

WMA Board, Energy Council & Recycling Board

Tim Rood, **WMA President**
City of Piedmont, WMA, EC
Deborah Cox, **WMA 1st Vice President, EC President, RB President**
City of San Leandro, WMA, EC, RB
Shelia Young, **WMA 2nd Vice President**
Oro Loma Sanitary District, WMA
Melissa Hernandez, **EC 1st Vice President**
City of Dublin, WMA, EC
Dan Kalb, **EC 2nd Vice President**
City of Oakland, WMA, EC
Jillian Buckholz, **RB 1st Vice President**
Recycling Programs, RB
Jim Oddie, **RB 2nd Vice President**
City of Alameda, WMA, EC, RB
Keith Carson, County of Alameda, WMA, EC
Nick Pilch, City of Albany, WMA, EC
Susan Wengraf, City of Berkeley, WMA, EC
Dave Sadoff, Castro Valley Sanitary District, WMA, RB
Dianne Martinez, City of Emeryville, WMA, EC
Jenny Kassan, City of Fremont, WMA, EC
Francisco Zermeño, City of Hayward, WMA, EC, RB
Bob Carling, City of Livermore, WMA, EC, RB
Michael Hannon, City of Newark, WMA, EC
Jerry Pentin, City of Pleasanton, WMA, EC
Emily Duncan, City of Union City, WMA, EC
Bernie Camara, Recycling Materials Processing Industry, RB
Darby Hoover, Environmental Organization, RB
Laura McKaughan, Source Reduction Specialist, RB
Tianna Nourot, Solid Waste Industry Representative, RB
Vacant, Environmental Educator, RB
Wendy Sommer, Executive Director

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY (WMA) BOARD,
THE ENERGY COUNCIL (EC)
AND
THE SOURCE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING
BOARD (RB)**

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

3:00 P.M.

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Teleconference/Public Participation Information to Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19

This meeting will be entirely by teleconference. All Board members, staff, and the public will only participate via the Zoom platform using the process described below. The meeting is being conducted in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 suspending certain teleconference rules required by the Ralph M. Brown Act. The purpose of this order was to provide the safest environment for the public, elected officials, and staff while allowing for continued operation of the government and public participation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members of the public and staff who are not presenting an item may attend and participate in the meeting by:

1. Calling US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 and using the webinar id 882 9898 2808
2. Using the [Zoom website](#) or App and entering meeting code 882 9898 2808

Board members and any other individuals scheduled to speak at the meeting will be sent a unique link via email to access the meeting as a panelist. All Board members MUST use their unique link to attend the meeting. During the meeting the chair will explain the process for members of the public to be recognized to offer public comment. The process will be described on the StopWaste website at <http://www.stopwaste.org/virtual-meetings> no later than noon Wednesday, May 27, 2020. The public may also comment during the meeting by sending an e-mail to publiccomment@stopwaste.org prior to the close of public comment on the item being addressed. Each e-mail will be read into the record for up to three minutes.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Governor's Executive Order, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting due to a disability, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (510) 891-6517.

Notification 24 hours prior to the meeting will enable the agency to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDENTS - *(Members are asked to please advise the boards or the council if you might need to leave before action items are completed)*

IV. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

An opportunity is provided for any member of the public wishing to speak on any matter within the jurisdiction of the boards or council, but not listed on the agenda. Total time limit of 30 minutes with each speaker limited to three minutes unless a shorter period of time is set by the President.

Page V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1 1. Approval of the Draft Joint WMA/EC & RB Minutes of April 22, 2020 (Wendy Sommer) (WMA/EC & RB)

9 2. Recycling Board Attendance Record (Jeff Becerra) (RB only)

11 3. Written Report of Ex Parte Communications (Jeff Becerra) (RB only)

13 4. Grants Issued Under Executive Director Signature Authority (Wendy Sommer) (RB only)

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

15 1. FY 20-21 Budget Adoption (Wendy Sommer & Pat Cabrera) (WMA/EC & RB)

That the WMA Board adopt the WMA FY 20-21 Budget Resolution (Attachment A), the Energy Council adopt the EC FY 20-21 Budget Resolution (Attachment B), and the Recycling Board adopt the RB FY 20-21 Budget Resolution (Attachment C).

23 2. CalRecycle Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Grant presentation (Cassie Bartholomew) (WMA only)

This item is for information only.

25 3. Legislative Update (Jeff Becerra) (WMA only)

This item is for information only.

4. Interim appointment(s) to the Recycling Board for WMA appointee unable to attend future Board Meeting(s) (Arless Dunn) (WMA only)

(Planning Committee and Recycling Board meeting, June 11, 2020 at 4:00 pm. Location TBD)

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WMA) BOARD,
THE ENERGY COUNCIL (EC),
AND THE SOURCE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD (RB)**

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

3:00 P.M.

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Rood called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Wendy Sommer explained the process that would be utilized during the meeting. A link to the process is available here: [Virtual-Meetings-Instructions](#)

II. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

WMA & EC

City of Alameda	Jim Oddie, WMA, EC, RB
County of Alameda	Keith Carson, WMA, EC
City of Albany	Nick Pilch, WMA, EC
City of Berkeley	Susan Wengraf, WMA, EC
Castro Valley Sanitary District	Dave Sadoff, WMA, RB
City of Dublin	Melissa Hernandez, WMA, EC
City of Emeryville	Dianne Martinez, WMA, EC
City of Fremont	Jenny Kassan, WMA, EC
City of Livermore	Bob Carling, WMA, EC, RB
City of Hayward	Francisco Zermeño, WMA, EC, RB
City of Newark	Mike Hannon, WMA, EC
City of Oakland	Dan Kalb, WMA, EC
Oro Loma Sanitary District	Shelia Young, WMA
City of Piedmont	Tim Rood, WMA, EC, WMA President
City of Pleasanton	Jerry Pentin, WMA, EC
City of San Leandro	Deborah Cox, WMA, EC President, RB
City of Union City	Emily Duncan, WMA, EC

RB

Recycling Programs	Jillian Buckholz, RB
Recycling Materials Processing Industry	Bernie Camara, RB
Environmental Organization	Darby Hoover, RB
Source Reduction Specialist	Laura McKaughan, RB
Solid Waste Industry Representative	Tianna Nouro, RB
Environmental Educator	Vacant

Staff Participating:

Wendy Sommer, Executive Director
Pat Cabrera, Administrative Services Director
Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager
Justin Lehrer, Senior Management Analyst
Robin Plutchok, Program Manager
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

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Richard Taylor, WMA Legal Counsel
Farand Kan, Deputy County Counsel

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDENTS

There were no announcements by the Presidents.

