

Organics Recycling Working Group Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 1, 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
 - Amanda Smith, County of San Diego
 - Chloe Cost Republic Services
 - Anastasia Loskutov, Republic Services
 - Dana Laosiri, Republic Services
 - Ed Baskin, City of San Diego
 - Melissa Perez, Republic Services
 - Wbaldo Arellano, City of Imperial Beach
 - Ken Prue, City of Oceanside
 - Gio Cortes, City of Escondido
 - Emilia Cloutman, City of Carlsbad
 - Fernando Moreno, City of Escondido
 - Carmen Romo-Diego, City of San Diego
 - Steve Weihe, County of San Diego
2. Open Discussion (General, SB 1383, Education/Outreach, Procurement, etc.)
 - a. Featured Topic: In your experience, what method has been most successful in encouraging newcomers to using compost/mulch? Do you track these, and if so, how?
 - i. County does not typically document newcomers at giveaway events, and that involves collaborating with Parks and Rec department.
 - ii. Republic Services has an intake form for people who are picking up compost from giveaways events (up to 6 times per year) to track new users.
3. Compost & Mulch
 - a. Giveaway Events
 - i. Republic Services Giveaway is November 14th to lead up to Thanksgiving holiday. Pairing giveaways with other “touch points” such as holidays has been successful.
 - ii. Fall Regional Events Sept. 12- Oct 25
 1. 4 events already completed in September.
 2. Considering smaller events with other giveaways and education, such as pairing compost giveaways with seeds.
 - iii. [Countywide Resource Hub by Jurisdiction](#)
 1. Reminder that if anyone has upcoming events, please send them to Julia Gallaway (julia.gallaway@sdcounty.ca.gov) for positing on the hub.

- iv. Promotion Support
 - 1. Oct. 21- 22 Compost Caravan in San Diego
 - b. Application
 - i. Guidance, Trainings & BMPs
 - a. [Compost and Mulch Use Toolbox](#)
- 4. Member Suggested Topics:
 - a. Compostable Plastics
 - i. Some state legislation related to compostable plastics.
 - ii. City of San Diego has their compostable plastics program.
 - b. Agritourism & educational demonstration sites
 - a. Demonstration Gardens & Landscapes at Public Sites (Parks, Libraries, etc.) areas with & w/o compost application
 - i. County is considering adding more demonstration gardens across County sites to encourage composting and gardening skills.
 - b. Landscape/Yard Signs
 - c. Healthy Soil connections
 - i. No update.
- 5. Legislative Updates
 - a. **AB 643 (Wilson) – Organic waste procurement flexibility**
 - i. Allows local jurisdictions to meet SB 1383 procurement requirements using beneficial agricultural amendments derived from biosolids and similar materials, supporting organics recycling pathways.
 - b. **SB 279 (McNerney) – Composting capacity expansion**
 - i. Expands composting capacity statewide by enabling farmers to manage biomass (orchard/vineyard removals) with off-site inputs and by supporting community-scale composting operations.
 - c. **AB 70 (Aguiar-Curry) – Biomethane pathway recognition**
 - i. Defines pyrolysis and allows digest pipeline biomethane to count toward SB 1383 procurement targets, linking organics-derived fuels to state compliance mechanisms.
 - d. **AB 473 (Wilson) – Delay of SB 343 Truth in Labeling Law (Two-year bill)**
 - i. Influences recyclable/compostable labeling credibility, indirectly affecting contamination in organics streams.
 - e. **AB 28 (Schiavo) – Elevated temperatures in landfills (Two-year bill)**
 - i. While not an organics bill per se, it addresses landfill conditions often driven by decomposing organic materials and affects oversight of organics management failures.
- 6. Roundtable, News & Events
 - a. [San Diego Climate Week](#) (Oct. 1-8)
 - i. County is promoting compost giveaway events during this week.

- b. National Food Waste Prevention Week (Sept. 28-Oct. 4)
<https://foodwastepreventionweek.com/>
- 7. Next meetings:
 - a. Nov. 5, 2026 (first Thursdays 1:00- 2:30 p.m.).
 - b. Quarterly in-person meeting: Dec. 3rd.
 - i. Interest in arriving early 12:30pm for informal lunch.
 - 1. Meeting will be held at the County Operations Center at 5510 Overland Avenue, San Diego. Meeting room TBD.
 - 2. Majority of attendees responded with interest in lunch before the in-person meeting.
- 8. Adjournment