

County of Santa Clara

Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission
Recycling and Waste Reduction Division

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2021 LEGISLATIVE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT

The County supports:

1. Improved Integrated Waste Management Programs including efforts to promote sustainable resource management; a reduction in greenhouse gases generated from the use of material resources and the collection and disposal of wastes; the standardization of the use of terms; local government authority to direct waste to permitted facilities; local jurisdiction compliance with state waste diversion mandates; and improved accuracy of the State-mandated reporting.
2. **Expanded Product Stewardship and Producer Responsibility** that reduces the amount and toxicity of solid waste generated and shifts physical and financial responsibility to the producers of products for the recovery and disposal of problem wastes through, for example, manufacturer implemented take-back programs for products such as pharmaceuticals, sharps, fluorescent lamps, household batteries, photovoltaic panels, e-cigarettes and vaping products, treated wood waste, and single-use items, and funding for reusable foodware systems.
3. Securing local Integrated Waste Management program **funding and financing**; local solid waste franchising and fee-setting authority; compensation for the collection, recycling, and disposal of waste; and alternative funding sources.
4. Expansion of **Recycling, Composting, and Organics programs and facilities** to strengthen markets for recyclable materials and finished bio-products, encourage the production and purchase of products containing recycled-content materials, and implement a statewide recycling information network.
5. Banning disposal of **organics** in landfill.
6. **Energy recovery from landfill gas**, wood wastes, and other source-separated biomass.
7. Performance standards and use of **alternative cover for landfills**, limited to the quantities required to protect public health and safety and minimize nuisances.
8. Legislation to further address **litter control** and abatement problems in California including enforcement, outreach campaigns, a reduction in single-use items such as cigarette filters, other problem materials, and the cleanup of littered areas.

Commissioners: Susan M. Landry, Chair ~ Mary-Lynne Bernald ~ Liang Chao ~ Pam Foley ~ Larry Klein ~ Linda J. LeZotte ~ Otto Lee ~ Anthony Phan ~ Fred Tovar ~ Kathy Watanabe

9. Regulations that prohibit the release of **radioactive or radiation-contaminated materials** into the recycling stream.
10. Requirements that products containing hazardous waste be designed, manufactured, and used in ways that avoid harm to workers and the environment and shall be managed and recycled using proper processes and procedures according to environmental regulations and Department of Toxic Substances Control guidelines.
11. Elimination of local government **liability under Superfund for the disposal of ordinary municipal waste**, expedited de minimis settlements for hazardous material generated by local government operations, and allocation of costs on the basis of toxicity rather than the volume of municipal waste. Superfund reform should also provide a level of protection to third party investors, lenders, and developers of Brownfield sites.
12. Preventing adoption of state and federal laws and global treaties that preempt local government from protecting public health and the environment.
13. Legislation and regulations that support Countywide Food Rescue efforts.