IV. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

There were no public comments on the remote call. Clerk Arliss Dunn read an email provided by Arthur Boone via the public comment email portal and informed the Board that Mr. Boone had provided a letter from the Northern California Recycling Association addressing COVID issues. The letter will be emailed to Board members. A copy of the letter and the email is attached.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Draft WMA/EC Minutes of March 25, 2020 (Wendy Sommer) (WMA/EC only)

**2. Second Reading and Consideration for Adoption of Ordinance 2020-01:
Repeal Existing Countywide Element and Adopt New Countywide Element of the Alameda
County Integrated Waste Management Plan (CoIWMP) (Meghan Starkey) (WMA only)**

It is recommended that the Waste Management Authority waive the requirement to read the full text of the Ordinance, read by title only, and adopt Ordinance 2020-1.

**3. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)
(Pat Cabrera) (WMA only)**

That the WMA approve the MOUs with City of Fremont and the County of Alameda Department of Environmental Health.

4. Approval of the Draft PC/RB Minutes of March 12, 2020 (Jeff Becerra) (RB only)

5. Recycling Board Attendance Record (Jeff Becerra) (RB only)

6. Written Report of Ex Parte Communications (Jeff Becerra) (RB only)

**7. Heat Pump Water Heater Grant Update and Agreement with EBCE and MCE
(Jennifer West) (EC only)**

Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an Agreement with local energy providers for implementation of the Bay Area Regional HPWH Contractor Incentive Program and other related actions.

There were no public comments for the Consent Calendar.

Board member Zermeño made the motion to approve items 1-3 of the Consent Calendar for the WMA Board. Board member Kalb seconded and the motion carried 20-0. The Clerk called the roll: (Ayes: Carling, Carson, Cox, Duncan, Hannon, Hernandez, Kalb, Kassan, Martinez, Oddie, Pentin, Pilch, Rood, Sadoff, Wengraf, Young, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None).

Board member Sadoff made the motion to approve items 4-6 of the Consent Calendar for the Recycling Board. Board member Carling seconded and the motion carried 10-0. The Clerk called the roll:

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(Ayes: Buckholz, Camara, Carling, Cox, Hoover, McKaughan, Oddie, Nourot, Sadoff, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None).

Board member Oddie made the motion to approve item 7 of the Consent Calendar for the Energy Council. Board member Pentin seconded and the motion carried 20-0. The Clerk called the roll: (Ayes: Carling, Carson, Cox, Duncan, Hannon, Hernandez, Kalb, Kassan, Martinez, Oddie, Pentin, Pilch, Rood, Wengraf, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None).

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

President Rood reordered the regular calendar to hear item 4 first.

1. FY 20/21 Budget presentation (Wendy Sommer & Pat Cabrera) (WMA/EC & RB)

This item is for information only.

Wendy Sommer provided a brief overview of the staff report and programmatic activities. Pat Cabrera provided an overview of the agency's financial activities. A link to the staff report and the budget presentation is available here: [FY20-21 Budget-Presentation.pdf](#). A link to the FY 20-21 budget is available here: [FY20-21-Budget.pdf](#). Ms. Sommer outlined the next steps of the budgeting process. The Recycling Board traditionally adopts its budget at its June meeting. Staff is proposing to convene another joint meeting of the WMA Board, Recycling Board, and the Energy Council on May 27 for adoption of the respective budgets.

Board member Zermeño thanked staff for a wonderful presentation and for providing such good news regarding the financial stability of the agency. Board member Hannon commended staff for an excellent report and inquired with regard to the tonnage trends and the current COVID-19 situation, if staff receives the tonnage reports on a monthly or quarterly basis. Ms. Cabrera stated that the agency receives monthly reports and that we are looking forward to receiving and reviewing the April reports. Board member Hannon asked that staff keep the Board apprised of the reports and their effect on the agency budget. Ms. Cabrera stated that staff will do so. Board member Pilch commended staff on a great presentation and for keeping the agency solvent and commented that staff is highly regarded among bay area organizations. Ms. Sommer thanked the Board members for their leadership and recognized agency staff for their efforts in producing the budget.

There were no public comments on this item.

2. COVID-19 Related Changes (Wendy Sommer) (WMA/EC & RB)

This item is for information only.

Ms. Sommer provided an overview of the staff report. A link to the report is available here: [Covid-19-Related-Changes.pdf](#)

Board member Kalb commented that the plastic bag industry is taking advantage of the COVID-19 situation with regard to the usage of reusable bags at retail outlets and inquired if the issue is gaining traction and if staff is addressing the issue. Ms. Sommer stated that she is aware that the plastic industry is promoting that the use of plastic bags is safer. The agency is continuing our messaging to communicate that all materials have their disadvantages but proper cleaning and sanitation is essential no matter the material. We are following the guidelines of Alameda County Public Health Department. Ms. Lehrer stated that bringing your own reusable bag limits the number of people touching them and added UPSTREAM Solutions has a response to the plastic bag industry regarding the use of reusable bags during the COVID-19 issue while protecting public health, available here: [UPSTREAM-Solutions-Blog](#).

