order to set a pathway to reduce GHGs by 80% of the 1990 levels by 2050, as set by Governor Brown's Executive Order S-21-09.

CCC has been active at CARB over the last five years implementing the Scoping Plan and to allocate \$15 million of Cap-and-Trade revenue toward compost and AD infrastructure with a grant program administered by CalRecycle for at least the next two years. CCC has testified over the last year on the First Update to prohibit/phase out landfilling of organic materials starting in 2016, establish a Net Zero goal by 2020, and promote carbon negative fuel from AD.

The Key Recommended Actions for the "Waste Sector" are listed below. Absent any legislation in 2014, CARB has existing authority under AB 32 to adopt direct regulations in 2015. On May 22, CARB will be adopting the AB 32 Scoping Plan update where CCC will be in strong support!

AB 32 Scoping Plan First Update

Key Recommended Actions for the Waste Sector

- ARB and CalRecycle will lead the development of program(s) to eliminate disposal of organic materials at landfills. Options to be evaluated will include: legislation, direct regulation, and inclusion of landfills in the Cap-and-Trade Program. If legislation requiring businesses that generate organic waste to arrange for recycling services is not enacted in 2014, then ARB, in concert with CalRecycle, will initiate regulatory action(s) to prohibit/phase out landfilling of organic materials with the goal of requiring initial compliance actions in 2016.
- ARB and CalRecycle will identify and execute financing/funding/incentive mechanisms for in-State infrastructure development to support the Waste Management Sector goals. Mechanisms to be considered will include the Cap-and-Trade Investment Plan; loan, grant, and payment programs; LCFS pathways; CPUC proceedings (e.g. biogas from anaerobic digestion and Renewable Market Adjusting Tariff); and offset protocols for recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion, and biomass.
- ARB will lead a process of identifying and recommending actions to address cross-composting and anaerobic digestion. As the first step, ARB convened a working group in 2013 made up of representatives from CalRecycle, SWRCB, and local air districts to identify challenges and potential solutions. A working group report will be released in mid-2014.
- ARB will explore and identify opportunities for additional methane control at new and existing landfills, and increase the utilization of captured methane for waste already in place as a fuel source for stationary and mobile applications. If determined appropriate, amend the Landfill Methane Regulation and/or move landfills into the Cap-and-Trade Program (2016/17).

TITLE 14/27

TOPIC: Revision to Compostable Materials & Transfer/Processing Regulations

CalRecycle is updating regulations to address a broad list of topics, mainly related to the expanding diversion of organic materials from landfills. Addition of new language regarding anaerobic digestion, and feedstock definitions, odors, permitting tiers, etc. at composting facilities. Allowable contamination in compost and mulch products remains the largest remaining unresolved issue.

STATUS: Final draft regulations have been published in October 2013. Economic analysis is underway.

Formal rulemaking is expected to be undertaken in the next few months and concluded by the end of 2014.

WDRs

TOPIC: Formal rulemaking has begun by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to implement statewide Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for composting facilities.

SWRCB intends to adopt a general order that would assist their regional boards in the regulation of composting facilities, which they have deemed a substantial threat to water quality.

STATUS: Final draft regulations have been published in August 2013. Economic analysis has been completed. The EIR process is underway, with release of a DEIR expected this summer.

AB 32 SCOPING PLAN FIRST UPDATE

TOPIC: Greenhouse Gas Reductions

STATUS: AB 32 Scoping Plan was adopted in 2008 to reduce GHGs to 1990 levels by 2020

LOCATION: California Air Resources Board

CALENDAR: 5/22/2014 9 a.m. for approval.



National News

“Better Living Through Chemistry!?”

The California Compost Coalition (CCC) is a registered Lobbying Coalition with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), created in 2002 by a group of compost operators in response to demands for increased recycling of organic materials and production of clean compost.

The California Compost Coalition represents member organic material recyclers and compost operators with a unified statewide voice on many issues: product safety and standards, government regulations, environmental planning, trade, and marketing.

