

Regional Recycling Working Group Meeting

Date: 03/25/2025

Meetings take place the 4th Tuesday of the month from 10am – 12pm

Location: Microsoft Teams meeting

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

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Meeting ID: 246 581 699 636

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[+1 619-343-2539](#)

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If any accommodations are needed, please contact Eric Wolff (contact info below)

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County of San Diego

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Agenda

1. Introductions

- Alex White, ProduceGood
- Alma Ramirez, City of Escondido
- Amanda Smith, County of San Diego
- Caitlin Barboza, HF&H
- Christian Olivas, City of Lemon Grove
- Dana Laosiri, Republic Services
- Darlene Cossio, Goodwill San Diego
- Daron Warkentin, City of San Diego
- Diana Jamaledine, City of Solana Beach
- Doug Kobold, CPSC
- Ellyn Law, County of San Diego
- Emilia Cloutman, City of Carlsbad
- Eric Wolff, County of San Diego
- Fernando Moreno, SCS Engineers
- Gilberto Verdugo, City of San Diego
- Gio Cortes, City of Escondido
- Heather Heckman, City of Santee
- Heidi Sanborn, NSAC
- Janin Rodarte, City of Oceanside
- Jenna Roripaugh, WM
- Jennafer Steffen, City of Poway
- Jesus Aramburo, WM Oceanside
- Jonathan Lisicki, Specialized Waste Solutions
- Julia Gallaway, County of San Diego
- Julia Glorioso, I Love a Clean San Diego
- Kelsey Corban, Goodwill San Diego
- Kenneth Prue III, City of Oceanside
- Madeline Lascola-Hutcherson, Goodwill San Diego
- Mallika Sen, Solana Center
- Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista

- Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego
- Nicole Grucky, City of Solana Beach
- Oscar Gittemeier, City of San Diego
- Richard Anthony, Richard Anthony Associates
- Stephen Mergener, Zero Waste San Diego
- Steve Weihe, County of San Diego
- Timothy Lee, City of San Diego & Clean Harbors
- Wbaldo Arellano, City of Imperial Beach

2. Open Forum

- Solana Center for Environmental Innovation:** Hosted a successful Zero Waste Textile Expo in partnership with EDCO and City of Encinitas. Had ~10 vendor booths, a clothing swap, and opportunities for repairing clothing. Solana Center also had its second inspector training course with lots of participants from around the state, reviewing case studies and performing mock site visits for SB 1383 compliance checks. The next quarterly training will be in August. Solana Center is proud to announce a partnership with San Diego Botanical Garden. Lastly, Executive Director Jessica Toth is on a 3-month sabbatical, so Mallika Sen will be the acting executive director in the meantime.
 - Solana Center would love to work with more organizations and/or provide trainings. If interested, contact [Mallika Sen](mailto:mallika.sen@solanacenter.org) (mallika.sen@solanacenter.org). Also check out the free education opportunities - [Events - Solana Center](#).
- Republic Services:** Proudly announces the opening of a THOR de-packager. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Friday, April 25, 10am – 12pm at Otay Sustainability Park (1700 Maxwell Road, Chula Vista, CA 91911). Event is invite-only, so reach out to [Dana Laosiri](mailto:dlaosiri@republicservices.com) (dlaosiri@republicservices.com) or 619-755-5536 if you'd like to attend!
- City of San Diego:** [Tour the Miramar Landfill](#) with I Love a Clean San Diego!

3. Presentation from Goodwill San Diego: Goodwill - Zero Waste at Work: Practical Programs for Lasting Change

- Kelsey Corbran**, Sustainability Manager - kcorbran@sdgoodwill.org
- Maddie LaScola**, Environmental and Employee Health and Wellness Coordinator - mlascola@sdgoodwill.org
 - Goodwill San Diego provides no-cost services to all San Diego residents. In 2024, the organization served ~8,000 people.
 - Sustainability practices include substantial diversion goals (current diversion rate is 74% with a 90% diversion goal by 2030), solar powered buildings, electronics recycling programs, internal mixed recycling programs, and utilizing electric vehicles in their fleet.

