



**DATE:** October 23, 2024

**TO:** Waste Management Authority and Energy Council

**FROM:** Jennifer West, Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** 2024 Legislative Year-End Report

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## **SUMMARY**

The California State Legislature adjourned its 2024 legislative session on August 31, passing 1,206 bills to Governor Newsom to consider signing or vetoing by September 30. He signed 1,017 bills and vetoed 189 bills, with a veto rate of 15.7 percent. The next two-year Legislative Session (2025-26) will start on Monday, December 2, when newly elected members, chosen in the November elections, are sworn in. Legislators can begin introducing new bills on this day.

## **DISCUSSION**

StopWaste's legislative priorities for 2024:

1. Common sense adjustments to SB 1383 requirements
2. Decarbonization/electrification in the built environment to reduce reliance on carbon-intensive energy and materials in our communities, including pursuing supply-side policies that would support electrification
3. Circular economy solutions and plastic pollution prevention
4. Clear product information for consumers
5. Building healthy food systems

Working with Jason Schmelzer and Priscilla Quiroz of Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer and Lange (our contract lobbyist in Sacramento), we tracked and provided input on priority bills throughout the legislative process. Below is a list of the final status of those bills and our established position. During the presentation, staff will present key takeaways from priority bills and provide high-level background on the strategy to address the state's budget deficit and potential implications for our legislative priorities.

### **Organics/Composting and SB 1383 Requirement Adjustments**

[AB 2346 \(Lee\) Organic waste reduction regulations: procurement of recovered organic waste products.](#)

StopWaste sponsored this bill. This bill makes numerous changes to recovered organic procurement requirements established through SB 1383 (Lara, 2016), including authorizing local jurisdictions to invest in various activities related to organic materials for credit toward procuring recovered organics, expanding what products are eligible for procurement credit, and making various other changes to the calculations used to establish procurement credits and targets.

Agency position: Sponsor

Support: League of California Cities, City and County of San Francisco, RCRC, & more

Opposition: None listed

Cost to local government: None

Status: Signed by the Governor on September 27, 2024

#### [AB 2902 \(Wood\) Organic waste: reduction regulations: exemptions](#)

This bill makes changes to organic waste policy established under SB 1383 (Lara, 2016), including waiving rural jurisdictions from SB 1383 collection and procurement requirements until Jan 1, 2037, exempting bear bins from the collection bin lid color requirements, and making bear bins eligible for CalRecycle grants.

Agency position: Support

Support: Rural County Representative of California (Sponsor)

Opposition: None listed

Cost to local government: None

Status: Signed by the Governor on September 22, 2024

#### [AB 2313 \(Bennett\) Farmer Equity Act of 2017: Regional Farmer Equipment and Cooperative Resources Assistance Pilot Program](#)

This bill requires the Department of Food and Agriculture, upon appropriation and contingent on passage of Proposition 4, a measure on the November 2024 ballot, to establish the Regional Farmer Equipment and Cooperative Resources Assistance Pilot Program to provide financial and technical assistance for farm equipment sharing and cooperative benefits for socially disadvantaged and limited-resource farmers and ranchers.

Agency position: Support

Support: California Certified Organic Farmers, Nextgen California, Californians Against Waste

Opposition: None listed

Cost to local government: None

Status: Vetoed

**Veto Message:** *I support the author's goal of assisting small-scale farmers and ranchers, but this bill creates a new grant program that lacks the necessary continuous funding to support it. I vetoed a similar bill last year due to budget concerns, and while I understand that this bill is contingent on a potential initial funding source, a new grant program that will require ongoing funding should be considered in the annual budget process.*

*In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.*

#### [SB 972 \(Min\) Methane Emissions: organic waste: landfills](#)

This bill requires CalRecycle to provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions to help them meet state organic waste recycling requirements.

