

Organics Recycling Working Group Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 3, 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
- Ashley Swauncy, City of Carlsbad
- Dave DiDonato, City of Chula Vista
- Diana Jamaledine, City of Solana Beach
- Gio Cortes, City of Escondido
- Heather Holland, SD Master Gardeners
- Jessica Toth, Solana Center
- Kenneth Prue III, City of Imperial Beach
- Dana Laosiri, Republic Services
- Melissa Perez, Republic Services
- Priscilla Flores Meza, City of Oceanside
- Carmen Romo-Diego, City of San Diego
- Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle
- Serena Lee, City of La Mesa
- Adil Syed, CalRecycle
- Valeria Collins, City of San Marcos
- Jennifer Winfrey, City of San Diego
- Fernando Moreno, City of Escondido

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

- a. Group discussed their experience and lessons from the CRRRA Conference (Aug. 31-Sep 2).
- b. Routeware is looking for feedback from jurisdictions on the Recyclist platform to identify areas of improvement.
- c. Solana Center will be leading an inspector training in October with an emphasis on edible food recovery requirements. Registration is now open: [Food Recovery Inspection Training: California SB 1383 Compliance Fall 2026](#)
- d. County of San Diego shared that they received their JACE compliance evaluation notice.
- e. Members were polled and liked the idea of meeting in person, indicating interest in doing so on a quarterly basis.

3. Compost & Mulch

- a. Giveaway Events
 - i. Fall Regional Events Sept. 12- Oct 24

- ii. Countywide Resource Hub by Jurisdiction
 - iii. Collaboration on Promotion
 - b. Oct. 21- 22 Compost Caravan in San Diego
 - i. [2026 CA Compost Workshop & Demo Day Tickets, Thursday, October 22 • 8 AM - 5 PM](#)
 - ii. City of San Diego will be presenting on the decontamination study.
 - iii. County of San Diego will be presenting on its zoning ordinance update which streamlined composting land use permitting.
 - c. Application: No updates.
 - i. Guidance, Trainings & BMPs
 - 1. Tip sheets and specifications
 - a. [Compost and Mulch Use Toolbox](#)
4. Member Topics:
- a. Compostable Plastics
 - i. Helpful discussions on reusables during CRRRA conference. Increasing reusables may curb some of the challenges seen with compostable plastics.
 - b. Agritourism & educational demonstration sites
 - 1. Demonstration Gardens & Landscapes at Public Sites (Parks, Libraries, etc.) areas with & w/o compost application
 - a. City of Chula Vista is seeking a new location for a community garden to host a demo site.
 - b. San Diego Master Gardeners has a list of ~70 local community gardens and would be happy to help build connections.
 - i. [San Diego Community Gardens Mapped - Google My Maps](#)
 - c. If interested in setting up a demo site and/or an event with a garden, reach out to both the specific garden and Master Gardeners.
 - d. Contact information:
 - e. For gardens, this is often available by clicking on their site in the map linked above.
 - f. For San Diego Master Gardener Community Garden team, please email: communitygardens@mastergardenersd.org
 - 2. Landscape/Yard Signs
 - a. Placing signs in areas that use compost and mulch would be impactful to demonstrate the benefits.
 - c. Healthy Soil connections
 - i. No update.
5. Legislative Updates
- a. No updates.
6. Roundtable, News & Events
- a. Paper procurement – business card resources
 - i. If anyone has tips on 30% recycled business cards, please contact: slee@cityoflamesa.gov

- b. City of San Diego started their official decontamination program of curbside green organic bins following a successful pilot study. The program will continue to use manual sorting and do full scale cleaning of all loads. Partnering with ECTLC to help with the hand-sorting and reporting.
 - i. How will you use this program to influence education?
 - 1. The Waste Reduction division will lead the outreach and education aspect. Will be able to get new footage for educational videos. Looking to reinforce the message that what participants place in the green bin matters.
 - 2. Routes will be tracked to see which areas are more contaminated and based on that information, the team will be able to do focused outreach.
 - ii. Master Gardeners could be trained on common contaminants found and include a discussion on it during their workshops to spread awareness.
- c. Group discussed the benefits of targeted outreach such as Oops Tags and lid flips. There has been a variety of responses from residents, but the results show that the interventions generally reduced contamination.
- d. Ashley Swauncy with the City of Carlsbad presented at the CRRRA Conference – Bin to Benefit panel and emphasized the importance of working with haulers and involving the truck drivers in contamination reviews.
 - 1. Drivers are the boots on the ground who know their routes very well and can relay issues. Good for jurisdictions and organizations to participate in morning huddles, empowering the drivers. Reducing contaminated loads must be a collaborative effort.
 - 2. Though a contractor typically delivers Oops Tags, drivers can also give Oops Tags for egregious offenses they observe.
 - 3. Contamination fees and uncollected contaminated carts are powerful tools to notify people and help shape positive behavior.
- e. Giving residents feedback is impactful. How can jurisdictions share feedback? Ideas discussed included:
 - i. Oops Tags and Great Job Tags programs
 - ii. Haulers sending postcard notices
 - iii. Including specific photos in a letter
 - iv. Route reviews
 - v. Sending postcards/notices of end of year goals and targets reached – Eg: “You were able to compost this many pounds and that’s this many football fields” – using understandable numbers so folks understand impacts.
 - vi. One suggestion was to offer a community a load of compost as a reward for low contamination levels.
 - vii. Recognizing communities with awards or social media promotions.

7. Adjournment- next meeting (first Thursday 1:00- 2:30 p.m.)