3. Launch of RE:Source Search Tool (Robin Plutchok) (WMA & RB only)

This item is for information only.

Robin Plutchok presented a PowerPoint presentation and an overview of the new online recycling tool RE:Source. A link to the staff report and the presentation is available here: [RE:Source-Launch-04-22-20.pdf](#). A link to online recycling tool is available here: [RE:Source](#)

Board member Hannon inquired about the bilingual capability of the search tool. Ms. Plutchok stated that the curbside pages feature visuals of materials that are designed to direct people on how to properly sort and recycle materials. The visuals also act as a stop gap solution for multi-lingual accessibility until an effective translation tool is added to the site. Board member Hannon recommended that staff research the 211 website as they have an excellent translation tool on their site. Board member Zermeno thanked staff for the report and commended staff on the visual accessibility as well as the information on repair and reuse. Board member Hoover thanked staff for a wonderful app and recommended that the widget be placed on the RecycleWhere website so that the public can have information on reuse before opting to recycle. Board member Martinez stated that it appears that under the curbside recycling tab for Emeryville it is missing information on glass bottles and aluminum cans. Ms. Plutchok stated that staff is aware of missing items that occurred during the conversion and they are reviewing the site to populate the information that is missing. President Rood thanked staff for the good work and a wonderful report.

There were no public comments on this item.

4. Interim appointment(s) to the Recycling Board for WMA appointee unable to attend future Board Meeting(s) (Arliiss Dunn) (WMA only)

(The May 14, 2020 Planning Committee and Recycling Board meeting will not be held in lieu of a joint meeting of the WMA Board, Energy Council, and Recycling Board on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.)

There were no requests for an interim appointment.

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Sommer informed the Board that Mr. Becerra would be sending the monthly topic brief to Board members. The topic brief is on flushable wipes, available here: [Problem-With-Flushable-Wipes.pdf](#). Board member Young thanked staff for the topic brief and added that there are no such thing as flushable wipes. Board member Young inquired if staff can change the website to provide information to the public about what to do with the bottles and cans during this time. Ms. Sommer stated that the information on the bottles and cans is quite fluid right now and we want to make sure any information that we post is correct. Board member Young added the website is currently showing buy-back centers and inquired if these locations are operating currently. Board member McKaughan stated that throughout Alameda County almost all of the buy-back centers are closed and San Francisco currently has one or two centers that are in operation.

President Rood shared a slide with the Board of a photo of the pale blue dot on the anniversary of the 50th Earth Day. The Pale Blue Dot is a photograph of Earth taken Feb. 14, 1990, by NASA's Voyager 1 at a distance of 3.7 billion miles (6 billion kilometers) from the Sun. Carl Sagan quoted "Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and

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suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there-on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam."

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.



April 16, 2020

Re: Help Sustain Reuse and Recycling During Covid-19 Pandemic

Dear

Thank you for all of your efforts to help save lives during this crisis. As you continue to adopt and implement science-based orders and policies to navigate this difficult public health and economic crisis, we ask that you consider the concerns expressed in this letter, which aim to benefit the most vulnerable of our population as well as the smaller reuse and recycling businesses that lack the prominence of larger enterprises that enable them to get to the front of the line for Covid-related public benefits. The state and your County each have long standing policies favoring disposal by way of reuse and recycling. The proposals in this letter fall squarely within the letter and intent of these existing policies.

The Northern California Recycling Association (NCRA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1978, primarily to promote environmentally sound discards management practices, including waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. Our 350 members include recycling businesses, employees, entrepreneurs, and individuals supportive of various Bay Area and State Zero Waste initiatives.

As you continue to refine your health directives and orders, please allow for the following:

1. While solid waste collection and processing is uniformly described as an Essential Business, some enforcement agencies are uncertain about whether this definition extends to companies that collect and process post-consumer discards for reuse or recycling. As an example, one of NCRA's members operates a drop-off facility for construction and demolition debris. These materials are used by other, construction-related Essential Businesses. A city police department threatened to shut down this business as not being an Essential Business. Historically, government regulation of solid waste collection started when public health officials learned that disease was caused by germs and viruses that were carried by vectors that were attracted to piles of uncollected garbage. While today the distinction between "garbage" or "solid waste" and "recyclable" is blurred, the concept that uncollected post-consumer discards is a health hazard applies to each category. The small businesses that collect and process reusable and recyclable material provide jobs, often unskilled labor, and sustaining these jobs as much as practicable is also an important Covid policy. Please make clear that all businesses that collect and process reusable and recyclable discards are within the definition of Essential Business.

2. Among the hardest hit resource recovery business economically are the buy back centers which accept CRV containers and scrap materials. Even before Covid it was hard to find a buyback center that was operating. Today it is near impossible, especially for the homeless and other economically disadvantaged persons who are the primary customer base to obtain CRV payment, to find a buyback center. In addition to clarifying that these businesses are Essential Businesses, please do all you can to promote and help fund these centers including publicly available information about open buyback locations.
3. We note that your Order precludes grocery customers from bringing reusable bags into stores, leading to increase in use of single use plastic bags. As best as we can determine, this directive has not been sought by the grocery stores, their employees, or their unions. To the extent it is necessary to the safety of grocery employees, amending the directive to preclude the store employee from handling the customer's reusable bag would be a science-based solution. Forbidding the use of reusable bags entirely is not science-based, customers can bring Covid virus into stores by their clothing. The state and your County have strong policies against single use plastic bags and other products. Please continue these policies during this period except as science requires modification.
4. Lastly, we understand that an alliance of solid waste enterprises is seeking support for public stimulus money which may come available. We request that, as a matter of policy, any support for such stimulus funds be given also and equally to the reuse and recycling businesses within your jurisdiction.