Agency position: Support

Support: League of California Cities (Sponsor)

Cost to local government: None

Status: Vetoed

**Veto Message:** *While I appreciate the author's intent to assist local jurisdictions in meeting California's organic waste reduction and diversion targets established in Senate Bill 1383 (Lara, 2016), this bill is unnecessary and duplicative of existing efforts. CalRecycle currently offers a suite*

*of technical assistance materials and comprehensive staff assistance for all jurisdictions in the state specific to SB 1383. Further, the Local Assistance and Market Development branch within CalRecycle regularly meets with local jurisdictions, including monthly SB 1383 roundtables, and conducts annual site visits to provide customized assistance consistent with each jurisdiction's needs.*

#### [SB 1045 \(Blakespear\) Composting facilities: zoning](#)

Requires the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to develop and post on their website a technical advisory on best practices to facilitate the siting of compost facilities and requires cities and counties to consider updating the land use element to identify areas where it may be appropriate for compost facilities to be an allowable use.

Agency position: Support

Support: California Compost Coalition, Recology, Republic Services

Opposition: California Air Pollution Control Officers Association

Cost to local government: None

Status: Dead. The bill was held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

#### [SB 1046 \(Laird\) Organic waste reduction: program environmental impact report: composting facilities](#)

This bill requires CalRecycle to develop a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for use in review of small- and medium-sized compost facilities under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Agency position: Support

Support: Rural County Representatives of California, League of California Cities, City of Berkeley

Opposition: None listed

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Signed by the Governor on September 22, 2024

### **Decarbonization and Electrification, Low-Carbon Buildings**

#### [AB 593 \(Haney\) Carbon emission reduction strategy: building sector](#)

This bill requires the California Energy Commission to identify an emission reduction strategy for the building sector to support the achievement of the state's 2045 greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals.

Agency position: Support

Support: Building Decarbonization Coalition, Climate Action California, SPUR

Opposition: California Association of Realtors

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Dead. Held in Senate Appropriations Committee

#### [AB 2513 \(Pellerin\) Gas stoves and ranges: warning label](#)

This bill would prohibit a person from selling or offering for sale a gas stove that is manufactured or sold online on or after January 1, 2025, or sold in a store on or after January 1, 2026, unless that gas stove contains a specified warning label.

Agency position: Support

Support: CALPIRG, American Lung Association, Coalition for Clean Air

Opposition: Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers

Status: Vetoed

***Veto Message:*** *While I appreciate the author's intent to provide consumers with information about the products they purchase, I am concerned that this bill codifies highly prescriptive labeling*

*content that could only be changed by a future statutory amendment. This static approach falls short in enabling timely updates to the labeling content that should align with the latest scientific knowledge so that consumers are accurately informed about their purchases.*

#### [SB 1054 \(Rubio\) Natural gas: customer credit](#)

This bill dedicates all revenue from the sale of any greenhouse gas (GHG) allowances allocated to a natural gas investor-owned utility (IOU) directly to the IOU's residential customers. Specifically, this bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) annually to direct each natural gas IOU to distribute the California Climate Credit to residential customers of the gas IOU.

Agency position: Watch

Support: U.S. Green Building Council, California Apartment Association, Climate Reality Project

Opposition: None

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Dead. Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

#### [SB 1207 \(Dahle\) Buy Clean California Act: Eligible materials](#)

This bill expands the scope of the Buy Clean California Act to encompass all types of insulation rather than just mineral wood board insulation.

Agency position: Support

Support: California Building Industry Association, NRDC, U.S. Green Building Council

Opposition: None

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Signed by the Governor on September 25, 2024

#### [SB 1221 \(Min\) Gas corporations: ceasing service: priority neighborhood decarbonization zones](#)

Authorizes not more than 30 voluntary pilot projects to retire select portions of the natural gas utility system, so long as adequate substitute energy service is provided to customers within the pilot. Specifically, it requires each gas corporation, by July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, to submit to the CPUC a map containing certain information, including the location of all potential gas distribution line replacement projects identified in its distribution integrity management plan and other foreseeable gas distribution pipeline replacements. This bill relieves gas utilities of the "obligation to serve" individual customers with gas as long as a 2/3 majority of the neighborhood's customers agree to end gas service.

The PUC will be required to establish a voluntary program to facilitate the cost-effective decarbonization of priority neighborhood decarbonization zones. This includes not more than 30 pilot projects across the state and affects no more than 1% of each gas corporation's customers.