- Providing education alongside the implementation of a program will help create overall change and repeating that process as new/more regulations or goals come along is important.
- Ambassadors in Action Program
 - Active participation means active learning and leads to sustainable habits – Host quarterly challenges for staff and customers to be involved and excited.
 - Connect, engage, follow up – Starting engagement early improves adaptability to new programs in the future. Creating an open dialogue not only helps employees feel comfortable asking questions but also allows them to provide feedback on how to improve the program.
 - Reducing and diverting soft plastics:
 - Soft Plastics Initiative in internal operations
 - For the pilot program, choose a store that wants to be a part of it.
 - Distribute educational materials with clear and consistent messaging. Images are helpful!
 - Communicate clear goals and start date.
 - Follow up to see what's been learned, where improvements can be made.
 - In Sep. 2024, stores went bagless encouraging customers to bring their own bags or purchase a reusable option at checkout.
 - 60,000lbs of soft plastics has been diverted from the landfill!
 - Benefits: Increased revenue from bag sales and recycling, decreased costs of waste hauling expenses, avoided over 113 metric tons of CO2 emissions.
- **County of San Diego:** Do you know approximately how much you have saved in hauling expenses by recycling soft plastics?
 - **Goodwill:** 100s of dollars have been saved on hauler bills.
- **Solana Center:** Would you be willing to share who your partner is for your soft plastics recycling?
 - **Goodwill:** Our recycling partner is Trex.
- **County of San Diego:** Is Trex paying you any money per lb. at all?
 - Goodwill: Yes, Trex is paying Goodwill.
- **County of San Diego:** Discussed a new growth opportunity for Goodwill in renting out dining ware for events. For example, [Kitchens for Good Shop](#).
 - **Solana Center:** Shares that they too have a program to use reusable dishware for any event - program is called [Green Convene](#). You can rent up to 240 sets of a complete plate set. Donations are voluntary.
- **Solana Center:** What was the biggest obstacle you had to overcome in implementing your sustainability program?
 - **Kelsey Corbran:** Rolling out to all stores (30+ locations) – refining consistent messaging on how to collect, why we're collecting, and the importance of collecting.

- **Madeline LaScola:** Focused on employee interactions and changing in-store behaviors – education was a tough part, making sure everyone was on the same page despite different attitudes and levels of awareness.

4. CalRecycle Update

- a. March 19 - SB 1383 Chat with CalRecycle – SB1383 Implementation in Multifamily Dwellings ([Recording here.](#))
- b. [Upcoming open grant and loan cycles](#)
- c. Workshops
 - i. [April 8](#) – Covered Electronic Waste Recovery and Recycling Payment Rates for Video Display Devices Workshop
 - ii. [April 22](#) – **Next** CalRecycle Monthly Public Meeting
 - iii. [July 17](#) – Textile Stewardship Informational Workshop

