

CalRecycle Zero Waste Plan Public Workshop Discussion Document

August 14, 2024

**Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
Zero Waste Advisory | Knowledge Integration Section
Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal Relations, and
Education and Outreach | Division of Materials
Management and Local Assistance**

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Overview and Purpose of Workshop

The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) has scheduled a public workshop on **August 14, 2024**, from 10:00AM to 12:00PM, in the Byron Sher Auditorium, located on 2nd Floor, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, to consult with the public and solicit feedback for a statewide Zero Waste Plan.

The Zero Waste Plan discussion of the workshop is split into four parts:

- **Part I** will discuss the need for a Zero Waste Plan.
- **Part II** will discuss concepts related to zero waste.
- **Part III** will discuss a timeline of recent and upcoming milestones for the Zero Waste Plan.
- **Part IV** will discuss recommendations from the Baseline Report for the Zero Waste Plan.

The purpose of this document is to provide an overall outline of what is going to be discussed and the type of feedback CalRecycle plans on soliciting in advance of the workshop. All requests for feedback or informational items to share with interested parties will be specified in a gray textbox.

Part I. Why Zero Waste?

California has achieved impressive accomplishments in waste reduction and recycling over the years, but due to the complexity of material management in the state, there is room for improvement. Despite California's leadership and decades of successes, in

2022 the state recycled 41 percent of the materials in the waste stream and disposed of 40.5 million tons in landfills. To reach California's environmental and climate goals, capture lost resources, and capitalize on the potential of creating new jobs and attracting new industry, California requires a cohesive plan that builds on the successes of the past while identifying and addressing challenges and barriers to closing loops in the circular economy.

Current and new statutes will continue to move California towards a circular economy; however, they only address a portion of the waste stream and are often implemented in a piecemeal fashion. Significant changes and infrastructure development will be required to achieve the ambitious goal of zero waste. Unless efforts are made to consider how these programs fit together in a comprehensive fashion and identify existing gaps and materials that continue to have high disposal rates, California is unlikely to achieve zero waste in time to meet its environmental and climate goals.

SB 101 (Budget Act of 2023) requires the publication of a Baseline Report for a Zero Waste Plan by July 1, 2024, and the publication of a Zero Waste Plan by January 1, 2026. The Baseline Report was published earlier this year, and work is underway to draft the Zero Waste Plan.

Informational Item for Interested Parties: The background provides information on why CalRecycle is working on a Zero Waste Plan for California.

Part II. Zero Waste Concepts

There are underlying concepts of zero waste that align with and create a pathway to a circular economy.

Request for Input: CalRecycle is seeking input on what comes to mind when you think of a circular economy. Specifically, what concepts are important to you when it comes to achieving zero waste?

Part III. Zero Waste Plan Timeline



Informational Item for Interested Parties: The estimated timeline provides information on expected public engagement efforts and when the Zero Waste Plan will be published.

Part IV. Zero Waste Baseline Report Recommendations

To improve current programs and reach zero waste, the Baseline Report recommended that the state:

1. Reaches and surpasses existing waste and emission reduction mandates and goals.
2. Identifies and addresses gaps and overlaps to make current waste management systems more sustainable, effective, and cohesive.
3. Improves understanding of the full lifecycle of materials management (including each stage of the material lifecycle from beginning to end) to reduce loss and discourage disposal within a closed loop economy.
4. Combats environmental health and justice issues associated with the lifecycle of material production, consumption, and waste generation.
5. Maximizes environmental, social, and economic benefits of a circular economy.
6. Stimulates growth of our state's circular economy through activities such as:
 - Redesigning products for easy reuse or recycling.
 - Implementing infrastructure that reduces waste and enables reuse.
 - Developing markets for recycled materials.

1. Reaches and surpasses existing waste and emission reduction mandates and goals.

Request for Feedback: How does Recommendation 1 help drive us towards zero waste in California?

Do you have specific examples of where these efforts have been successful? Or examples of challenges?

2. Identifies and addresses gaps and overlaps to make current waste management systems more sustainable, effective, and cohesive.

Request for Feedback: How does Recommendation 2 help drive us towards zero waste in California?

Do you have specific examples of where these efforts have been successful? Or examples of challenges?

3. Improves understanding of the full lifecycle of materials management (including

each stage of the material lifecycle from beginning to end) to reduce loss and discourage disposal within a closed loop economy.

Request for Feedback: How does Recommendation 3 help drive us towards zero waste in California?

Do you have specific examples of where these efforts have been successful? Or examples of challenges?

4. Combats environmental health and justice issues associated with the lifecycle of material production, consumption, and waste generation.

Request for Feedback: How does Recommendation 4 help drive us towards zero waste in California?

Do you have specific examples of where these efforts have been successful? Or examples of challenges?

5. Maximizes environmental, social, and economic benefits of a circular economy.

Request for Feedback: How does Recommendation 5 help drive us towards zero waste in California?

Do you have specific examples of where these efforts have been successful? Or examples of challenges?

6. Stimulates growth of our state's circular economy through activities such as:
 - Redesigning products for easy reuse or recycling.
 - Implementing infrastructure that reduces waste and enables reuse.
 - Developing markets for recycled materials.

Request for Feedback: How does Recommendation 6 help drive us towards zero waste in California?

Do you have specific examples of where these efforts have been successful? Or examples of challenges?

Process for Submitting Written Feedback

CalRecycle has developed a process for requesting written feedback or questions from interested parties. While this process is not a specific requirement, CalRecycle requests all written feedback and questions to be submitted using the specified format below, for the purposes of maintaining consistency in the way in which the information is received, and to aid with expedited review and processing. All written feedback can be submitted to zerowaste@calrecycle.ca.gov with the subject line: *Zero Waste Public Workshop Feedback*. Written feedback can be provided prior to the workshop and after.

CalRecycle requests all feedback specific to the August 14, 2024 Workshop is submitted no later than August 31, 2024. Preferred formats include e-mail, Word document, or PDF.

Requested Feedback on Specific Recommendations:

When providing feedback on a specific recommendation, please include (1) the Recommendation Number [e.g., Recommendation 1, Recommendation 2], and (2) feedback related to that recommendation. For example:

Recommendation 1

Specific feedback related to this recommendation...

This process can be repeated for each recommendation an interested party wants to address. All feedback can be included in the same email or document.