Agency position: Support

Co-Sponsors: Building Decarbonization Coalition, Earthjustice, Natural Resources Defense Council

Opposition: California State Association of Electrical Workers, California State Pipe Trades Council, Coalition of California Utility Employees

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Signed by the Governor on September 25, 2024

#### **Plastic Pollution Prevention, Circular Economy Solutions and Upstream Waste Prevention, including Extended Producer Responsibility**

### [AB 2 \(Ward\) Solar Photovoltaic Module Recycling](#)

This measure implements a multi-pronged strategy for establishing a solar panel collection and recycling program. It would create separate programs for panels that are consumer-owned and not consumer-owned. Panels owned by consumers of all varieties would be managed by California's Covered Electronic Waste Recycling Program. Panels that are not consumer-owned would be managed by their owners. These panels typically fall into two categories: 1) panels owned by manufacturers and leased to a consumer, business, public agency, or utility, and 2) panels owned by a utility or related entity. Owners of these panels would be required to develop a plan, somewhat like that typical of an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program, that would outline how they would meet their obligation to properly manage and recycle their panels at the end of life.

Agency Position: Watch

Support: California Product Stewardship Council (Sponsor)

Opposition: None listed

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Dead. The author did not move the measure forward

### [AB 1238 \(Ward\) Hazardous waste: solar panels](#)

This bill would add consumer-owned solar photovoltaic modules to the definition of covered electronic devices, thereby subjecting consumer-owned solar photovoltaic modules to the act. The bill, on and after January 1, 2030, would require a consumer or a service provider serving the consumer, including a developer or installer of a consumer-owned solar photovoltaic system, to pay a consumer-owned solar photovoltaic module recycling fee in an amount determined by CalRecycle upon the purchase of new consumer-owned solar photovoltaic modules. The bill would require all funds collected from the consumer-owned solar photovoltaic module recycling fee to be deposited into the Consumer-Owned Solar Photovoltaic Module Recycling Fee Subaccount, which the bill would establish within the Electronic Waste Recovery and Recycling Account. This bill would require CalRecycle, and would authorize DTSC, to adopt regulations to implement the provisions of the act related to consumer-owned solar photovoltaic modules.

Agency position: Support

Support: California Product Stewardship Council

Opposition: None listed

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Dead. The author did not move the measure forward

### [AB 863 \(Aguilar-Curry\) Carpet Extended Producer Responsibility Organizations: fines: succession: training](#)

This bill replaces the existing carpet recycling program with a new extended producer responsibility (EPR) program that operates under a single PRO, sets explicit goals that would be accomplished in a stewardship plan, and has enhanced reporting and enforcement. The bill also establishes a 5% post-consumer recycled carpet content requirement.

Agency position: Support

Support: National Stewardship Action Council (Sponsor)

Opposition: The Carpet and Rug Institute, CalChamber

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Signed by the Governor on September 27, 2024

### [AB 1659 \(Gabriel\) Sale of small electronic devices: charging devices](#)

This bill creates a single charging hardware standard for small electronic devices, such as cell phones. The bill requires small electronic devices, such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops, manufactured after 2025 to be universally chargeable with a USB Type-C cable.

Agency position: Support

Support: California Product Stewardship Council, Californians Against Waste, Climate Equity Policy Center, Natural Resources Defense Council

Opposition: Consumer Technology Association

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Dead. Held in Senate Appropriations Committee

#### [AB 2236/SB 1053 \(Bauer-Kahan & Blakespear\) Solid waste: recycled paper bags: standards: carry out bag prohibition](#)

Revises the state's single-use carryout bag ban to eliminate the distribution of thicker film plastic bags and limit the distribution of bags at the point of sale to recycled paper bags. Prohibits stores from providing, distributing, or selling a bag to a consumer at the point of sale except recycled paper bags when sold not less than 10 cents.

Agency position: Support and Suggest Amendments

Support: California Grocers Association, Californians Against Waste

Opposition: Association of Plastic Recyclers, Recycling Partnership, Western Plastics Association

Cost to local governments: None

Status: SB 1053 was signed by the Governor on September 22, 2024

#### [AB 2762 \(Friedman\) Recycling: reusable beverage containers](#)

Establishes rates for the use and the collection for reuse of reusable beverage containers. The measure also requires the beverage manufacturer to demonstrate compliance by submitting a report to CalRecycle that includes the percentage of total volume of beverages produced and sold in reusable beverage containers and the number of single-use beverage containers and reusable beverage containers produced and sold in California in the previous calendar year, specified by the type of beverage, size of container, and container material type. Requires a beverage manufacturer to make the report publicly available on its website.