Members

Agromin, Inc.
California Wood Recycling
Cold Canyon Compost
Mt. Diablo Recycling
Napa Recycling Compost
Northern Recycling Compost
Organic Waste Solutions
Quackenbush Mt. Compost
Rainbow Environmental Services
Sonoma Compost
Tracy Delta Compost
Upper Valley Recycling
Zanker Road Resource Management
Z-Best Compost Facility

Executive Committee

Bill Camarillo, Agromin
Greg Kelley, Northern Recycling Compost
Will Bakx, Sonoma Compost
Christy Pestoni Abreu, Upper Valley Recycling
Michael Gross, Z-Best Compost

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Over this past two years, the California Compost Coalition has worked with members of the US Composting Council to engage the US EPA in discussions over possible resolution of persistent pesticide contamination.

Currently, Aminopyralid and Clopyralid are undergoing a “Registration Review” process at the US EPA. Preliminary work plans from US EPA have shown small progress is being made toward requiring chemical manufacturers to provide compostability studies and help develop standardized laboratory testing procedures in the registration process.

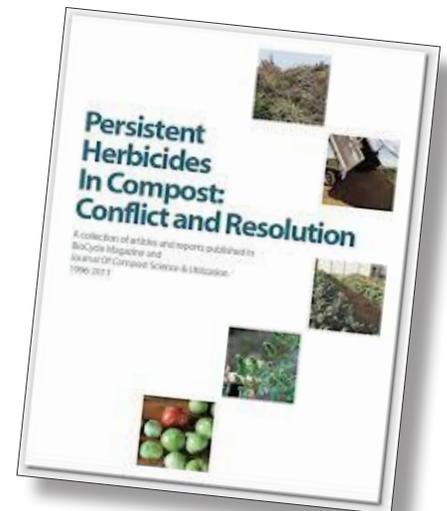
CCC and USCC are continuing to push for additional requirements, including a moratorium on the sale of these substances until their impacts to composters can be reduced to a less-than-significant level, when additional, more rigorous use restrictions and labeling requirements can be implemented to prevent further damage to the composting industry.

While one can debate the value of so many pesticides and herbicides (or the need for an increasing prevalence of new formulas that are more persistent in the environment), they have increasingly become a significant source of financial damage to composters here in California and throughout the U.S.

In 2010, traces of bifenthrin (a popular household ant and termite killer that you can purchase at your local hardware store and spray around the house) caused California

Department of Food and Agriculture to suspend sales from three large composting facilities to organic growers.

In 2012, aminocyclopyrachlor (weedkiller Imprelis) contaminated several composters before being removed from sale by USEPA, largely for its damage to certain tree species. In 2013, picloram and clopyralid (other weedkillers commonly used in grazing and pasture lands) was responsible for contaminating finished compost, which caused damage to numerous gardens near Burlington, Vermont, costing the municipal operator a cool \$1 million in damage claims, and shutting the facility down...at least temporarily.





MANDATORY COMMERCIAL ORGANICS COLLECTION INFORMATION SHEET

This **Information Sheet** was prepared by the California Compost Coalition to provide analysis of the mandatory commercial collection threshold amounts in proposed legislation, AB 1826 (Chesbro), this year in relation to the organic waste generation amounts from businesses and the AB 32 Scoping Plan First Update to be adopted on May 22, 2014.

The purpose of this **Information Sheet** is to relate the proposed service thresholds for mandatory commercial organics collection with the typical businesses that generate organic waste in the fast food, sit-down restaurant, and retail food store establishments. Food waste generation rates were extrapolated from a 2005 CalRecycle-commissioned study. At 8 cubic yards (CYD) per week of collection, the typical Safeway would be included, generating about 200 tons per year of organic waste. The 8 CYD per week threshold would apply to large quantity generators, which typically already have an existing organic recycling program in place, as many retail grocers do. At 4 CYD per week, the typical, large sit-down restaurant of more than 60 employees, such as Denny’s, would be included, generating as much as 100 tons per year of organic wastes. However, at less than 4 CYD per week collection of organic waste, the medium size restaurants of less than 60 employees and the typical franchised fast food outlet would still not qualify for mandatory collection until 2019. At 1 CYD per week, or about 25 tons per year (TPY), most fast food restaurants with more than 22 employees would qualify for collection.

