

Regional Recycling Working Group Meeting

Date: 10/22/24

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

Location: Virtual Meeting via Teams

Host: Eric.Wolff@sdcounty.ca.gov

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Alma Ramirez, City of Escondido
- Amy Unruh, I Love a Clean San Diego
- AVECITA Jones, City of Carlsbad
- Brett Vollrath
- Brooke Yaptangco Flinn, County of San Diego
- Caitlin Barboza, HF&H Consultants
- Dana Laosiri, Republic Services San Diego
- Daron Warkentin, City of San Diego
- Debbie Descans, Waste Management
- Ellyn Law, County of San Diego
- Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle
- Eric Wolff, County of San Diego
- Fernando Moreno, SCS Engineers
- Gio Cortes, City of Escondido
- Heather Heckman, City of Santee
- Heidi Sanborn, National Stewardship Action Council
- Janin Rodarte, City of Oceanside
- Jenna Roripaugh, Waste Management
- Jennafer Steffen, City of Poway
- Joanne Brasch, CA Product Stewardship Council
- Jordan Wells, National Stewardship Action Council
- Julia Gallaway, County of San Diego
- Kenneth Prue III, City of Oceanside
- Kirk Kinder, County of San Diego
- Leia Berube, Solana Center
- Leslie Webb-Blanco, City of Chula Vista
- Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista
- Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego
- Monica Martinez, City of El Cajon
- Natalia King Quick, County of San Diego
- Ofelia Andrade, City of Coronado
- Polina Osipova, City of San Diego
- Ric Anthony, Zero Waste San Diego
- Risa Baron, Republic Services
- Rocio Ramos, City of Oceanside
- Rosemarie Chora, City of Oceanside
- Serena Lee, City of La Mesa
- Sonia Diaz, County of San Diego
- Stephanie Ewalt, EcoTech Consulting
- Stephen Mergener, Zero Waste San Diego Scalvage
- Steve Weihe, County of San Diego
- Wbaldo Arellano, City of Imperial Beach

2. Open Forum

- **Amy Unruh, I Love A Clean San Diego (ILACSD):** Upcoming events include:
 - **10/25**, join I Love A Clean San Diego at [Trash O' Treat: Tijuana River Valley Regional Community Cleanup](#) which includes a Halloween costume swap and zero waste candy.
 - **10/25**, come out to [Care for your County: Ramona](#) where there will be a clothing swap, costume swap, salsa canning workshop with Rogue Farm, and multiple service projects to support the community.
 - **10/26**, ILACSD and City of Carlsbad are teaming up for a [fixit clinic-- Halloween edition!](#)
 - a. **AVECITA Jones, City of Carlsbad:** There will also be an e-waste collection with Republic.
 - **10/26**, there will be a [Beautification and Community Mural event](#) at Encanto Park with City of San Diego.
 - **11/7**, [Stay Classy O'Side: Lake Blvd Street Sweep](#) is calling all ecowarriors to clean up the park and watersheds.

- **Joanne Brasch, CA Product Stewardship Council:** There is an upcoming [Marine Flare Collection event](#) at the Port of San Diego on 10/26. Will also be offering a limited number of free reusable marine flares!
- **Leia Berube, Solana Center:** Inspections are in full swing, and businesses are implementing the recommendations for compliance. Not many citations have needed to be distributed. The education team is offering support to Title I schools to help with lunch sorting as they implement organic recycling programs, including lunch staff training and student workshops. For more information, please contact sarah.vanhorn@solanacenter.org. Other upcoming events include:
 - **11/6 - 11/8, 2024**, Solana Center is hosting a [Food Recovery Inspection Training](#) with CRRRA. CRRRA and SWANA members receive a discount on the course. This training will also count towards professional development hours with SWANA.
- **Serena Lee, City of La Mesa:** Litter Free events are coming up. There will be 6 additional events after November. More information to come. 8 free HHW events will be added to the calendar for next year. In the meantime, residents can schedule appointments with EDCO for HHW drop offs. The Climate Action Plan Update draft was released 10/21 for public review. It is scheduled for formal adoption with City Council on November 26. Upcoming events include:
 - **11/16**, come out to [Litter Free La Mesa](#) with City of La Mesa and ILACSD for a litter cleanup at Rolando park.
 - **10/28**, there will be a [Climate Action Plan Update Community Event](#), which will include activation stations for each of the strategies in the CAP, including one on Waste Reduction with the school's Green Team helping with "trash" sorting.
- **Ric Anthony, Zero Waste San Diego:** Zero Waste San Diego received a grant from the Rose Foundation to support fix-it clinics. Zero Waste USA is forming a youth program with an upcoming Zoom meeting calling all young professionals (under 35) who want to get involved. If interested, contact Zero Waste San Diego.
- **Eric Wolff, County of San Diego:** The County in collaboration with EDCO held a successful residential cleanup event in Lakeside that had an 89% diversion rate. Upcoming events include:
 - **10/26**, in collaboration with EDCO, the County is hosting an [Unincorporated Residential Cleanup Event](#) in Borrego Springs which includes bulky item and recyclable materials collection, a donation opportunity, and a mulch giveaway.
 - **11/9**, Unincorporated HHW event Warner Springs, more information to come.

