

## Food Waste Not

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Sustainable Organics Recycling

### Meals on Wheels - The New Deal

The food fight for food waste began when the Federal EPA flipped the waste pyramid in 2012 and initiated the Food Waste Challenge with a new Food Recovery Hierarchy. Renderers were pitted against the solid waste industry over the butcher's meat buckets, and the wastewater treatment plants slurped the fats, oils and greases (FOG) from the renderers, and now everybody is fighting over the disposition of food waste. The dairies want the co-digesting of food waste without a solid waste facility permit and wastewater treatment plants still want the bulk of the Cap-and-Trade revenue to fund their projects even though they are evenly scored with stand alone facilities.

Everybody is hungry for these tons, where the real winners will be food rescue programs in your community. "Throwing away food is like stealing from the table of the poor and the hungry," the Pope stressed, "Human ecology and environmental ecology walk hand in hand." Divinely, the CalRecycle compost and anaerobic digestion grants are linked to food rescue and greenhouse gas reductions. Food rescue programs in disadvantaged communities will be funded with about \$1 million in equipment from the CalRecycle grants just submitted, and there will be another \$5 million for food prevention and food rescue programs being released next month. However, animal feed gets no respect being squeezed out of the food waste funding hierarchy.

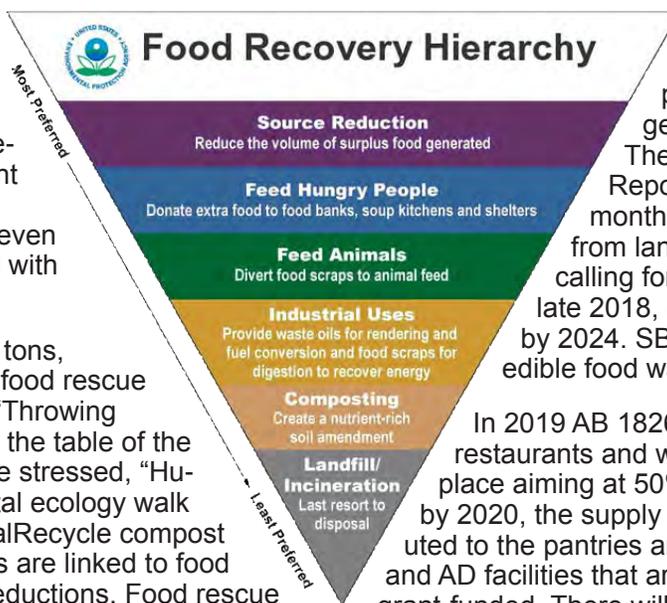
With CalRecycle ringing the dinner bell on enforcement, jurisdictions have begun to step up and prepare their Organic Waste Recycling Plans since there is reporting expected by August 2017 when their Annual Reports are due to list generators, outreach and education, monitoring, and identifying 15 years of processing capacity. Local government and large landfills have been blinking on

AB 1826 implementation, as the composting industry has been trying to develop the organic waste processing capacity against all air permitting odds. With the passage of SB1383 (Lara, 2016) there is a renewed sense of shared responsibility among the industry, local government, and regulators to get this done.

It has taken the war on methane and a hungry world, being initiated by CARB and placed into law with SB 1383, to get organics out of the landfills. The Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Report will be adopted by CARB this month to reduce 50% of all organics from landfills by 2020 and 75% by 2025 calling for regulations to be adopted by late 2018, effective by 2022, and enforced by 2024. SB 1383 requires that 20% of the edible food waste be recovered by 2025.

In 2019 AB 1826 kicks in for all fast food chain restaurants and with SB 1383 regulations in place aiming at 50% reduction of all food waste by 2020, the supply of food materials will be distributed to the pantries and pushed out to the compost and AD facilities that are now being permitted and grant-funded. There will be about 20 million tons of organics that need to be diverted consisting of 3.15 million tons of food waste in 2020, and 4.7 million tons by 2025. The CalRecycle Waste Characterization Study determined that 265,000 tons of food waste was being collected at the curb in 2014, and another 929,000 tons are being self-hauled. AB 901 and AB 1103 regulations will start in 2018 to track these tons of food waste and compost use.

"This culture of waste has made us insensitive even to the waste and disposal of food, which is even more despicable when all over the world, unfortunately, many individuals and families are suffering from hunger and malnutrition," sayeth the Pope.