TABLE 1 - SERVICE VOLUMES CONVERTED TO TONS PER YEAR

Threshold	8 CYD/week	4 CYD/week	2 CYD/week	1 CYD/week
Weight	At 1,000 pounds per CYD picked up 52 times per year			
Tons Per Year (TPY)	200 TPY	100 TPY	50 TPY	25 TPY
Typical Generator	Grocery Store	Large Sit down Restaurant (Less than 60 employees)	Medium Sit down Restaurant (Less than 30 employees)	Fast Food Restaurant (greater than 22 employees)

AB 1826 (Chesbro) proposes that businesses that generate organic waste to arrange for collection and recycling services for that material on the following schedule:

- a) Starting in 2016, a business that generates 8 CYD or more of organic waste per week, or about 200 tons per year, would apply only to large generators, like Safeway or other grocery stores, which typically already have programs in place.



b) Starting in 2017, a business that generates 4 CYD of organic waste per week, or about 100 tons per year, would add collection from the typical larger franchised sit-down restaurants of greater than 60 employees.

c) 2019, a business that generates 1 CYD or more of organic waste per week or about 25 tons per year, would add collection from sit down restaurants of less than 60 employees and all fast food restaurants with more than 22 employees.

2006 Waste Disposal and Diversion Findings for Selected Industry Groups

CalRecycle commissioned a study of waste disposal and diversion practices by key types of commercial businesses in 2005, which entailed quantifying and characterizing the material that is disposed, as well as the material that is recycled or otherwise diverted. A total of 371 commercial sites belonging to 14 industry groups participated in the study. Sites were recruited in the heavily urbanized areas of Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Francisco. Table 2 summarizes the study results for the identified business types, in relation to AB 1826 proposed thresholds.

TABLE 2 – FOOD WASTE GENERATION

	Grocery Stores	Full Services Restaurants	Fast Food
Pounds per Employee disposed	4,754 pounds/year	4,403 pounds/year	4,262 pounds/year
Food percentage	65.0%	66.5%	52.5%
Pounds of food for employee per year	3,090 pounds/year	2,928 pounds/year	2,238 pounds/year
Average employee per store	125 at Safeway	80 at Denny’s	35 at McDonalds
Tons per year	200 tons per year of food waste per Safeway	120 tons per year of food waste per Denny’s	40 tons per year of food waste per McDonalds
AB 1826 proposed start date	2016	2017	2019
AB 1826 Collection starts			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 CYD/week in 2016 or 200 TPY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Grocery Stores of over 125 employees in 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few Large Restaurants over 135 employees in 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Fast Food in 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 CYD/week in 2017 or 100 TPY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grocery Stores of between 60 and 125 employees in 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Restaurants over 60 employees in 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Fast Food in 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 CYD/week in 2019 or 25 TPY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grocery Stores of over 16 employees in 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurants over 15 employees in 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast Food with over 22 employees in 2019



AB 32 SCOPING PLAN

The AB 32 Scoping Plan First Update to be adopted on May 22, 2014 (summary table copied below for organic tons to be diverted) anticipates 5.0 to 7.5 million tons of organic waste going to compost and anaerobic digestion by 2020. The residential sector could be tapped for up to 600,000 tons of residential food waste based upon adding 8.5 pounds of food waste per household per month (estimated from mature program levels in Alameda County case study) and another 1 million tons of green waste that had gone to ADC. With 1.6 million tons coming from the residential sector, the remaining 3.4 to 4.9 million tons would need to come from the commercial sector.

Appendix C - Focus Group Working Papers

Table 2. Assessment of GHG Emission Benefits from Diverting Organics from Landfills

Process	Organics Disposed in Landfills (tons/year)	Annual Tons Diverted (50% of total disposed in years 2015 - 2020)	Resulting GHG Emissions Benefits from 50% Diversion MMTCO _{2e} per year (2015 -2020)	Annual Tons Diverted (75% of total disposed in years 2020 and beyond)	Resulting GHG Emissions Benefits from 75% Diversion MMTCO _{2e} per year (2020 and beyond)
Composting		2.5 million	1.65 ¹ – 2.38 ²	3.75 million	2.48 ¹ – 3.56 ²
Anaerobic Digestion		2.5 million	1.38 ³	3.75 million	2.06 ³
Total	10 million	5 million	3.03 - 3.76	7.5 million	4.54 – 5.62