3. Presentation

- None

4. CalRecycle Update:

- **Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle:**
 - [SB 1383 Chat with CalRecycle: Non-Local Entity and Local Education Agencies](#) has been posted on YouTube. The next chat held in November will be on procurement, no date yet.
 - The 15-day **comment period for SB 54 has been extended to be a 20-day comment period that will end on November 4, 2024.** Only written comments sent directly to CalRecycle will be considered.
 - **11/20**, CalRecycle is hosting a [webinar on the Beverage Container Recycling Program](#) to explain how the reforms will impact beverage retailers.
 - **11/19**, next [CalRecycle Monthly public meeting](#).

- Open loan/grant programs include: [Beverage Container Quality Infrastructure Grant Program](#) (due 11/5/24), [Beverage Container Recycling City/County Payment Program](#) (due 11/19/24), [Local Government Waste Tire Enforcement Grant Program](#) (due 11/19/24), [Tire-Derived Aggregate Grant Program](#) (due 12/5/24), [Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program](#) (due 1/9/25), [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program](#) (continuous), [Recycling Market Development Zone Loan Program](#) (continuous).
- **Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista** – Now that there are rules making it illegal to distribute polystyrene, has there been any discussion on how it will be enforced or publicized statewide?
 - **Emily Schuetz, CalRecycle**: Will reach out to SB 54 team and follow up.
 - **Jordan Wells, National Stewardship Action Council**: According to [CalRecycle](#): “On Sept. 10 and 11, 2024, CalRecycle notified entities that may be producers of expanded polystyrene (plastic foam) food service ware, and relevant industry groups, of a legal requirement deadline [PRC 42057(l)]. To continue selling plastic foam food service ware in the state, producers must prove that all expanded polystyrene packaging and food ware meets a 25% recycling rate as of Jan. 1, 2025.” ([the notification](#))

5. CPSC Update

- **Joanne Brasch, CA Product Stewardship Council**:
 - **Solar bills**: did not pass, will reintroduce in the future with Assembly Member Ward. Received a DOE grant to build out reuse and repair opportunities for solar panels.
 - **SB 1280** – Waste management: propane cylinders: reusable or refillable – passed and signed by Governor Newsom 9/22/24.
 - The 15 years of campaigning have allowed for the reuse infrastructure to build.
 - Worthington Tanks, the main producer of propane cylinders, have until 2028 to make their 1 and 5 lb reusable.
 - **SB 707** – Responsible Textile Recovery Act – passed and signed by Governor Newsom 9/28/24.
 - First textile EPR in the nation, beginning a new era for reuse, repair, upcycling and global reporting. New York and Oregon are now in talks to introduce a similar bill.
 - CPSC has expanded their Statewide Textiles Recovery Advisory Committee to include brands and industry experts, offering services free of charge.
 - Joanne was featured on NPR!
 - **AB 347** – Household product safety: toxic substances: testing and enforcement – passed and signed by Governor Newsom 9/29/24.
 - Compilation of all the prior PFAS bills into one, menstrual products now included.
 - **SB 1053** – Bag ban – passed and signed by Governor Newsom 9/22/24.
 - Some of the “fabric” bags that have a large plastic content could be captured under SB 707.
 - **Ric Anthony, Zero Waste San Diego**: Are convenience stores like 7/11s included?
 - a. **Jordan Wells, National Stewardship Action Council** - Convenience stores are included in the Bag Ban. See the SB 1053 definition of store.

