

California produces more than 55-million waste tires a year.

Tires are built to be very durable to be safe for us to drive on.

Up until a few decades ago, piles of illegally dumped tires polluted our state, sometimes catching fire - burning deep inside the pile.

Because tires have such a low ability to transfer heat, once a tire gets hot enough to burn, it's difficult to cool down.

In 1998 – an employee clearing weeds at a property illegally storing about 7 million tires in San Joaquin County – sparked one of the largest tire fires in our nation's history. Large plumes of toxic black smoke from the "Tracy tire fire" released dangerous chemicals like cyanide and carbon monoxide – while it burned for more than two years.

It really was a wakeup call for California that something had to be done."

California strengthened its decade old "tire recycling act" in 2000 - to put waste tires to better use.

Our role is to find new ways to recycle tires to prevent them from being illegally dumped or tossed into landfills.

California now tracks the storage and movement of used tires. and – supports recycling and market development – to encourage the use of products made from recycled tires.

CalRecycle promotes lots of tire derived products. We have a pretty extensive catalog online that shows everything a waste tire can become.

CalRecycle's tire incentive program provides financial incentives to eligible manufacturers that make new products from old tires.

Two of the products my team promotes include Rubberized Asphalt Concrete, and Tire Derived Aggregate.

T-D-A used as vibration mitigation under light rail – has saved the state millions of dollars while it absorbs sound, and allows for a smoother ride through neighborhoods.

With TDA, you're actually solving engineering problems.

Rubberized Asphalt Concrete - blends recycled tires and asphalt to create a more cost effective, durable, and environmentally-friendly alternative to traditional paving materials.

Other tire-derived products use ground up, recycled tires mixed with other materials to create products like flooring, roofing, traffic control devices, and pathways.

In a lot of ways, waste tire products outperform conventional materials, but using tires can often save money as well.

In 2021 - these innovative solutions – helped California recycle more than 19 million waste tires, or about 35%, into new recycled products.

California has made great strides in finding better uses for tires. but with 16.6% or 9.2 million tires being burned for tire-derived fuel - either within the state or shipped overseas- primarily to Asia, and more than 24 million tires still buried in landfills every year...

That means our work isn't completed yet.

There's more work on the road ahead.