Thank you for your consideration of these suggestions. If you need further information on these topics, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

K. D. Brooms John Moore

K. Douglas Brooms John Moore
NCRA Board of Directors; Both Co-Chairs Zero Waste Advocacy Committee

David Krueger, President
NCRA Board of Directors

cc:

PO Box 5581, Berkeley, CA 94705
Phone 510-217-2433
ncra@ncrarecycles.org
www.ncrarecycles.org

Email from Arthur Boone - April 22, 2020 Joint Meeting

From: Arthur Boone <arboone3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 3:01 PM
To: publiccomment <publiccomment@stopwaste.org>
Subject: Arthur Boone, two concerns.

1. You have before you a three page letter from the co-chair of the NCRA Zero Waste Committee, John Moore, also NCRA's counsel, which lays out the problems with the paucity of CRV redemption/buyback facilities operating in the Bay Area, and, specifically, in our county. We know of only one in Alameda County, Tri-Ced in Union City - others are closed at present. NCRA hopes that stop.waste will apply its staff and contacts to refine the current list of open sites and to participate in future planning on what we should do about this.

2. It's now clear that Waste Management abandoned its contractual agreement to provide recycling services to its commercial recycling accounts in Albany, Emeryville and Ora Loma. Waste Management has been standing behind the coronavirus as a reason for its actions but the communities which receive Measure D funds to support various recycling programs may be mis-spending those funds if the goods are collected to be recycled and the service is not delivered. Waste Management claims a defense based on the virus; I as an individual and a member of the original Measure D writing group in 1988 and 1989, have my doubts and will be pursuing an interest in this topic.

2020 - ALAMEDA COUNTY RECYCLING BOARD ATTENDANCE

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
REGULAR MEMBERS												
J. Buckholz	X	X	X	X								
B. Camara	X	X	X	X								
B. Carling	X	X	X	X								
D. Cox	X	X	X	X								
D. Hoover	X	X	X	X								
L. McKaughan			X	X								
T. Nourrot	A	X	X	X								
J. Oddie	X	X	X	X								
D. Sadoff	X	X	X	X								
F. Zermeño	X	X	X	X								
INTERIM APPOINTEES												

Measure D: Subsection 64.130, F: Recycling Board members shall attend at least three fourths (3/4) of the regular meetings within a given calendar year. At such time, as a member has been absent from more than one fourth (1/4) of the regular meetings in a calendar year, or from two (2) consecutive such meetings, her or his seat on the Recycling Board shall be considered vacant.

X=Attended

A=Absent

I=Absent - Interim Appointed

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DATE: May 27, 2020
TO: Recycling Board
FROM: Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager
SUBJECT: Written Reports of Ex Parte Communications

BACKGROUND

Section 64.130 (Q)(1)(b) of the Alameda County Charter requires that full written disclosure of ex parte communications be entered in the Recycling Board's official record. At the June 19, 1991 meeting of the Recycling Board, the Board approved the recommendation of Legal Counsel that such reports be placed on the consent calendar as a way of entering them into the Board's official record. The Board at that time also requested that staff develop a standard form for the reporting of such communications. A standard form for the reporting of ex parte communications has since been developed and distributed to Board members.

At the December 9, 1999 meeting of the Recycling Board, the Board adopted the following language:

Ex parte communication report forms should be submitted only for ex parte communications that are made after the matter has been put on the Recycling Board's agenda, giving as much public notice as possible.

Per the previously adopted policy, all such reports received will be placed on the consent calendar of the next regularly scheduled Recycling Board meeting.

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Date: May 27, 2020

TO: Recycling Board

FROM: Wendy Sommer, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Grants Issued Under Executive Director Signature Authority

SUMMARY

The purchasing and grant policies were amended to simplify paperwork and Board agendas by giving the Executive Director authority to sign contracts and grant agreements less than \$50,000. A condition of the grant policy is that staff informs the Board of recently issued grants.

Grants: May 2020

PROJECT NAME	GRANT RECIPIENT	PROJECT TYPE/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	VERIFICATION	GRANT AMOUNT	BOARD
Community Based Outreach	All Saints Church	Engaging and educating church members on tools to get the most out of their food through presentations, hands on activities and social media.	Hayward	May 2020	\$5k	RB

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DATE: May 27, 2020

TO: Waste Management Authority Board (WMA)
Energy Council (EC)
Recycling Board (RB)

FROM: Wendy Sommer, Executive Director
Pat Cabrera, Administrative Services Director

SUBJECT: FY 20-21 Budget Adoption

SUMMARY

At the May 27, 2020, WMA meeting, staff will ask the WMA Board, the Energy Council and the Recycling Board to adopt their respective FY 2020 -21 budgets.

DISCUSSION

The proposed budget for FY 2020-21 was presented at a joint meeting of the WMA, EC and RB on April 22, 2020. The staff memo and PowerPoint presentation from the April 22 combined board meeting is available at: [FY20-21 Budget-Presentation.pdf](#)

The presentation at this meeting was well received, and there were no requests for changes to the budget. The proposed FY 20-21 budget totals approximately \$34.0 million, with the following breakdown:

- WMA: \$ 13,765,390
- Energy Council: \$ 7,336,535
- Recycling Board: \$ 12,864,595

Some projects are funded using both WMA and Recycling Board funds. The Agency's core budget is approximately \$10.9 million, which is approximately \$400,000 lower than the projected core revenue of \$11.3 million. Estimated total year-end core fund balances and reserves amount to \$26.2 million (equivalent to over two years' of a typical core budget). Therefore, even with the economic uncertainties due to the COVID- 19 pandemic we are in a solid financial position. We will continue to meet our financial goals as well as our operational objectives through prudent spending, a team of resourceful and resilient staff and the ongoing support of our Boards.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WMA Board adopt the WMA FY 20-21 Budget Resolution (Attachment A), the Energy Council adopt the EC FY 20-21 Budget Resolution (Attachment B), and the Recycling Board adopt the RB FY 20-21 Budget Resolution (Attachment C).