### CAP-AND-TRADE FOOD FACTOIDS

The Short-Lived Climate Reduction Strategy states there will need to be at least \$100 million in incentives over the next 5 years to start to develop the required compost and organics diversion infrastructure. CalRecycle awarded just \$15 million in organics grants in 2014-2015, where over \$118 million in grant requests were submitted. Last week CalRecycle received organic grant applications for the \$24 million apportioned in the 2016/17 budget, and plans to announce the awards in August 2017.

CalRecycle received 46 grant applications totaling \$97 million with an oversubscription rate of 4 times. This time around the grant application process was more robust encouraging shovel-ready projects with contracted tons. There was also a rural carve out for \$3 million that still needed a food rescue component.

A disadvantaged community and food rescue component was required, where about \$1 million in food rescue equipment will be granted. Another \$5 million in grants will be announced next month for Food Waste Prevention and Food Rescue.

Next year there may be \$80 million in CalRecycle grant funding should the Cap-and-Trade program be approved past 2020. There are a few bills in the hopper, where the Governor plans to leverage the 2/3 required votes to place Cap-and-Trade into his legacy. AB 1342 (Flora) would continuously appropriate \$100 million per year to CalRecycle to instate organic waste recycling projects. AB 1288 (Eggman) would raise the tip fee on landfills to fund the organic infrastructure.

The Legislative Analyst Office determined that organics/recycling loans and organic composting/anaerobic digestion grants are among the most cost effective ranging from \$4-\$9/ton as opposed to the average \$57/ton and as high as \$725/ton for other projects.

The 2017 Annual Report to the Legislature on California Climate Investments Using Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds is now available. The report and project list can be found at: [www.ca-climateinvestments.ca.gov](http://www.ca-climateinvestments.ca.gov). The Report describes the status of funded programs and provides estimates of the GHG reductions expected from project investments and provides key statistics on benefits to disadvantaged communities, demand for funding and leveraging. The project map and list include additional project level information on the estimated GHG reductions, disadvantaged community benefits, and location of each investment.

Nearly \$3.4 billion to date has been appropriated by the Legislature to State agencies implementing GHG emission reduction projects. CalRecycle grants have realized 1.66 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e reductions with grants totaling \$8.9 million (61% located in DAC) and \$14.5 total (100% DAC). The CalRecycle grants have shown to be the most cost-effective GHG strategy with 100% of the grants benefiting DAC. With metrics and terms changing from the 2014-2015 grant cycle, the food rescue component looks relatively as cost-effective as composting and AD. The cost per grant ton is in the mid \$30 per ton which equates to \$16-\$17 per CO<sub>2</sub>e ton avoided.

#### [AB 1036 \(McCarty\)](#)

TOPIC: Requires the California Environmental Protection Agency, in coordination with the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Air Resources Board, and the Department of Food and Agriculture to assess the state's progress towards developing the organic waste processing and recycling infrastructure necessary to meet the state goals specified in existing law.

STATUS: Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee. **SUPPORT**

#### [AB 1288 \(Eggman\)](#)

TOPIC: This current spot bill would increase the solid waste tipping fee from \$1.40 per ton to an as-yet-to-be-determined amount to develop composting facilities and other market incentive programs that promote the highest and best use of recovered materials. The bill may also establish a generator charge to augment the existing disposal fee which funds CalRecycle administrative costs.

STATUS: Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee. **SUPPORT**

#### [AB 1147 \(Salas\)](#)

TOPIC: This bill would subject an unauthorized person to penalties and damages for collecting, removing, or transporting solid waste generated by another person on residential, commercial, or industrial premises, except in compliance with applicable law, as specified. The bill would expand civil enforcement to knowing participation in violations of these laws, and would require a court, if a plaintiff prevails in a civil action brought pursuant to these and related provisions, to award to the plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees, expert witness fees, and costs incurred in the course of the litigation, except as specified.

STATUS: Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee and Assembly Judiciary Committee. **SUPPORT**

#### [AB 1342 \(Flora\)](#)

TOPIC: This bill would continuously appropriate \$100 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to the Department of Resources Recycling And Recovery for instate organic waste and recycling projects that reduce GHGs.

