

Regional Recycling Working Group Meeting

Date: 04/22/2025

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

Location: Microsoft Teams meeting

Microsoft Teams meeting

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

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Agenda

1. Introductions

- Alma Ramirez, City of Escondido
- Avecita Jones, City of Carlsbad
- Caitlin Barboza, HF&H Consultants
- Christian Olivas, City of Lemon Grove
- Colleen Foster, HF&H Consultants
- Dana Laosiri, Republic Services
- Daron Warkentin, City of San Diego LEA
- Diana Jamaledine, City of Solana Beach
- Ellyn Law, County of San Diego
- Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle
- Eric Wolff, County of San Diego
- Gilberto Verdugo, City of San Diego
- Gio Cortes, City of Escondido
- Heather Heckman, City of Santee
- Janin Rodarte, City of Oceanside
- Jared Zitron, Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE)
- Jennafer Steffen, City of Poway
- Jenna Roripaugh, WM
- Jesus Aramburo, WM
- Joanne Brasch, CPSC
- Joseph Coppola, City of Chula Vista
- Julia Gallaway, County of San Diego
- Kirk Kinder, County of San Diego
- Kristen Dare, WM
- Lee Mutter, City of El Cajon
- Leslie Webb-Blanco, City of Vista
- Lotte Phoummavong, Goodwill San Diego

- Mackenzie Anderson, ProduceGood
- Mallika Sen, Solana Center
- Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista
- Marina Pangilinan, I Love A Clean San Diego
- Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego
- Natalia King Quick, County of San Diego, Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice
- Nicole Grucky, City of Solana Beach
- Ofelia Andrade, City of Coronado
- Paul Maechler, City of Encinitas
- Rick Anthony, Richard Anthony Associates
- Rick Gloria, City of San Diego LEA
- Serena Lee, City of La Mesa
- Stephen Mergener, Zero Waste San Diego
- Steve Weihe, County of San Diego
- Tracie Bills, HDR Engineering & CRRRA
- Victoria Reiser, National Stewardship Action Council
- Yvonne Cordero, City of Imperial

2. Open Forum

- a. Stephen Mergener, Zero Waste San Diego – Zero Waste San Diego will be opening a center in Downtown San Diego! Laura Anthony spoke at the [United Nations Zero Waste Webinar Series](#), speaking about the San Diego Fixit Clinics on 4/25.
- b. Serena Lee, City of La Mesa – Management Fellow, Victor, conducted interviews to identify attitudes and policies regarding waste; thank you to everyone who spoke with him! City of La Mesa is looking at contracting with a third-party HHW provider and would like copies of current contracts from other jurisdictions. Please reach out to SLee@cityoflamesa.us.
 - i. Eric Wolff, County of San Diego – The County contracts with Clean Harbors. All County contracts are publicly available on [Buynet](#).
- c. Mallika Sen, Solana Center for Environmental Innovation— Happy Earth Day! [Events and education](#) coming up: In-person composting workshops and webinars, food waste prevention webinar at the end of April. Solana Center is busy with inspections and refining Tier 1/2 lists and helping cities with paper procurement requirements. Pro tip: Take up Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle LAMD, on her offer to do a paper procurement workshop with you.
- d. Rick Gloria, City of San Diego – Republic Service submitted permit to increase hours and tonnage at the Sycamore Landfill. Otay Landfill is going through their 5-year review.
- e. Natalia King Quick, County of San Diego – County Earth Day Fair on Friday, April 18 was a success. This was the 2nd COC Earth Day celebration, including more local groups and over 300 participants. Check out the highlights [HERE](#). Reach out to Natalia.King@sdcounty.ca.gov if you would like to be included next year!