Attachment A: WMA Budget Resolution

Attachment B: EC Budget Resolution

Attachment C: RB Budget Resolution

Attachment D: Link to Annual Budget – [FY20-21-Final-Budget.pdf](#)

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ATTACHMENT A

ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY RESOLUTION #WMA 2020-

MOVED:
SECONDED:

AT THE MEETING HELD MAY 27, 2020

THE ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY AUTHORIZES ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 20-21 BUDGET; PROJECT CONTRACTS; AND AUTHORIZED POSITIONS AND SALARY SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, a preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 has been developed that incorporates programs and projects based on the guiding principles and Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan goals adopted by the Board; and

WHEREAS, this budget was presented at the joint meeting of the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board and the Energy Council, held on April 22, 2020 for review and comment; and,

WHEREAS, legal notice of the public hearing of the budget has been provided, and the matter scheduled on the May 27, 2020 Waste Management Authority (WMA) agenda for adoption.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alameda County Waste Management Authority hereby:

1. Adopts the WMA's portion of the Annual Budget, Fiscal Year 2020 -21 with expenditures totaling \$13,765,390 and authorizes staff to proceed with Authority administration, programs and operations in accordance with the adopted budget, effective July 1, 2020.
2. Authorizes the attached salary schedule and authorized positions.
3. Authorizes the following new or augmented contracts and/or spending authority subject to approval as to form by Legal Counsel, and consistent with the WMA's purchasing policy:

Packaging

<u>Cascadia Consulting Group</u>	\$ 15,000
Technical assistance for reusable transport packaging	
<u>Gigantic Idea Studio</u>	\$ 10,000
Marketing and outreach support	

Food Waste Reduction

<u>Zero Company</u>	\$ 70,000
Online media purchases including digital/mobile ads, facebook, gmail ads, etc.	
<u>Lamar</u>	\$ 25,000

AC Transit bus shelter ads	
<u>Outfront</u>	\$ 50,000
BART Transit ads	
<u>Underground Advertising</u>	\$ 75,000
Design and media consultant food waste reduction campaigns	
<u>Gigantic Idea Studio</u>	\$ 20,000
To develop program content for the food waste reduction campaigns	
<u>Mandatory Recycling Ordinance (MRO) Implementation</u>	
<u>Cascadia Consulting Group</u>	\$ 500,300
Technical assistance to businesses and multi-family properties (note \$150,300 will be externally funded pending agreements)	
<u>Gigantic Idea Studio</u>	\$ 30,000
Marketing and outreach services	
<u>Starline Supply and/or Cole Supply</u>	\$ 60,000
Indoor food scraps bins for businesses and multi-family properties	
<u>Used Oil Recycling (externally funded)</u>	
<u>Zero Company</u>	\$ 50,000
Online media purchases including digital/mobile ads, facebook, gmail ads, etc.	
<u>Lamar</u>	\$ 11,000
AC Transit ads	
<u>Outfront</u>	\$ 25,000
BART transit ads	
<u>Gigantic Idea Studio</u>	\$ 18,000
To manage outreach campaign	
<u>Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facilities</u>	
<u>Autumn Press</u>	\$ 50,000
Printing and mailing services	
<u>Zero Company</u>	\$ 100,000
Online media purchases including digital/mobile ads, facebook, gmail ads, etc.	
<u>Lamar</u>	\$ 20,000
AC Transit ads	
<u>Alameda County Tax Collector</u>	\$ 68,000
Service fee to collect HHW fee on property tax roll	
<u>Administrative Overhead (OH) (includes general OH, accounting and budgeting and information systems)</u>	
<u>Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger, LLP</u>	\$ 292,000
Authority counsel, charged against multiple projects as appropriate, includes \$50,000 of prior year encumbered funds for litigation as needed	
<u>Alliance Insurance Services</u>	\$ 153,000
Agency insurance	
<u>Tyler Technologies</u>	\$ 55,000

Financial software upgrades, maintenance and support
USPS \$ 56,000
Postage, charged against multiple projects as appropriate

Legislation

Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer and Lange \$ 51,000
Lobbying firm

Reusable Food Ware

Technical Assistance contract, \$ 160,000

TBD pending bidding process and ED Approval

Pilot Projects, various vendors \$ 400,000

TBD Funds encumbered in prior year

Gigantic Idea Studio \$ 15,000

Outreach and messaging services

Schools Based Community Outreach

Accelar Inc, DBA Pronto Transportation \$ 125,000

Bus services for transportation to the Ed Centers

Passed and adopted this 27th day of May 2029 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABTAIN:

ABSENT:

Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

Monthly Salary Ranges and Authorized Positions

FY 20/21*

Authorized Positions 50.0 FTE**

Grade	Classification Name	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8
19	Executive Director	Per Contract: 22,016							
18	vacant	16,890	17,397	17,919	18,457	19,011	19,580	20,168	20,773
17	Administrative Services Director Deputy Executive Director	15,712	16,184	16,669	17,169	17,685	18,215	18,761	19,324
16	vacant	14,616	15,054	15,506	15,971	16,450	16,943	17,452	17,975
15	Operations Manager Principal Program Manager	13,596	14,004	14,425	14,857	15,302	15,761	16,234	16,722
14	vacant	12,648	13,027	13,418	13,821	14,235	14,662	15,102	15,555
13	Senior Management Analyst Senior Program Manager	11,765	12,118	12,482	12,856	13,241	13,639	14,049	14,470
12	Financial Systems Manager *** Information Systems (IS) Manager Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager	10,944	11,273	11,611	11,959	12,318	12,688	13,068	13,460
11	Management Analyst III Program Manager III	10,180	10,486	10,800	11,125	11,458	11,802	12,156	12,521
10	Clerk of the Board Management Analyst II Program Manager II	9,470	9,754	10,047	10,349	10,659	10,979	11,308	11,648
9	Webmaster	8,810	9,074	9,347	9,627	9,915	10,213	10,519	10,835
8	Accountant Management Analyst I Program Manager I	8,195	8,441	8,694	8,955	9,224	9,500	9,785	10,079
7	Executive Assistant	7,623	7,852	8,088	8,331	8,580	8,837	9,103	9,375
6	vacant	7,092	7,304	7,523	7,749	7,981	8,221	8,468	8,722
5	Senior Administrative Assistant Senior Program Services Specialist	6,597	6,795	6,998	7,208	7,424	7,648	7,877	8,113
4	Administrative Assistant II Program Services Specialist II	6,137	6,321	6,510	6,705	6,907	7,114	7,327	7,547
3	Administrative Assistant I Program Services Specialist I	5,708	5,880	6,056	6,238	6,425	6,618	6,816	7,021
2	vacant	5,311	5,470	5,634	5,803	5,977	6,156	6,341	6,531
1	Inspector	4,940	5,088	5,241	5,398	5,560	5,726	5,898	6,075
N/A	Intermittent hourly rates	20.00							112.51