Agency position: Support

Support: California Product Stewardship Council, Californians Against Waste, NRDC

Opposition: American Beverage Association

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

#### [SB 615 \(Allen\) Vehicle traction batteries](#)

This measure requires vehicle traction battery suppliers to ensure the responsible end-of-life management of a vehicle traction battery; report specified information about the vehicle traction batteries to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC); and fully fund the costs of the collection of a battery for which they are required to ensure end-of-life (EOL) management. This bill requires DTSC, no later than July 1, 2028, to adopt regulations to implement this bill.

Agency position: Watch

Support: Californians Against Waste, Union of Concerned Scientists

Opposition: None

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Vetoed

**Veto Message:** *I agree with the intent of this bill and the need to responsibly manufacture, recycle, and reuse EV batteries. As California continues to lead the revolution toward a zero-emission transportation future, with a requirement that all new vehicles sold in the state be zero-emission*

*by 2035, responsibly tracking the sale, use, and reuse of these vehicle batteries will be critical. Effective EV battery stewardship also presents an exciting opportunity to develop new innovative industries that use repurposed or recycled batteries.*

*California has successfully implemented many reuse and recycling systems. These market-based solutions significantly reduce waste and create jobs by turning a challenging product into a resource. However, this legislation places a significant burden on DTSC to implement the policy, instead of building on the success of existing producer responsibility models. I encourage the author to continue working with stakeholders to explore if a producer responsibility organization would yield more equilibrium among public agencies and industry in sharing the administrative burden required by this policy.*

#### [SB 1280 \(Laird\) Waste management: propane cylinders: reusable or refillable](#)

This measure would require 1-pound propane cylinders sold in the state to be refillable or reusable by January 1, 2028.

Agency position: Support

Support: California Product Stewardship Council (Sponsor)

Opposition: Worthington Industries

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Signed by the Governor on September 22, 2024

#### [SB 707 \(Newman\) Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2024](#)

Establishes the Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2024, which creates an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for stewardship of waste textiles under the oversight of CalRecycle.

Agency position: Support

Support: California Product Stewardship Council (Sponsor)

Opposition: None.

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Signed by the Governor on September 28, 2024

#### [SB 1066 \(Blakespear\) Hazardous waste: marine flares: manufacturer responsibility](#)

Creates a manufacturer responsibility program for marine flares with oversight from DTSC and requires DTSC to adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this bill with an effective date no later than January 1, 2026.

Agency position: Support

Support: National Stewardship Action Council (Sponsor), Zero Waste Sonoma (Sponsor)

Opposition: National Marine Manufacturers Association, Recreational Boaters of California

Cost to local government: None

Status: Vetoed

**Veto message:** *While I support the author's goal to provide boaters with a safe and responsible method to dispose of their marine flares, this bill lacks a comprehensive program scope to effectively achieve the goal of protecting human and environmental health and would not cover implementation costs incurred by DTSC. Additionally, this bill falls short in providing DTSC with the appropriate enforcement authority to effectively ensure compliance. I encourage the author and stakeholders to work with DTSC next year to craft a more comprehensive framework that will ensure these products are managed responsibly and provide sufficient oversight for DTSC.*

#### [SB 1143 \(Allen\) Paint products: stewardship program](#)

This bill makes changes to the state's paint product stewardship program to expand the number of products covered in program by January 1, 2028, at the latest, and to require manufacturers of

paint products to review their stewardship plan and submit any amendments to CalRecycle for review on a five-year basis.

Agency position: Support

Support: National Stewardship Action Council (Sponsor)

Opposition: None

Cost to local government: None

Status: Signed by the Governor on September 29, 2024

### [SB 1231 \(Allen\) Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act: environmental advertising](#)

This bill establishes a new process by which producers of plastic products under the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act (SB 54) can petition CalRecycle to authorize a material as meeting the requirements of the state's recyclability labeling law if it is trending towards the recyclability standard set by the state's truth in labeling law.