3. Presentation - A Presentation on Carpet Recycling – [Carpet America Recovery Effort](#) (CARE) – Jared Zitron, CA Senior Associate – jjitron@carpetrecovery.org, 310-699-3717
- a. CARE serves as the designated carpet stewardship organization of CA.
 - b. CA has the highest carpet recycling rate in the nation. In 2023, the CA carpet recycling rate was 35% and projected to be higher in 2024.
 - c. CARE is responsible for AB 2398, AB 1158, AB 729. CARE is also charged with market development and incentivizing recyclers.
 - d. Each piece of carpet collected is sorted by fiber type, shredded, and then processed into materials like fiber, sand, pellets, synthetic wood and trim, rubber products, and more, supporting the circular economy.
 - e. Funds are collected by the retailer at the point of sale. Assessment funds support incentives for recyclers, grants, drop-off sites, etc.
 - f. There are seven public drop-off sites and two private sites in San Diego and 162 in CA ([more information here](#)). CARE is working to establish new public drop-off sites and reuse outlets, so if anyone has ideas where/how please reach out.
 - i. Locations are based on population density.
 - g. Have marketing and outreach collateral available for public use if jurisdictions would like, reach out.
 - h. Micro-grants for drop-off sites are also available up to \$15,000. Note, it would pay for physical infrastructure (paving, shelter, equipment, etc.), not labor.
 - i. Questions? Contact Abbie Beane, CARE Grants Manager – abeane@carpetrecovery.org, or call 503-320-4975
 - i. Mallika Sen, Solana Center – What percentage of carpet do we think is not being recycled?
 - i. Jared Zitron, CARE - Gross collections rate is separate from the recycling rate. CalRecycle measures the yield based on the carpet that is put through the recycling process:
 - 1. CARE Carpet 2023 Recycling Rate = 35%
 - 2. Collection Rate = 49%
 - 3. Recycling Efficiency Rate (Yield) = 71%
 - j. Mallika Sen, Solana Center – Are all carpets recyclable? Any exceptions?
 - i. Jared Zitron, CARE—Technically yes, but it does depend on the market. Must look at whether the collection and processing is profitable for the recyclers. Recyclers are able to accept everything, however. They encourage reuse first.
 - k. Mallika Sen, Solana Center – What are the challenges?
 - i. Jared Zitron, CARE -- Trying to capture the hundreds of mom-and-pop shops that don't have regular collection. They would need small container collections. CARE is piloting a 3 cubic yard bin program to try to get the independent retailers to capture the carpet before it enters the waste stream where it then becomes labor intensive to sort out. Another challenge is doing regular outreach to every retailer in the state, new and old.
 - 1. Eric Wolff, County of San Diego – Knowing there are other options for properties with space constraints is very helpful. Would this 3 CY bin program be for mom-and-pop shops only or could it be offered elsewhere like transfer stations, too?

- a. Jared Zitron, CARE -- As this is a pilot program right now, we don't know the feasibility of the program yet, though we are open to the idea of offering it elsewhere. Will need to figure out how to build the infrastructure.
 - l. Rick Gloria, City of San Diego -- Do you recycle carpet padding?
 - i. Jared Zitron, CARE -- Yes, especially for the convenience of recyclers. The theory is that if you don't collect the padding, you lose recyclable carpet. Typically, recycled pads are made into new pads.
 - m. Serena Lee, City of La Mesa -- Is there a link to get the media kit for government?
 - i. Jared Zitron, CARE—Here is a link to our Carpet Recycling Toolkit for Local Government Recycling Coordinators. It has a lot of CARE resources specifically for Local Government, including promotional templates:
https://carpetrecovery.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CARE_PartnerToolkit_2023.pdf
 - ii. The general Local Government resource page:
<https://carpetrecovery.org/california/ca-recycling-coordinators/>
- 4. CalRecycle Update – Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle
 - a. Grants & Loans:
 - i. App Due May 1: [Local Enforcement Agency Grant](#)
 - ii. App Due July 8: [Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant](#)
 - iii. App Due July 17: [Tire-Derived Aggregate Grant](#)
 - iv. Ongoing: [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program](#)
 - v. Ongoing: [Recycling Market Development Zone Program](#)
 - b. Public Meetings:
 - i. March SB 1383 Chat was focused on the implementation of 1383 in multifamily dwellings. [Recording here.](#)
 - ii. There was no SB 1383 Chat with CalRecycle in April.
 - iii. April 22: [Monthly Public Meeting](#)
 - iv. May 20: [Monthly Public Meeting](#)
 - v. May SB 1383 Chat with CalRecycle to be announced.
 - vi. July 17: [Textiles Stewardship Informational Workshop](#)
- 5. CPSC Update – Joanne Brasch, California Product Stewardship Council
 - a. Deadline for bills to get out of the Policy Committee is end of May.
 - b. CPSC sponsored bills
 - i. AB 880 – carpet bill passed unanimously in committee, one the fastest hearings, technical changes only nothing transformative, The Carpet and Rug Institute is in support of the bill. [Coalition letter here.](#)
 - ii. AB 762 – single-use battery vape pens bill passed out of committee, now looking at how it will impact retailers. [Collation letter here.](#) Now headed to the Committee on Business and Professions.
 - iii. AB 864 – solar panel bill – cleaning up the recycling provisions, lowering barriers so out of state recyclers can participate, specifically the transportation aspect. Concerned about the impacts of tariffs on China who is

the primary supplier, executive orders, and the high cost of living. Reassessing whether this EPR bill should continue this year or wait for a better time.

