

Organics Recycling Working Group Meeting

Date: Thursday, July 2, 2026 1:00- 2:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Contact/Chair: Michael.Wonsidler@sdcounty.ca.gov

Agenda

1. Introductions

- Julia Gallaway, County of San Diego
- Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego
- Dr. Craig Kolodge, San Pasqual Valley Soils
- Diana Jamaledine, City of Solana Beach
- Jessica Toth, Solana Center
- Nicole Grucky, City of Solana Beach
- Carmen Romo-Diego, City of San Diego
- Wbaldo Arellano, City of Imperial Beach
- Avecita Jones, City of Carlsbad
- Natalia King Quick, County of San Diego

2. SB 1383 (General, Education/Outreach, Procurement, etc.)

- a. County of San Diego will be ending its voucher program for compost bins this fall. It will continue to partner with Solana Center to offer subsidized bins and resources for residents/businesses on how to build their own bin.
- b. City of Imperial Beach is looking into restarting compost bin initiatives for their residents.
- c. Solana Center: CWB Sanitation offers services for cleaning commercial and residential green organics bins, using vehicles that hold clean water and retain dirty water for up to approximately 500 bins before needing to empty. \$0.67 per property. They are interested in partnering with jurisdictions and haulers.
- d. Electronic Annual Reporting is due 8/1/2026.
- e. City of Carlsbad: Billing inserts will be going out soon to provide outreach on organic recycling and the value in doing it correctly with full public participation.

3. Compost & Mulch

- a. Giveaway Events
 - i. City of San Diego
 1. Discussed the recent Miramar Greenery Open House, which included facility tours, education stations, and a compost and mulch giveaway, with collaboration from Waste Reduction Division and I Love a Clean San Diego, engaging around 150 attendees. Looking to plan future events.
 2. Announced plans for a contamination study on incoming organics feedstock in August.
- b. Countywide Web Resource Hub by Jurisdiction: no update.
- c. Application

- i. Use in Fire Prevention
 - 1. 8/31 at CRRRA Conference – Dr. Craig Kolodge and Dr. Natalie Levy will be on a panel about [Compost Use in Fire Recovery and Remediation](#). CalFire experts will also be on the panel.
 - 2. A University of Nevada study found that composted mulch woodchips are the least flammable mulch to use - [Mulch-Study-by-Nevada-sp-11-04.pdf](#)
 - a. Compost is pre-combusted. It holds temperatures over 130 degrees for a minimum of 2 weeks.
 - 3. Forestry Workshop – found that there is more woody biomass from urban areas versus what’s coming out of national and statewide forests, prompting CalFire to seek and understand ways to use compost and mulch as a resource.
 - 4. First Urban Wood Convening in July- CalFire and Unified Wood Economy leading discussion
 - a. Longer workshop in October
 - b. Reach out to Leana Mauricette leana@uweconomy.org if interested in participating
 - 5. CalFire and Caltrans are finding ways to limit risk of using combustible materials near urban areas.
 - 6. San Pasqual Valley Soils is looking into doing local combustibility studies with CalFire and Unified Wood Economy.
 - 7. Group discussed the use of compost to mitigate impacts of fires. Compost filter socks were used in LA after the recent fires as a cheaper cleanup option to pull pollution and toxins from the soil and any runoff.
- ii. Guidance, Trainings & BMPs
 - 1. Tip sheets and specifications
 - a. [Compost and Mulch Use Toolbox](#)

4. Member Topics:

- a. Compost Caravan
 - i. The Association of Compost Producers (CA Chapter of USCC) is organizing a Compost Caravan event in San Diego on 10/22/2026. This will involve compost workshops and demonstrations.
 - 1. Various topics:
 - a. SB 1383 Implementation Progress and/or Procurement
 - b. Compost Contamination Reduction Strategies
 - c. Compost Research and/or Policy Updates
 - d. Challenges/Opportunities/Innovations in the Compost Industry
 - e. Compost Market Development Strategies
 - 2. Target audience is ranchers and farmers.
 - 3. [Sign up to speak or sponsor the Oct 22 CA Compost Workshop & Demo Day.](#)
- b. Compostable Plastics
 - i. Some facilities are considering conducting studies to evaluate how “compostable” products break down using different composting methods.

- c. Agritourism & educational demonstration sites
 - i. Group discussed the role of agritourism and educational demonstration sites in promoting compost use, noting that the Farm Bureau is focused on regulatory issues and that entertainment value is crucial for public engagement at venues like fairs. Currently, entertainment value is a higher priority for agritourism than for educational purposes. Local jurisdictions or compost producer associations could take on the educational role.
 - d. Healthy Soil connections
 - i. A regenerative agriculture film event was held at Coastal Roots Farm in Encinitas. It was well attended, but highlighted a need for discussion on the financial and career challenges facing young farmers that would support local agriculture and healthy soils.
5. Legislative Updates
- a. [SB 1031 \(Blakespear\) – Solid Waste: Compostable Products](#) would mandate clear product labeling standards and ASTM compliance for compostable products, bans misleading claims, and requires health impact studies, aiming to reduce contamination and improve processing.
 - b. [SB 54 \(Allen\) – Solid waste: reporting, packaging, and plastic food service ware.](#) Group discussed this regulation that will require all single-use items to be recyclable or compostable by 2032. The definition of “compostable plastics” definition will need to be closely followed.
 - i. Chapter 4 on Compostable materials. CAA has program plan open to comment until July 10: [California Program Plan Public Comment Period — Circular Action Alliance](#)
6. Roundtable, News & Events
- a. US Composting Council launched [Compost Use & Perception Surveys](#) that focus on opportunities and barriers within roadways, landscape, and development sectors.
 - i. Responses due July 10
 - b. Republic Services opened a new organics processing facility in San Bernadino County.
7. Adjournment - next meeting August 6, 2026 (first Thursday 1:00- 2:30 p.m.)