

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.

**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”

And 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.

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.

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.