6. NSAC Update

- **Jordan Wells, National Stewardship Action Council**:

- **SB 1143** – Paint products: stewardship program – passed and signed by Governor Newsom.
 - Expanded to include non-industrial paint, aerosol coatings, and other specific paint types.
- **AB 863** – Carpet recycling: producer responsibility organizations: fines: succession: training – passed & signed by Governor Newsom
 - NSAC sponsored bill, consumer funded. Mandatory by 2029. Luxury vinyl tile excluded from bill. 4 CA stakeholders added to the Carpet America Recovery Board.
- **SB 1066** – Hazardous waste: marine flares: manufacturer responsibility – vetoed.
- Next year, we will be looking at including vaping devices and flushable wipes enforcement in HHW EPR.
- Upcoming events:
 - 11/7, [Charting the Course towards Producer Responsibility for Marine Flares and Boat Wrap](#) webinar.
 - 11/29, Household Hazardous Waste Webinar: [Don't be a hazard with your waste](#),
 - 11/8, first meeting of the [HHW EPR Stakeholder Roundtable](#)! Local action = national impact

7. Wasting Fee Update

- **Ric Anthony, Zero Waste San Diego:** The Sierra Club is looking at the Wasting Fee. This was presented to the Citizens Advisory Committee, and they discussed drafting a letter to share with others regarding this topic. Ric stated the price increase could raise nearly \$3.5 million for education and it would cost the consumer a \$0.25 increase.
 - **Avecita Jones, City of Carlsbad:** Are there any jurisdictions supporting this effort? Is this a cost to cities?
 - **Eric Wolff, County of San Diego:** Reminded the group that the Regional Recycling Working Group is an information sharing group and cannot advise on policy.

8. SB1383 Rollout Roundtable

- **Manuel Medrano, City of Chula Vista:** Republic Services has finished building their depackaging equipment at Otay to process unpackaging of organics.
 - **Risa Baron, Republic Services:** Staff training and equipment tests are now underway with the goal of being functional by November. Tours will be available in 2025 if anyone's interested!
 - **Polina Osipova, City of San Diego:** Will this function only be for commercial and not residential waste? Is it able to remove all packaging? What are its capabilities?
 - **Avecita Jones, City of Carlsbad:** For food waste only (no yard waste), only food generating commercial businesses will use. Asking customers to use clear plastic bags. The machine does have sorting capabilities for plastics and food ware; however, it is not intended to be a sorter.
- **Serena Lee, City of La Mesa:** Roll out for the last school in the jurisdiction happening this month!
- **Avecita Jones, City of Carlsbad:** Received confirmation that share table food items can only be given to students, not to staff and faculty.
- **Eric Wolff, County of San Diego:** The County has issued warnings which has been successful in getting properties to comply with SB 1383 requirements.

9. Other Regional Working Group Reports

- **Edible Food – Brooke Flinn, County of San Diego:** Last month, Flash Food presented information on their food recovery app and Palomar College presented on their upcoming updates to the GIS map with food recovery organization locations. The group also discussed share table rules and restaurant best practices. The next meeting is scheduled for 11/9 and will include a presentation from San Gabriel Valley Food Recovery Hub and Sharing Excess (a food recovery app).
- **HHW –** No report.
- **Organics – Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego:** The County Office of Education has started a [working group for school garden leaders](#). If jurisdictions have school programming, consider attending future meetings. The next meeting is **11/5**. The Litter Abatement contract with Planning and Development Services now requires source separation of all materials, including organics, during debris removal. The County's fall compost and mulch giveaway was a success-- 210 CY was given away at 7 County Parks! Looking for interested partners for future giveaways. EDCO is identifying properties with large numbers of horses to tackle manure disposal. Soil Health and Organic Materials Management Advisor, Natalie Levy, is creating a jurisdictional survey for future compost and mulch applications. More updates to come at the November meeting (**11/7**). San Pasqual Valley Soils presented at Storm Water Awareness Week: [Tools & Tips for Creating Green Infrastructure Using Compost](#). City of Chula Vista is training park staff and landscapers on compost use. Member interest to hold an in-person December meeting, stayed tuned.
- **Reuse and Repair Network –** No report.

10. Roundtable

- **Ofelia Andrade, City of Coronado:** For the **10/26**, [Marine Flare Collection event](#), who can participate, any verification required?
 - For anyone in San Diego County!
- **Ric Anthony, Zero Waste San Diego:** Have heard concerns regarding a significant plastic content in the compost procurement/giveaways.
 - **Michael Wonsidler, County of San Diego:** The processors at Miramar Greenery, San Pasqual, and Agri services are aware of the ongoing issue and are working on a multi-pronged approach. More upstream education with residents and businesses is crucial. Hoping SB 54 will address this issue further. Additionally, using depackagers at facilities is another possibility.
- **Heather Heckman, City of Santee:** Had a Tier I/II generator submit an "intention for use" food recovery agreement with [Careit](#), but stated an agreement can't be signed until the software has been used.
 - **Fernando Moreno, SCS Engineers -** Confirms the timeline of a generator getting an agreement with Careit – until the first donation is made, Careit won't allow for an agreement to be in place.

11. Adjournment – The November meeting has moved from 11/26 to 11/19. We will discuss whether to cancel the December meeting at the 11/19 meeting.