



RESOURCE RECOVERY COALITION OF CALIFORNIA

MARCH 2024

On behalf of the Resource Recovery Coalition of California (RRCC), we welcome Governor Newsom, new and returning Legislators, and our statewide officers to the second year of the 2023 – 2024 Legislative Session.

RRCC members are essential service providers that offer waste collection, recycling, and organic waste management throughout California. We protect the health and safety of our local communities by processing municipal solid waste and keeping California's streets clean. Our members are also vital to achieving the state's goal for a circular economy.

RRCC members continue to assist their cities and counties in meeting California's organic waste diversion regulation (SB 1383 Lara, Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016), which commenced in 2022. As part of a statewide goal to reduce short-lived climate pollutants, jurisdictions must provide organic waste collection and management to all residents and businesses, and our communities require continued support to meet these important obligations.

In addition to diverting organic waste, cities and counties, and the waste providers who serve them, are now required to convert their heavy-duty vehicle fleets to zero emissions under the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) rulemaking. While we are enthusiastic for the future, serious obstacles exist in making this transition. Aside from concerns about how long a battery electric refuse truck can operate, significant loss of payload and the cost to purchase these trucks, the necessary infrastructure to charge heavy-duty zero emission vehicles (ZEV) is not currently available. Furthermore, significant delays in manufacturing mean companies are waiting for years on new ZEV purchases. As essential service providers, it is imperative that waste and recycling fleets be able to deploy fleets if ZEV charging and heavy-duty vehicles are unavailable.

Moreover, we strongly support the continued use of renewable natural gas (RNG) derived from organic waste to fuel refuse vehicles. Today, the greatest emission reductions are achieved when RNG is used to displace traditional fossil fuel. As we move into greater heavy-duty ZEV use, California must find a long-term pathway and home for biogas derived from waste and wastewater, which will be generated in perpetuity. We also require more support from the Legislature to build out the critical infrastructure for California's hydrogen future.

Our members have a long history of supporting our communities and the environment as we advance California's waste management infrastructure. From investments in advanced technology at materials recovery facilities, to production of renewable energy and compost from organics, our coalition members lead the state in waste and recycling innovation. We look forward to a continued partnership with you to strengthen the resilience of California's waste and recycling system and achieve our climate change reduction goals.

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Tracy Adams
PRESIDENT

Founded over 60 years ago, the members of the Resource Recovery Coalition of California (RRCC) operate in over 50 cities and counties throughout California. Many are multi-generational family owners who live in the communities they proudly serve. In addition to supporting the local economy, RRCC members are committed to being excellent service providers and environmental community stewards.

As the solid waste and recycling industry has evolved, our members have been at the forefront; their work goes far beyond the curb and is central to achieving California's ambitious climate plan goals. In partnership with cities and counties, the industry has invested in innovative processes and technologies to prevent recyclable and organic materials from going to the landfill, and instead uses them to create new products, compost for agriculture, renewable energy, and low-emission renewable gas. Never have the values and commitment to finding new and better ways to reduce waste and manage our resources been more important than now as we strive to build a true circular economy that will bring California to carbon neutrality.

While our state sustains historic drought, floods, wildfires, and other extreme effects of climate change, we remain committed more than ever to achieving our goals in the most efficient and effective way possible. Our focus in 2024 includes:

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS AND PACKAGING: With the recent passage of SB 54 (Allen, 2022), California is on target to achieve the most comprehensive extended producer responsibility (EPR) law in the country. Manufacturers will finally be responsible for end-of-life management of the materials and products they put on the market. We are currently working with CalRecycle, and all impacted stakeholders, to develop regulations that will require manufacturers to reduce plastic packaging waste, create domestic markets for recycled materials, remove the cost burden of recycling from local residents, and ultimately drive sustainable product design.

ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT: Helping our local jurisdictions implement successful organic waste management programs continues to be one of our top priorities. We have continually supported strong budget allocations to help build organic waste processing infrastructure, like composting and anaerobic digestion facilities. Though California is facing a budget deficit this year, we encourage continued support for organics management infrastructure to divert organic material from landfills and meet our climate objectives.

ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES: Our members have long supported emissions reductions in the heavy-duty vehicle sector. As early, voluntary adopters of low-emission technology, many have championed alternative fuels, and some have even closed the loop in their own communities by fueling their collection trucks with renewable natural gas (RNG) made from the organic waste they collect. Our members are always looking to the future to make their communities cleaner, healthier, and safer. We support an effective transition to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) that accounts for:

- The commercial availability of ZEVs that can match the performance of conventional refuse vehicles: ZEVs must be available for purchase and delivery and be able to manage the weight (payload) and duration (duty cycle) expectations of a typical collection route.

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- The cost of ZEVs and necessary charging infrastructure: ZEVs can cost twice as much as conventional trucks, and with reduced payload, more ZEVs are needed to manage the workload of fewer conventional trucks. With the additional cost to build the charging infrastructure necessary, we anticipate significant cost increases for Californians.
- Energy availability and reliability: Waste and recycling collection and processing is a critical essential public service that protects the health and safety of our communities by preventing public hazards caused by uncollected garbage. In the event of public safety power shutoffs, storm outage, and the aftermath of natural disasters, we must be able to reliably deploy refuse collection fleets.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with our state partners and other stakeholders in these important policy areas, so that together we achieve California's climate goals.

In 2023, The Resource Recovery Coalition of California propelled our industry forward, building on the successes of 2022! A Our political and public affairs strategy focused on leveraging social and digital platforms to educate both the public and policymakers on our industry's role in championing a more sustainable California. Through site visits, social media engagement, and personal interactions, we're dedicated to staying connected and relevant within the community. #SustainableFuture #CommunityEngagement



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

FACEBOOK: [@ResourceCoalitionCA](#)

TWITTER: [@ResCoalitionCA](#)

INSTAGRAM: [@ResourceCoalition](#)

LINKEDIN: [@Resource Recovery Coalition of California](#)

1. Assemblymember Diane Papan addresses Coalition members during our 2023 Sacramento Lobby Day. 2. CalRecycle Director Rachel Machi Wagoner, Deputy Director Zoe Heller and Legislative Director Erin Rodriguez tour Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery and discuss the future of recycling with RRC staff and industry members. 3. Assemblymember Heath Flora tours the Gilton Resource Recovery - Transfer Facility. 4. Beginning in 1990, the Resource Recovery Coalition of CA has annually presented one award for long-term exemplary commitment and dedicated service to the waste industry. To receive this award is considered the ultimate honor that can be bestowed upon a member of the Resource Coalition family. On June 29, we were honored to present the 2023 Moscone Award to Mr. Louie Pellegrini Jr. of Peninsula Sanitary Service, Inc.

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