1. This bill has no coalition letter, but here is a model letter you can copy if interested in submitting:

https://www.calpsc.org/files/ugd/ad724e_2998c682a6b94463a839944df8056e41.pdf

- c. Not CPSC bills
 - i. AB 754 -- sharps EPR bill will not move forward.
 - ii. AB 1394 – mandating public health depts hand out medical disposal pouches, but CPSC suggests costs shouldn't land on another department. Opposing.
 - iii. SB 7682 – nonessential PFAS ban – it is a replication of Maine's successful ban.
6. NSAC Update – Victoria Reiser, National Stewardship Action Council
 - a. NSAC sponsored bills
 - i. SB 561 – emergency distress flares EPR bill – only 1 hazardous waste facility in CA is able to handle the disposal of marine flares, yet even they aren't able to get all the permits to do it properly. Passed in committee. Sent to the Committee on Appropriations. [Coalition letter here.](#)
 - ii. SB 501 – HHW EPR bill – Passed in committee. Sent to the Committee on Appropriations. [Coalition letter here.](#)
 1. Paul Maechler, City of Encinitas—Will this bill act separately from other EPR bills or replace?
 - a. Victoria Reiser, NSAC— SB 501 will handle products not already covered in other state programs.
 - iii. Sign onto coalition support letters using the links above or contact Victoria@nsaction.us.
7. Wasting Fee Update
 - a. Ric Anthony, Richard Anthony Associates-- Environmental orgs will be writing letters to the Board of Supervisors asking to increase the wasting fee from 2 cents to \$1.02 per ton of waste disposed of in landfills located in the County to pay for education and other diversion programs. Ron Askeland, Vice Chair of the Sierra Club San Diego Chapter, has taken lead on this project.
 - b. Vecita Jones, City of Carlsbad – Has there been a presentation in TAC about this fee? I would like to know more: what is the impact on jurisdictions? Is this just funding for the County? How would incorporated jurisdictions benefit? Will there be a Joint Powers Authority? Is it a loan? Will the fee be by population?
 - i. Richard Anthony, Richard Anthony Associates—Would you like Ron to come to the monthly meeting to give a presentation?
 1. Eric Wolff, County of San Diego—It would be great to get more info, see how the budget gets split up and all the other details.

2. Wasting Fee presentation by Ron Askeland added to the schedule for July.
8. Non-Disposal Facility Element (NDFE)
 - a. Eric Wolff, County of San Diego—The County updated the NDFE and submitted to CalRecycle. As a reminder, each jurisdiction must have an NDFE on file. The County attempts to include all facilities located in the County so that jurisdictions can reference our NDFE rather than completely updating their own. Let Eric Wolff (Eric.Wolff@sdcounty.ca.gov) know if new facilities or expansions get permitted so they can be included in the County's NDFE.
 - i. Ric Anthony, Richard Anthony Associates-- Will you be presenting on this at TAC/CAC?
 1. Eric Wolff, County of San Diego-- No review is needed by a local task force or CalRecycle for this submission, but we can review it at a future Recycling Regional Working Group meeting if parties are interested.
 9. SB 1383 Rollout Roundtable
 - a. Eric Wolff, County of San Diego-- inspections continue, preparing for JACE inspection.
 - i. Colleen Foster, HF&H—Recommend renaming this category on the agenda to “SB 1383 Roundtable” as we have moved past the rollout stage. Presented at the SWANA Western Regional Symposium. 26 JACE compliance notifications went out about two weeks ago and anticipate 76 more by end of May. The notification will come by email, and some have reported it has gone to spam so look out for that. That email is your first notification and then you'll have 10 days to get the implementation record (IR) submitted.
 1. Pro tip: Have your implementation record compiled before you get the notification, don't wait!
 2. Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle-- If anyone is feeling uneasy about JACE or IR, please reach out for a chat. If you're unsure how the IR is looking, we can do an initial review and assess any gaps. Reach out with any questions and you will get help.
 - a. Eric Wolff, County of San Diego— The JACE department and the LAMDs are separate. The LAMD is working to assist jurisdictions and get jurisdictions ready for the JACE review, they do not report any findings to JACE.
 - b. Colleen Foster, HF&H – In fact, the two departments are separate divisions within CalRecycle. LAMD is there to help and get you on track. Taking a proactive approach connecting with your LAMD, reviewing your program, and improving as you go will benefit you when you get to the JACE compliance process.
 10. Other Regional Working Group Reports

- a. Edible Food – Ellyn Iaw, County of San Diego
 - i. A [new resource website](#) in partnership with DEHQ was published for the region, including new videos and new documents.
 - ii. Group discussed food recovery efforts at large venues and how they fit in the Tier 2 classification.
 - iii. Next meeting is May 20.
- b. HHW – No update.
- c. Organics – Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego
 - i. No organics meeting in April. Will be attending the THOR ribbon cutting ceremony on April 25 at the Otay Sustainability Park in lieu of a meeting.
- d. Reuse and Repair Network —No update

11. Roundtable

- a. Goodwill is hosting a free Sustainability Fair on April 27 from 11 am to 2 pm at 3663 Rosecrans Street, Classroom A. If you have any questions, email mlascola@sdgoodwill.org or check out [more info HERE](#).
- b. Attendees discussed challenges with organic waste recycling participation at multi-family complexes.

12. Adjournment- next meeting 5/27/2025