

Request for Available Data
**SB 54 Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging
Producer Responsibility Act**

Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

**Topic: Needs Assessment Data
Request (December 14th, 2023
workshop)**

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Purpose & Background

The purpose of this document is to request that interested parties share data that is relevant to the implementation of [SB 54 \(Allen, Chapter 75, Statutes of 2022\)](#). The next section provides background and specific data requests. Any data or sources of data that can be shared are greatly appreciated.

Information on SB 54, including information on previous and upcoming workshops and the needs assessment, can be found on the SB 54 [webpage](#).

Request for Available Data

CalRecycle is soliciting information on potential data sources that could be used to complete the required needs assessment evaluations pursuant to PRC 42067(e).

Specifically, CalRecycle is seeking data to help describe and evaluate how covered materials generated in California are currently being managed, both at facilities within the state and outside of California. Gathering information on the current state of the materials management system will be foundational to understanding the actions and investments needed for covered material to meet the requirements of SB 54.

For more information on definitions and requirements, see statute for [SB 54 \(Allen, Chapter 75, Statutes of 2022\)](#).

Request 1: Data related to Recycling and Composting of Covered Material

CalRecycle is seeking relevant data regarding:

1. Existing collection systems (curbside and non-curbside) for covered material, including data on:
 - a. The amount and types of material going through different types of collection systems, especially non-curbside collection systems;
 - b. Contamination rates;
 - c. Availability of collection at multi-family residences and in rural areas;
 - d. Costs to set up and operate collection systems for recycling and composting, including a breakdown of costs where possible; and
 - e. Uses of advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, in existing collection systems.
2. Existing facilities transferring or processing covered material for recycling (including organics), including data on:
 - a. The amount and types of material currently being processed, including secondary processing;
 - b. The amount of currently available capacity to process materials for recycling at existing facilities in California;
 - c. Information about the proportion of incompatible materials or contaminants removed from the processing of feedstock derived from covered material including screening of the finished product;
 - d. Processing material flows in rural areas; and

- e. Uses of advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, in processing of recyclables.
3. Existing re-manufacturing facilities or facilities using feedstock derived from covered materials to produce new packaging or products, including data on:
 - a. The amounts and types of material being recycled into new products.
 - b. Re-manufacturing facilities located outside of California, but that process material generated in California.

Request 2: Data related to Source Reduction, including Reuse and Refill

CalRecycle is seeking relevant data related to:

1. Existing systems or programs for reuse and refill of covered materials, including information on types products or packaging utilizing reuse or refill systems, geographic coverage, years of operation, and challenges faced by the systems; and
2. Estimated impacts of reuse and refill systems, including rate of use, projected offset of single-use items through reuse and refill, and costs compared to single-use alternatives.

Request 3: Data related to Covered Material

CalRecycle is seeking relevant data related to:

1. Estimates for the weight and number of plastic components of covered material and plastic covered material

Process for Submitting Data or Information

CalRecycle has developed a process for receiving data and information from interested parties. While this process is not a specific requirement, CalRecycle requests that data be submitted using the specified format below, for the purposes of maintaining consistency in the way information is received, and to aid with expedited review and processing.

Please submit all responses to data requests to packaging@calrecycle.ca.gov with the subject line: *SB 54 Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act [Data Request]*. Preferred formats include e-mail, Word document, Excel, or PDF.

When providing a response to a data request, please include (1) the Data Request Topic, (2) the Item Number [e.g., Item 1, Item 2], including the specific title, (2) data, information, or feedback related to the specific data request, including metadata that would help us better interpret the shared data. For example, when providing feedback on *Item 1 – Recycling Technologies*, the preferred format would be:

Item 1 – Recycling Technologies:
Specific data related to this item...

This process can be repeated for each item an interested party wants to address.

Generally, records provided to CalRecycle must be disclosed to the public when they are requested by interested parties pursuant to the California Public Records Act, or “PRA”. However, certain records are not subject to mandatory disclosure under that law.

For example, if CalRecycle receives requests for records containing trade secrets, it will not disclose the portions of the records properly designated as containing trade secrets. The party submitting records, not CalRecycle, is responsible for designating portions of records containing trade secrets or that are claimed to be exempt from mandatory disclosure on some other basis. As such, parties submitting data to CalRecycle are responsible for identifying the specific data, information, or portions of documents that it believes to be exempt from mandatory disclosure and stating the basis for such belief (e.g., that they contain trade secrets). Data and information not identified in this manner may be disclosed by CalRecycle in response to requests for records under the PRA. For more information about the PRA exemption for trade secrets, refer to [Public Resources Code section 40062](#).

If an interested party has already submitted relevant data to the packaging@calrecycle.ca.gov inbox, they do not need to re-submit the data specific to this data request.