* Salary increases for eligible employees occur on June 28, 2020

** Includes regular, limited term, and intermittent positions. Does not include any future positions that may be required due to grant/external funding. These positions will be approved as part of the grants/external funding process.

*** Serves as the Agency's Treasurer pursuant to the Agency's investment policy and applicable state law.

ATTACHMENT B

**ENERGY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION #EC2020-**

**MOVED:
SECONDED:**

**AT THE MEETING HELD MAY 27, 2020
THE ENERGY COUNCIL AUTHORIZES ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, a preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 has been developed that incorporates program priorities adopted by the Energy Council and external funding agreements; and

WHEREAS, this budget was presented at the joint meeting of the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board and the Energy Council at the meeting held on April 22, 2020 for review and comment; and,

WHEREAS, legal notice of the budget hearing has been provided, and the matter scheduled on the May 27, 2020 Energy Council agenda for adoption.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Energy Council hereby adopts the Energy Council's portion of the Annual Budget Fiscal Year 2020-21 with expenditures totaling \$7,336,535 and authorizes staff to proceed with Energy Council administration, programs and operations in accordance to the adopted budget, effective July 1, 2020.

Passed and adopted this 27th day of May 2020 by the following vote:

**AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:**

Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

ATTACHMENT C

ALAMEDA COUNTY SOURCE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD RESOLUTION #RB 2020 -

MOVED:
SECONDED:

AT THE MEETING HELD May 27, 2020
THE ALAMEDA COUNTY SOURCE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD
AUTHORIZES ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 BUDGET AND PROJECT CONTRACTS

WHEREAS, a preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 has been developed that incorporates programs and projects based on the agency's guiding principles and Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan goals; and,

WHEREAS, this budget was presented at the joint meeting of the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board, and the Energy Council at the meeting held on April 22, 2020 for review and comment; and,

WHEREAS, legal notice of the public hearing of the budget has been provided, and the matter scheduled on the May 27, 2020 Recycling Board agenda for adoption.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board hereby:

1. Adopts the Recycling Board's portion of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget with expenditures totaling \$12,864,595, and authorizes staff to proceed with Recycling Board administration, programs and operations in accordance with the adopted budget, effective July 1, 2020.
2. Authorizes the following contract subject to approval as to form by Legal Counsel

Recycling Board Five Year Audit

Crowe, LLP

\$ 89,683

Phase II of the five year audit

Passed and adopted this 27th day of May 2020 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABTAIN:

ABSENT:

Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board



DATE: May 27, 2020

TO: Waste Management Authority Board

FROM: Cassie Bartholomew, Program Manager

SUBJECT: CalRecycle Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Grant presentation

SUMMARY

In 2017 StopWaste was awarded \$500,000 in grant funding from CalRecycle for the K-12 Schools *Smart Cafeteria Initiative* working with three cooperating grant partners. The two-year term of the grant has ended, and at the May 27 meeting staff will share grant activities, challenges and accomplishments, as well an overview of K-12 school food share and partnerships.

DISCUSSION

CalRecycle's Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Grant Program funds projects that lower greenhouse gas emissions by expanding existing or establishing new food waste prevention and/or rescue projects in California to reduce the amount of food being disposed of in landfills.

StopWaste acted as lead agency on this project, initially partnering with ALL IN Alameda County—now operating under the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League (DSAL), Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), and Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) to implement Alameda County's K-12 Schools Smart Cafeteria Initiative.

During the two year grant term (February 1, 2018 – April 1, 2020), staff partnered with LVJUSD and OUSD to set up K-12 school food share and recovery programs to divert nutritious edible food from landfills through food share tables and food donation. DSAL provided refrigerated vans and job training, hiring "Food Recovery Specialists" as drivers to pick up food donations from school sites or district warehouses to be consolidated at the Dig Deep Farms [Food Hub](#) for sorting and storage. Donations are then packed and delivered to organizations addressing food insecurity or residents through affordable housing agencies.

StopWaste provided technical assistance, data collection and evaluation, while engaging K-12 school stakeholders such as kitchen staff, Principals, students and teachers through our "Stop Food Waste School Challenges" to educate schools about preventing wasted food and helping maximize the use of their food share tables to collect unopened, uneaten food for re-serving or donation.