5. CA Product Stewardship Council Update, Presented by **Doug Kobold:**

- a. AB 80 – Carpet recycling bill is being cleaned up and amended to include firm dates, standardizing back stamping. April 7, the bill goes to Resource Committee.
- b. AB 762 – Prohibits sale of single use vapes to reduce fire hazards and waste creation. Only 1 HHW treatment facility in CA can process/treat this waste.
- c. AB 854 – EPR solar panel bill, rooftop solar focused, negotiations with industry is ongoing, amendments coming soon.
- d. AB 754 – Pharma and sharps cleanup bill, amendments would make the bill an extended producer responsibility program.
- e. Ab 1325 – Introduces a producer responsibility bill rather than a CalRecycle program for lubricants and waste oil. Looking at Canada's program as inspiration.
 - i. The government-run oil program is great for some, but others are having issues. If you are having issues, let CalRecycle know.
- f. SB 501 – HHW EPR bill expected to save local jurisdictions money.
- g. Sb 561 – Marine flare EPR bill.
 - i. Producer Orion is strongly opposing so local support is welcome. Can email Heidi Sanborn (Heidi@nsaction.us) for copy of support letter and sign on.
- h. SB 615 – EV batteries bill is back.
- i. Sb 235 – Precious minerals – bill is only for a study at this time to see how much is not being recovered, national security interest issue too.
- j. Ab 1478 – Amends that producers pay directly to CalRecycle for mattress recycling rather than showing it as a separate line item, which has been proven to be time consuming and costly due to specific computer program requirements.
- k. Sb 45 – Leash the lid
- l. SB 54 – Gov. Newsom called for the bill not to be submitted, citing costs to consumer and industry (\$3 bil per year), and not enough discussion on how

curbside rates could be impacted. CalRecycle has up to 1 year to move the bill back to formal rule making.

- i. **City of San Diego:** What is the guidance for jurisdictions regarding SB 54?
 - 1. **CPSC:** Stay informed, review the covered materials list, establish costs you will incur in your local program, reach out to advisory board
 - 2. **NSAC:** Listen and watch carefully
- m. Organics related bills: AB 70 (biomethane), AB 337 (expansion of edible food recovery grants), AB 436 (composting facilities zoning), AB 473 (product packaging), AB 1046 (food processing establishments), SB 279 (compostable materials on farms, composting industry concerned)

6. NSAC Update

7. Wasting Fee Update

- a. **Richard Anthony:** Working to get a letter to the Board of Supervisors via the Sierra Club.

8. SB 1383 Rollout Roundtable

- a. **County of San Diego:** Continuing site visits, received all reports from FROs and finalizing numbers.
- b. **Solana center:** Collecting FRO reports, focusing on FRO inspections – going well, hearing messaging that some FROs are seeing a decline in donation quantities. Food banks weren't seeing this at a high level but will investigate it. Also seeing several FROs are picking up quite a bit from generators but only distributing once a week resulting in unintentional food spoilage.
- i. **ProduceGood:** ProduceGood works to supply food the day before or day of distribution to prevent waste. They also sort what is rotten, so distributors don't need to. [Reach out for more information.](#)

9. Other Regional Working Group Reports

- a. If you would like to attend a Working group meeting or connect with a Working Group chair, review the agendas and minutes posted on the [County's website](#) for contacts and more information.
- b. Edible Food
 - i. **County of San Diego:** No presentation, discussion about site visits, annual reporting. County regional webpage coming soon.
- c. HHW
 - i. No update
- d. Organics

- i. **County of San Diego:** City of Chula Vista presented on compost application trainings particularly with their Parks staff to encourage compost use, reviewing the benefits of compost, how to apply, and the challenges faced: purchasing equipment to apply materials, dust issues from application process – moisture balances and seasonal timing matters. WG discussed the use of compost socks during the LA fires, how they reduced runoff and erosion. Agriculture compost voucher program – climate action plan team implements, board looking at incentives to transition to sustainable agriculture, pilot project with various crops (360,000 CY of compost for program). Calrecycle released info on procurement credit. Next meeting will not be April 3, replaced instead with the April 25 ribbon cutting ceremony at Otay Sustainability Park.

1. <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/Docs/Web/129843>

- e. Reuse and Repair Network
 - i. No update

10. Roundtable

- a. March 30 – International Zero Waste Day
- b. Earth Month and Earth Day coming up!
- c. April 18 - County of San Diego will be holding an Earth fair at County Operations Center.
- d. April 27 - Goodwill is hosting a free Sustainability Fair on April 27 from 11 am to 2 pm at 3663 Rosecrans Street, Classroom A. Hope you will join us for fun DIY projects, opportunity drawings, and great giveaways. See [the flyer](#) for more info.

11. Adjournment- next meeting 4/22/2025