

The background of the top half of the page is a photograph of the California State Capitol dome, showing its white marble structure and the golden dome on top. The image is partially obscured by a white curved shape on the right side.

2026

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear Legislators and Regulatory Partners,

On behalf of the Resource Recovery Coalition of California (RRCC), I welcome legislators and statewide leaders as we continue the 2025–2026 Legislative Session.

California's growing challenges in waste management, recycling, and climate resilience underscore the vital role RRCC members play in protecting public health and safety. Through responsible waste collection, recycling, and organics management, our members support communities across the state while advancing California's environmental and climate goals.

RRCC members are key partners in helping cities and counties comply with SB 1383's organic waste diversion requirements—an essential component of the state's strategy to reduce short-lived climate pollutants. Investments in advanced technologies and infrastructure have expanded materials recovery, generated renewable energy, and produced high-quality compost that supports California's circular economy.

To build on this progress, RRCC supports continued investment in composting and anaerobic digestion infrastructure to ensure jurisdictions and service providers have the resources needed to meet the state's diversion goals.

As a member of the SB 54 Advisory Committee, I am working with stakeholders to implement California's new packaging framework and reduce plastic waste through practical, scalable solutions.

While recent developments have paused implementation of the Advanced Clean Fleets rule, our members remain committed to reducing emissions and transitioning to cleaner technologies. Challenges remain, including vehicle availability, infrastructure development, duty-cycle limitations, and payload capacity constraints.

Renewable natural gas (RNG) derived from organic waste continues to provide significant near-term emissions

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RESOURCE RECOVERY
COALITION OF CALIFORNIA

Waste collection, recycling, and organics management are essential to protecting public health and advancing California's climate goals.

continued from cover



VERONICA PARDO
Executive Director



LINDSAY GULLAHORN
Legislative Advocate

reductions while supporting the circular economy. Establishing a long-term pathway for waste-derived biogas will be important as California advances its broader clean transportation goals.

We also encourage continued progress on hydrogen infrastructure development, which will be an important component of the state’s future clean energy portfolio.

As California confronts the growing impacts of climate change—including drought, wildfire, and extreme weather—our waste and recycling systems must remain resilient, reliable, and sustainable. RRCC members stand ready to work alongside policymakers and regulators to meet these challenges and support a cleaner, healthier future for all Californians.

Thank you for your leadership and partnership.

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RRCC engaged policymakers and industry leaders throughout the legislative session through facility tours, events, and direct outreach. These engagements demonstrated the essential role our members play in waste collection, recycling, and organics management as we work toward a cleaner and more resilient California.



Photos 1 + 2: RRCC and CFEE hosted a tour of Halo Glass and Gallo Glass with Assemblymembers Juan Alanis, Heath Flora, Josh Hoover, and Tina McKinnor, along with Treasurer Fiona Ma, Deputy Treasurer Khaim Morton, and industry partners. **3.** RRCC coordinated a visit with Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis at Napa Recycling to showcase innovative recycling and composting operations advancing California’s circular economy. **4.** Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, shared insights at the 2024 RRCC Legislative Luncheon, highlighting his commitment to a greener, more equitable California. **5.** Honored to host Senators Anna Caballero, Tim Grayson, and Christopher Cabaldon, along with Bill Dodd, at our 2024 PAC Dinner to discuss California’s challenges and opportunities.



RESOURCE RECOVERY
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Education and safety remain two core priorities for 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 a seven-month series designed to equip future leaders in the waste and recycling industry. In May 2025, we proudly celebrated the graduation of our **ninth class**, marking another milestone in developing industry leadership.



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.

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.





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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