Major Accomplishments during grant term:

- Launched School Food Share Districtwide with all 17 LVJUSD school sites setting up new food share carts (First school district to implement food share districtwide)
- Completed upgrades and improvements to new food share cart setup in OUSD
 - 45 of 82 school sites were equipped with a new food share cart setup
 - Delivery of the remaining new food share carts will be completed once OUSD schools reopen after Shelter in Place is lifted
- Completed a series of educational and training videos on school food share and food donation
- Partnered with Alameda County Department of Environmental Health to develop approved protocols for food share, re-serving and donation
- Trained kitchen staff in both school districts on food share and donation procedures
- Piloted food donation at several schools in both districts with support from DSAL
- Shared lessons learned and best practices with other school districts, nutrition directors, state agencies and food waste reduction networks
- Improved infrastructure required for food share and donation including refrigeration, temperature controlled food storage and transport equipment, food share carts, bins, serving line upgrades and related supplies
- Prevented wasted food and recovered over 115,000 pounds of surplus edible food for donation

While collectively our school district partners prevented wasted food and recovered surplus edible food for donation benefiting 10 different community partners, we ran short of establishing districtwide food donation due to a number of variables that impacted our efforts. We experienced many challenges with CalRecycle's grant administration, including delayed execution of our grant agreement, delays with communication and expenditure approvals, and changes to our grant manager. Our school district partners experienced high staff turnover resulting in six different Nutrition Services Directors over two years. Our primary partner providing food recovery pick-up services experienced staff turn-over early on in the project and the food recovery services were moved over to DSAL delaying food donation pick-ups. Towards the end of our grant term, CalRecycle informed us that they would not approve the purchase of our final refrigeration units (previously approved) for OUSD and one walk-in freezer for LVJUSD because the impact of additional equipment, and the resulting GHG emissions from refrigerant usage would exceed the projected GHG reduction benefits of recovering surplus food for donation. This resulted in \$235,859 of the \$500,000 grant funds remaining unspent.

The project did successfully foster lasting partnerships between both school districts and All In/DSAL, who will continue working together to recover and distribute surplus food during the Covid-19 Shelter in Place order while districts are still feeding families at designated school distribution sites. Our staff is also more informed about food share and donation districtwide with tools, data and best practices to support a replicable Food Waste Reduction model for other Alameda County school districts.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.



Date: May 27, 2020

TO: Waste Management Authority Board

FROM: Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager

SUBJECT: Legislative Update

SUMMARY:

At the March WMA meeting, staff provided a legislative update and the Board endorsed our slate of bills, although much was up in the air because of the onset of COVID-19 and shelter in place requirements. At the May 27 meeting, staff will update the Board on the current state of the legislature and bills of interest to StopWaste.

DISCUSSION:

On March 16, the Legislature went in to temporary recess due to COVID-19. The Assembly returned to work on May 4 and the Senate returned on May 11. The legislative calendar for both houses have been revised to accommodate policy committee hearings to hear priority bills. Since the Legislature has reconvened, both houses have issued guidance on physical distancing, limiting the number of people in committee hearings, and strongly encouraging the public and advocates to participate via the web portal or telephonically.

State legislators and the Newsom Administration have focused their attention on meeting the immediate needs of Californians as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold. There seems to be general agreement that three ongoing state emergencies – COVID-19 response, homelessness, and wildfires – continue to deserve legislative attention, but most other legislative business might have to wait. In light of the compressed legislative schedule and scope of business, leadership in both the Assembly and Senate have signaled to their colleagues a need to scale back their legislative portfolio for this year. Below is a list of bills still in play for now.

Plastic Pollution Prevention

[AB 1080 \(Gonzalez /SB 54 \(Allen, Skinner\): Solid waste: packaging and products](#)

Link: [SB 54](#)

Would develop a comprehensive framework for reducing plastic pollution and reforming wasteful product packaging. These bills would require that all single-use packaging and certain food (plates, bowls, cups,

stirs, and straws) be recyclable or compostable by 2030. It would also require a 75% reduction statewide by producers of waste generated from single-use packaging and certain food ware through source reduction, recycling, or composting by 2030.

Agency Position: Support

Support: More than 60 organization that include Californians Against Waste, CPSC, ReThink Waste, Story of Stuff Project, Sierra Club.

AB 2287 (Eggman): Solid waste: plastic products: certification.

Link: [AB 2287](#)

Authorizes the use of agricultural mulch film plastic labeled “soil degradable” if it meets specified standards. Makes related clarifying and technical changes to the law relating to biodegradable and compostable labeling.

Agency Position: Support

Sponsor/Support: Californians Against Waste, Biodegradable Products Institute

Recycling

SB 667 (Hueso): Recycling Infrastructure and Facilities

Link: [SB 667](#)

This bill will require CalRecycle, in coordination with the Treasurer and the California Pollution Control Financing Authority (CPCFA) to develop financial incentive mechanisms to fund organic waste diversion and recycling infrastructure. It will also require the Treasurer to coordinate with the states of Nevada, Oregon, and Washington on infrastructure financing to support the recycling needs of the region.

Agency Position: Support

Support: League of California Cities, Recology, Republic Services.

Climate

AB 3256 (E. Garcia): Economic Recovery, Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020

Link: [AB 3256](#)

This bill proposes the Economic Recovery, Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Climate Resilience, Drought Preparation and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020 (Bond), subject to voter approval in the November 3, 2020, statewide general election. This bill proposes the issuance of \$6.98 billion in general obligation bonds to implement its provisions.

Agency Position: Support If Amended (to include funds for organics infrastructure)

Support: East Bay Regional Park District, Together Bay Area

SB 1258 (Stern) California Climate Technology and Infrastructure Financing Act

Link: [SB 1258](#)

This bill enact the California Climate Technology and Infrastructure Financing Act to require the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank, in consultation with specified agencies to administer the Climate Catalyst Revolving Fund, which would establish to provide financial assistance to eligible climate catalyst projects.

Agency Position: Support If Amended (to make sure organics infrastructure is explicitly eligible for funds)
Support: Natural Resource Defense Council, Rethink Waste

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)/Circular Economy

AB 1672 (Bloom) Solid waste: nonwoven disposable products

Link: [AB 1672](#)

This bill will help reduce expensive repairs and maintenance to sewers and water treatment equipment that caused by misled consumers flushing mislabeled wipes that do not degrade. The bill requires clear, accurate labeling of “flushable” and “non-flushable” wipes.