Agency position: Support

Support: National Stewardship Action Council, California Farm Bureau, American Chemistry Council

Opposition: Plastic Pollution Coalition, Beyond Plastics

Cost to local government: None

Status: Dead. Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee

### [SB 1384 \(Dodd\) Powered wheelchairs: repair](#)

This bill requires a manufacturer of powered wheelchairs designed for use by people with physical disabilities to make available to independent repair providers and wheelchair owners, on fair and reasonable terms, the documentation, parts, and tools needed to repair those wheelchairs.

Agency position: Support

Support: iFixit, Disability Rights California

Opposition: None listed

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Signed by the Governor on September 27, 2024

## **Clear Product Information for Consumers**

### [AB 660 \(Irwin\) Food and beverage products: labeling: quality dates, safety dates, and sell by dates](#)

This bill requires food manufacturers, processors, and retailers responsible for the labeling of food items, beginning July 1, 2026, to use "BEST if Used by" to indicate quality, and "Use by" to indicate safety of a food item, and prohibits the use of the term "sell by."

Agency position: Support

Support: Californians Against Waste (Co-sponsor), Natural Resources Defense Council (Co-sponsor)

Opposition: None

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Signed by the Governor on September 28, 2024

## **Building a Healthy Food System**

### [AB 408 \(Wilson\) Climate-resilient Farms, Sustainable Healthy Food Access, and Farmworker Protection Bond Act of 2024](#)

This bill enacts the \$3.65 billion Climate-Resilient Farms, Sustainable Healthy Food Access, and Farmworker Protection Bond Act of 2024. Specifically, this bill, upon approval by the voters in the



November 5, 2024 statewide general election, enacts the bond to authorize the issuance of \$3.65 billion in general obligation (GO) bonds to finance projects in the following categories: 1) \$1.25 billion for improving agricultural resilience and advancing sustainable agriculture; 2) \$750 million for protecting the health and well-being of California's farmworkers; 3) \$750 million for sustainable healthy food access and nutrition security; 4) \$915 million for strengthening regional food economies.

Agency position: Support

Support: California Compost Coalition, Californians Against Waste, Ecology Center

Opposition: None

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Dead. Held in Senate Appropriations Committee

#### [AB 2311 \(Bennett\) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Edible Food](#)

This bill adds recovery of edible food, as specified, to the list activities eligible to receive financial assistance from CalRecycle and requires CalRecycle to consider the increased amount of edible food recovery capacity created when awarding grants to do so.

Agency position: Support

Support: California Food Recovery Coalition, California Compost Coalition, League of California Cities

Opposition: None

Costs to local government: None

Status: Dead. Held in Senate Appropriations Committee

#### [AB 1567 \(Garcia\) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024](#)

This bill enacts the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024. Specifically, this bill, upon approval by the voters enacts the bond to authorize the issuance of \$15 billion in general obligation (GO) bonds to finance projects including: 1) \$1.6 billion for the protection of California's wildlife, biodiversity, and fisheries from climate risks; 2) \$820 million for protecting farms, ranches, and working lands from the impacts of climate change; and 3) \$1.8 billion for regional climate resilience projects that address multiple risks.

Agency position: Support if amended to include \$200 million towards organic waste infrastructure

Support: The Nature Conservancy, California Urban Forests Council, Placer Land Trust

Opposition: None

Cost to local governments: None

Status: Dead. Held in Senate Appropriations Committee

#### [SB 867 \(Allen\) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.](#)

This bill enacts the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, which authorizes a \$10 billion bond to be placed before the state's voters for approval. The eight funding areas for this bond is the following: (1) \$3.8 billion for Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood and Water Resilience; (2) \$1.5 billion for Wildfires and Forest Resilience; (3) \$1.2 billion for Sea Level Rise and Coastal Resilience; (4) \$1.2 billion for Protect Biodiversity and Accelerating Nature-Based Climate Solutions; (5) \$850 million towards Clean Air; (6) \$700 million towards Park Creation and Outdoor Access; (7) \$450 million towards Extreme Heat Mitigation; (8) \$300 million towards Climate Smart, Sustainable & Resilient Farms, Ranches and Working Lands.

Agency position: Watch

Support: Natural Resources Defense Council, SPUR

Opposition: None.

Costs to local government: None

Status: Signed by the Governor. This is now Proposition 4 on the November ballot.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.