STATUS: Referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee. **SUPPORT**

## SLCP REGULATIONS TO BE ADOPTED

CARB staff released the updated Short-Lived Climate Pollutant (SLCP) Strategy on March 14, 2017, with adoption planned at their March 23, 2017 Board meeting in Riverside. CCC provided comments last fall and January and plan to be there to continue to advocate for the following:

- Support regulations to be adopted in 2018 and be poised for 2022 implementation in tandem with CalRecycle's Waste Characterization Study and SB 1383 Infrastructure and Market Analysis for 2017 (CalRecycle approved this at their March 21, 2017 meeting.)
- Need to recognize Compost and Anaerobic Digestion as the Cost-Effective-Measure for Cap-and-Trade funding.
- Overcome regulatory barriers with a more robust AB 1045 process (CCC attended March 14, 2017 environmental justice meeting on this in Fresno)
- **Increase tip fee at Cheap Landfills to fund Compost Infrastructure.**
- Include green waste ADC in the disposal tons for methane generation.
- Chip and grind' is not a biomass market – Need bioenergy and market development.

CCC supports the development of regulations by the end of 2018, while CalRecycle should be preparing the 2018 Solid Waste Characterization Study and SB 1383 Infrastructure and Market Analysis for 2017. CalRecycle will need to benchmark the infrastructure and compost use to fully evaluate the budget for the required programs changes that will need to take effect in 2022, when the regulations would be implemented with enforcement in 2024.

## AB 901 REGULATIONS - FOOD WASTE TRACKING

CCC has continued to work with CalRecycle during their informal rulemaking process, to aid in the development of new regulations on reporting requirements for recycling, composting, and disposal facilities, subsequent to the passage of AB 901 (Gordon). Following multiple meetings on reporting thresholds, organic materials, penalties and enforcement, multiple operations, jurisdictional requests and confidentiality, jurisdiction of origin and source sector, and material types and products, CalRecycle has issued their third draft regulations, dated February 10, 2017. With the publication of this latest draft, the informal regulatory phase is concluded. The formal regulatory process is expected to begin in the next month and concluded by the end of 2017.

While we continue to assure proprietary information will be protected, a major point of contention remains regarding the reporting of source sector information, which we believe unnecessarily complicates an already onerous process and will prove difficult to implement for many operators.

With AB 1826 and SB 1383 being phased in, 3.15 million tons of new food waste will need to be diverted by 2020 and 4.7 million tons of new food waste could be on the market in 2025. AB 1103 (Dodd) was passed to establish a reporting requirement for self-haulers of food waste with over one cubic yard per week and should be part of the AB 901 regulations. CalRecycle determined that 265,000 tons of food waste was being collected at the curb in 2014, and that another 929,000 tons are being self-hauled - somewhere, somehow - and that should be addressed in AB 901.

## SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANT SB 1383 PLAN

SB 605 (Lara, 2014) directed CARB to develop a comprehensive short-lived climate pollutant strategy (SLCP), in coordination with other state agencies and local air quality management and air pollution control districts. The effort is to engage scientific experts, identify additional measures to reduce short-lived climate pollutants such as methane, which will require that 75% of all land-filled organics are reduced by 2025 and was placed into law with SB 1383 (Lara, 2016). CARB staff released the updated SLCP Strategy on March 14, 2017, with adoption planned at their March 23, 2017 Board meeting in Riverside. CCC provided comments and plans to be there.

[https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/shortlived/meetings/03142017/final\\_slcp\\_report.pdf](https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/shortlived/meetings/03142017/final_slcp_report.pdf)

## 2017 SCOPING PLAN UPDATE

The California Air Resources Board kicked off development of the 2030 Target Scoping Plan in October 2015 in coordination with other State agencies and has since been soliciting feedback and comments from a team of economic advisors, local air districts, community members, affected stakeholders, and the AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee at public meetings throughout the State. The proposed 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update was released on January 20, 2017, Inauguration Day, sending a message to the President that California will double down on setting the greenhouse gas reduction target to 2030. CCC submitted extensive comments. The next public workshop to present the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update is on March 28, 2017 in Sacramento from 10 am to 3 pm. The Proposed Plan is available here:

[https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scoping-plan/2030sp\\_pp\\_final.pdf](https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scoping-plan/2030sp_pp_final.pdf)

**The California Compost Coalition** 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 & production of clean compost, bioenergy, renewable natural gas, and biochar.

