

TRUCK BY TRUCK. CALIFORNIA LANDFILL SCALES SHOW THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM.

**Dan Brown, CalRecycle Policy Manager:** “We dispose 40 million tons of waste a year.”

BUT TO SOLVE CALIFORNIA’S TRASH CRISIS – WE HAVE TO KNOW WHAT’S IN THE TRASH.

**Dan Brown, CalRecycle Policy Manager:** “we need to understand what materials are in the system so that we can then look at how do we target these materials.

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION STUDIES PICK APART WHAT WE THROW AWAY.

IT’S HOW WE KNOW FOOD, YARD AND OTHER PLANET WARMING ORGANIC WASTE MAKES UP OVER HALF OUR TRASH.

**Dan Brown, Env. Program Manager, CalRecycle Policy Development & Analysis**

The only way we can tell how much organics we have is by going out there and having sorting crews take apart the samples

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION IS HOW WE KNOW PACKAGING MAKES UP ABOUT A QUARTER OF WHAT WE THROW AWAY.

**Dan Brown, Env. Program Manager, CalRecycle Policy Development & Analysis**

Understanding how that material, composition of plastics and packaging in landfills right now help us figure out what material types in packaging are particularly problematic

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION HELPS US SEE TRENDS, LIKE HOW THE PANDEMIC CHANGED OUR TRASH.

**Edward Chu, Env. Scientist, Waste Characterization and Research Unit**

Personal protective equipment, that is now a new material type we have incorporated into this study.

**Carl Muth, Analyst, MSW Consultants** more shopping from home. You see that in an increase in cardboard.

TO DO THE STUDY, CALRECYCLE HIRES SKILLED SPECIALISTS TO SEPARATE WASTE.

**Migel Nigenda, Cascadia Consulting Group:** Once our vehicle surveyor gets a sample, a load selected, they come over and dump it over here

**Carl Muth, Analyst, MSW Consultants:** we pull out our 200 pounds, process it, weigh it, take our photos”

THE GARBAGE IS THEN SORTED.

CATEGORIZED,

**Carl Muth, Analyst, MSW Consultants:** “88 categories.”

**Carl Muth, Analyst, MSW Consultants:** “There’s a big focus in this study on packaging and food waste”

RECORDED.

**Carl Muth, Analyst, MSW Consultants:** gets weighed over here on the table. We record the weight on the digital tablet.

OF THE VARIOUS REPORTS ON WHAT CALIFORNIANS THROW AWAY, WASTE CHARACTERIZATION IS THE ONLY ONE TO GET DETAILED ABOUT WHAT IS IN OUR GARBAGE.

**Edward Chu, Env. Scientist, Waste Characterization and Research Unit:** Right now, CA is conducting its 6th waste characterization study.

THE 2021 STUDY TAKES A DEEP DIVE INTO TRASH AT 30 FACILITIES IN 19 COUNTIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

**Carl Muth, Analyst, MSW Consultants:** “Making sure everybody’s trash is represented in a study of this scale.”

CALIFORNIA USES THE DATA TO MEASURE THE OUTCOMES OF POLICY AND LAWS.

**Dan Brown, Env. Program Manager, CalRecycle Policy Development & Analysis**  
1383 is probably the biggest, current example.

IN THE STATEWIDE ORGANIC WASTE LAW, THE LEGISLATURE SET A TARGET FOR CALIFORNIA TO CUT ORGANIC WASTE 75% BY 2025.

**Dan Brown, Env. Program Manager, CalRecycle Policy Development & Analysis**  
2014 waste characterization study data was used to establish the baseline

**Dan Brown, Env. Program Manager, CalRecycle Policy Development & Analysis** In  
2018 we had new numbers.

**Dan Brown, Env. Program Manager, CalRecycle Policy Development & Analysis**  
We went from 67 percent organics to about 56 percent organics, which is a pretty big shift.

**Dan Brown, Env. Program Manager, CalRecycle Policy Development & Analysis**  
And we can look at potential reasons that may have occurred and one of those is mandatory commercial organics recycling was impactful.

AS CALIFORNIA MOVES TO DISRUPT THE ENDLESS STREAM OF SINGLE-USE TRASH POLLUTING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND WARMING OUR PLANET,

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION STUDIES ARE AN IMPORTANT TOOL TO IDENTIFY THE PROBLEMS AND MEASURE CHANGE.

**Dan Brown, Env. Program Manager, CalRecycle Policy Development & Analysis**

We want policy that is based on sound science and good information

**Dan Brown, Env. Program Manager, CalRecycle Policy Development & Analysis**

Circular economy about making sure material you bring into the system can be sustained perpetually so you minimize raw material and maximize reuse and recycling

MINIMIZING WASTE TO MAXIMIZE OUR ECONOMY.

AND MOVE CALIFORNIA CLOSER TO A ZERO WASTE FUTURE WITH LESS TRASH POLLUTION AND MORE GREEN JOBS.