

# WASTE DIVERSION FACT SHEET

## Contra Costa County Climate Leaders

A project of Generation Green - a 501(c)3 Nonprofit organization

Find Links to Other Local Government Policy Opportunities at [www.cccclimateleaders.org](http://www.cccclimateleaders.org)



### WHAT?

In an unprecedented move, California shocked the country in 1989 when it passed AB 939 – the Integrated Waste Management Act, which required all cities and counties to divert 50 percent of solid waste by 2000. Upon reaching this goal, the State is now striving for 75 percent diversion by 2020. The 75 percent by 2020 diversion mandate “represents the next evolutionary phase of waste management in California”<sup>i</sup>

What will it take to get to 75 percent diversion?

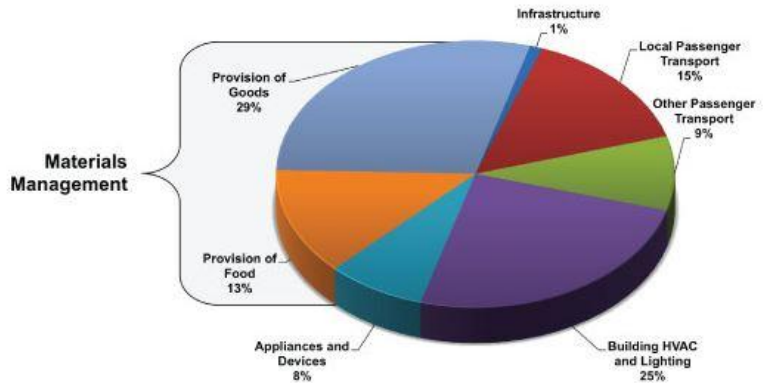
- Local Government Involvement
- Increase Traditional Recycling
- Moving >20 million tons/yr out of landfills
- Collecting >1/3 organic material
- Develop or expand recycling facilities

### WHY?

Waste reduction is critical to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reductions and overall sustainability.

- Traditional “waste” management addresses just **1 to 5 percent** of U.S. GHG emissions.<sup>ii</sup>
- EPA states: “**42 percent** of U.S. GHG emissions are associated with the energy to produce, process, transport, and dispose of the food we eat and the goods we use”<sup>iii</sup>
  - Goods account for **29 percent** and
  - food accounts for **13 percent** of that total.
- Rotting food in landfills produces Methane-- a greenhouse gas. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that over a period of 100 years, this gas (Methane) is 34 times more powerful at trapping the earth’s heat than CO2!<sup>iv</sup>

Systems-Based GHG Inventory US (Domestic) Emissions, 2006



### WHO?

In order to meet diversion goals, the State has passed several laws regarding recycling and diversion. Local government jurisdictions are responsible for implementing diversion strategies ---with CalRecycle enforcing the mandates as needed.

AB 939 – The Integrated Waste Management Act	Mandates the State to divert 75% of its waste by 2020
AB 341 – Mandatory Commercial Recycling	Requires businesses generating 4 cubic yards of waste per week & multifamily dwellings with 5 or more units to recycle.
AB 1826 – Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling	Requires businesses to recycle their organic waste on and after April 1, 2016.
AB 1594 – Compostable Organics Management	Eliminates a loophole that allowed yardwaste that’s used as landfill cover to count as being diverted from landfills



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AB 1045 – Organic Waste: Composting	Sets goal of reducing at least 5 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year through the development and application of compost on working lands
AB 876 – Compostable Organics	Requires local governments to plan for the building of sufficient composting and anaerobic digestion infrastructure to process for a 15-year period in their jurisdictions.
AB 199 – Alternative Energy	Creates a sales-and-use tax exemption for businesses on purchases of equipment used for recycling and composting, as well as equipment that processes recycled materials.

## WHERE?

Local government diversion practices:

- Contra Costa County maintains City details on [recycling services](#) and a Recycling Hotline: [1-800-750-4096](tel:1-800-750-4096)
- El Cerrito maintains a LEED certified [recycling and reuse center](#) featuring a seed library, compost, and donation trailers
- San Ramon maintains an on-call door-to-door [Household Hazardous Waste Collection program](#)
- Antioch hosts a variety of creative reuse programs including [costume exchanges](#) and [city-wide garage sales](#)
- Danville, Walnut Creek, Moraga, Orinda, and Lafayette in the JPA, [RecycleSmart](#), provide innovative waste reduction
- Hercules, El Cerrito, Pinole, Richmond and San Pablo in the JPA, [RecycleMore](#), also provide innovative programs

Local Government diversion best practices elsewhere:

- The City of SF has a [world-class zero waste program](#) featured in the Award-winning film “[Racing to Zero](#)” and a [0-50-100-roots](#) GHG reduction goal
- The City of Oakland has pledged to reach [zero waste by 2020](#).
- [The City of San Diego](#) incorporates key strategies to reach zero waste by 2040
- [The City of Emeryville](#) boasts a successful community wide solid waste program (Section 6.3)
- [The Marin Carbon Project](#) seeks to capture carbon using compost and reduce GHG emissions
- [The City of Hayward](#) has a robust climate action plan that includes waste reduction as a top priority
- [The City of Sacramento](#) uses generates natural gas from its fod waste program to fuel its garbage trucks
- Urban areas such as [Los Angles, Seattle, and Austin](#) are embracing zero waste efforts
- [The City of Fresno](#) boasts a 73 percent diversion rate through extensive education in schools and partnerships.
- [The West Coast](#) leads the nation in recycling
- Oregon cities; [Tacoma, Olympia and Portland](#) generate so little trash – they’ve switched to biweekly garbage service
- [New York](#) pilots a program combining public wifi with trash containers

## TO LEARN MORE?

Resources

- [CalRecycle](#) estimates meeting the 75 percent diversion goal could result in 20-30 million metric tons of GHGs
- [CalRecycle Disposal Reporting Information](#)
- [CalRecycle’s Mandatory Organics Recycling Information](#)
- [CalRecycle’s Local Government Requirements and Resources](#)
- [Funding from California Climate Investments](#)
- [Organics Recycling PSA](#)
- [RecycleWhere](#)



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- [Construction and Demolition Recycling](#)
- [Californians Against Waste](#)
- [Wooden pallet drop-off in CC County](#)
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/11/opinion/sunday/where-our-trash-goes.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>
- <http://www.grida.no/publications/vg/waste/page/2871.aspx>
- <http://inhabitat.com/food-waste-is-the-worlds-third-biggest-source-of-greenhouse-gas-emissions/>
- <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2015/01/150122-food-waste-climate-change-hunger/>
- <http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/2015/08/06/california-coachella-valley-recycling/31210091/>

i <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/75percent/>

ii <http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/climate-change-waste/>

iii <http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/climate-change-waste/>

iv <http://cleantechnica.com/2013/10/04/ipcc-warns-methane-traps-much-heat-thought/>