**CCC Members**

- Agromin
- Atlas Disposal
- Burrtec Waste Industries
- Caglia Environmental
- California Wood Recycling
- CleanFleets.net
- Clover Flat Compost
- Cold Canyon Compost
- GreenWaste Recovery
- Harvest Tulare
- Harvest Lathrop
- Marin Sanitary Service
- Mt. Diablo Recycling
- Napa Recycling Compost
- Northern Recycling Compost
- Organic Waste Solutions
- Phoenix Energy
- Quackenbush Mt. Compost
- Recology Blossom Valley Organics
- Recology Feather River Organics
- Recology Jepson Prairie Organics
- ReFuel Energy Partners
- Soiland Co, Inc.
- Sonoma Compost
- Tracy Delta Compost
- Upper Valley Recycling
- Vision Recycling
- Zanker Road Resource Management
- Z-Best Compost Facility
- Zero Waste Energy Development
- Zero Waste Energy, LLC

**CCC Executive Committee**

- Bill Camarillo, *Agromin*
- Greg Kelley, *Northern Recycling Compost*
- Eric Potashner, *Recology*
- Greg Pryor, *Recology*
- Will Bakx, *Sonoma Compost*
- Christy Pestoni Abreu, *UVR Compost*
- Michael Gross, *Z-Best Compost*

**CCC Team**

- Neil Edgar, Executive Director
- Evan Edgar, Regulatory Affairs
- Steve Peterson, Financial Advisor
- Rick Moore, Peer Review Engineer
- Monica White, Sustainability Advisor
- Sean Edgar, Fleet Advisor

**CCC Legislative Affairs**

- Justin Malan, EcoConsult
- Neil Edgar, Edgar & Associates Inc.

## Marin Sanitary Service's Food-to-Energy Program

Marin Sanitary Service is a local family-owned and operated business that has served their community proudly since 1948. Over the decades, MSS has grown with their customers, and believes in the power of recycling to conserve our natural resources.

MSS is proud to provide curbside recycling, solid waste, yard waste and food scraps hauling, safe household hazardous waste disposal, and many other services that are helping to achieve Marin County's goal of zero waste. MSS launched a successful food-to-energy program in 2014 with the Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA) and offered the program to local businesses years ahead of the AB 1826 mandatory organics collection requirements.

MSS is in a unique position to provide complete garbage, recycling, and organics collection for our commercial customers. Whether they are a large or small business, a multifamily apartment unit, a hospital, or other institution, our Commercial Recycling Team is ready to implement AB 1826. Our customized collection services combined with technical assistance is designed to help each business to minimize waste and maximize diversion.

The way the program works is restaurant workers place food scraps in special carts that are picked up by Marin Sanitary Service drivers. The scraps are delivered to the transfer station, where they are ground into one-inch bits. The ground food is trucked to the Central Marin Sanitation Agency and dumped into a large vat, where it is combined with collected fats, oils and grease.

The oily mixture is then pumped into the agency's anaerobic digesters, where bacteria breaks down the concoction into methane biogas and biosolids. The methane is piped through a filter that removes impurities before it's run through a generator at the wastewater treatment facility.

Joe Garbarino, owner/operator of MSS, said nearly 30% of material going to landfill is organic. "We're mixing our solid waste with their liquid waste to create methane gas that is used as fuel to power the Central Marin Sanitation Agency's generator," Garbarino said. "We're diverting about 45 tons of food waste each week." The program began years ago when San Rafael received a \$25,000 grant from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. to study the possibility of creating a food scraps-to-energy plan. After conducting a waste study and launching

a pilot program, sanitation officials now have their sights set on expansion.

Marin Sanitary's Kim Scheibly said there's a dedicated food waste coordinator who works with the program's restaurants and food vendors, including Whole Foods, United Markets, Scotty's Market, Marin Country Mart, and Woodlands Market, but the plan is to add more participants. "We have 180 customers participating and diverting 2,400 tons of food waste per year," Scheibly said. Since the program began in January 2014, a total of 5,265 tons of food scraps have been diverted from the landfill and turned into energy!

CMSA is now running on biogas 22 hours per day and have completed the process with PG&E to sell power back to the grid, and is basically off the grid. CMSA has become Net Zero with Zero Waste.