Agency Position: Support

Sponsor/Support: California Association of Sanitation Agencies, National Stewardship Action Council

Other

SB 1156 (Archuleta): Lithium-ion batteries: illegal disposal: penalties

Link: [SB 1156](#)

This bill would require CalRecycle to create an education campaign promoting the proper disposal of lithium-ion batteries, as well as require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop a model protocol for lithium-ion battery fire detection, handling, and suppression for the solid waste industry.

Agency Position: Watch

Support: California Product Stewardship Council, Californians Against Waste

Budget Update

At the beginning of 2020, California had a strong economy, historic reserves, and a structurally balanced budget. Governor Gavin Newsom's January budget reflected a \$5.6 billion surplus and record level of reserves of \$21 billion in FY 2020-21, including \$18 billion projected in the state's Rainy Day Fund. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a national recession.

On May 14, Governor Newsom released his [Administration's revenue and expenditure revisions to the FY 2020-21 Proposed State Budget](#). This annually-required “May Revision” update is always based on the latest economic forecasts available to the governor and his Department of Finance; the update of course focused squarely on the massive adverse economic impacts of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic to California's revenues.

The California Constitution requires the Legislature to pass a balanced State Budget by June 15; and, the governor must sign the State Budget (and make any concurrent line-item vetoes of new legislative spending proposals in the budget bill that he deems necessary) by July 1. However, while a governor's May Revision usually contemplates the tax revenues from the April 15 filing deadline, this year, because Governor

Newsom used his emergency authority under the health crisis to push back payment deadlines for some taxpayers to July 15, we believe the Administration may release another update to the state revenue picture later this summer, after those new tax receipts come in. That also gives the Administration time to further scope pandemic relief spending needs. We believe this will likely trigger another round of actions by the Governor and legislature, perhaps in August, to further shore up the State Budget, in terms of either available new spending and/or a new round of expenditure cuts.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

In January, the Governor originally proposed an allocation of \$15 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) for CalRecycle to support waste diversion and recycling infrastructure, and \$18 million to the Department of Food and Agriculture for Healthy Soils.

The May Revision maintains the Governor's January proposal but establishes a “pay-as-you-go” budget mechanism to authorize budget act expenditures based on actual proceeds received at each quarterly auction.

CalRecycle and SB 1383

The final comment period for the SB 1383 rulemaking process ended on May 20. On behalf of its member agencies, both via the formal 1383 input process and an additional meeting with CalRecycle leadership, StopWaste has urged CalRecycle to reconsider or provide relief of implementation dates as a result of the hardships cities and public agencies are facing from COVID-19. CalRecycle has not indicated support for changing any implementation dates, believing that jurisdictions will have ample time to meet the law's requirements. Staff will pursue additional follow up with the Governor's office in conjunction with the League of Cities.

Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling

This new group formed as a result of AB 1583, and is designed to provide policy and messaging recommendations to CalRecycle, along with identifying which items are truly recyclable or compostable. Appointments to the committee were recently announced by CalRecycle, and include a number of close connections to StopWaste, such as Jeff Donleavy, Ming's Recycling; Nick Lapis, Californians Against Waste; Heidi Sanborn, National Stewardship Action Council; Richard Valle, Tri-CED. Recommendations from the commission are due to CalRecycle by January 1, 2021.

California Recycling and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act

Led by Recology, this voter initiative closely matches the provisions of SB 54/AB 1080, and was designed to be a fallback should that legislation not pass. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, signature gathering has mostly ceased at a critical time for the initiative. Recology and other supporters are still attempting to gather the necessary signatures by the June 30 deadline. At this point the initiative is likely headed for the 2022 ballot rather than 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.

June 2020 Meetings Schedule

Alameda County Waste Management Authority, the Energy Council, & Source Reduction and Recycling Board
(Meeting Locations TBD)

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Location TBD Programs & Administration Committee 9:00 A.M. 1. BAAQMD Compost contamination report 2. Grants update 3. Regulatory relief update tentative 4. MRO update <hr/> Location TBD Planning Committee & Recycling Board 4:00 P.M. 1. BAAQMD Compost contamination report 2. Grants update	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Location TBD 3:00 PM Waste Management Authority and Energy Council Key Items: 1. Election of officers WMA 2. Election of Officers EC 3. WMA Appt. to RB (Oddie) 4. Adoption of HHW Fee Collection Report 5. Sustainable Landscaping Report 6. Closed session: ED Evaluation	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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Energy Council
TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 – 1:00pm to 2:30pm (Conference Call)

Attendance (all via phone):

Alameda County: Alison Abbors, Karen Cook, Emily Sadigh, Selina Gomez
City of Alameda: Patrick Pelegri O'Day
City of Albany: Claire Griffing, Lizzie Carrade, Bianca Hutner (Fellow)
City of Berkeley: Sarah Moore, Yeymi Rivas (Fellow), Billi Romain
City of Dublin: Rebecca Parnes
City of Emeryville: Nancy Humphrey
City of Fremont: Rachel DiFranco, Robbie Barton
City of Hayward: Erik Pearson, Jack Steinmann (Fellow)
City of Livermore: Judy Erlandson
City of Oakland: Shayna Hirschfield-Gold, Sooji Yang (Fellow)
City of Piedmont: Ignacio Franco, Justin Szasz (Fellow)
City of Pleasanton: Zack Reda
City of San Leandro: Hoi-Fei Mok
StopWaste: Jennifer West, Emily Alvarez, Chris Hunter, Miya Kitahara, Ben Cooper, Candis Mary-Dauphin, Meghan Starkey
Guests: Laura Seidman, Alameda Municipal Power; Aleka Seville, BayREN; Brian Reyes, Silvia Pac, Rich Chien, and Sondra from San Francisco Department of the Environment

Meeting Summary:

Introduction & Announcements – Jennifer West, StopWaste

- Plans to bring a re-vamped, digital BayREN dashboard to TAG in May
- Heat Pump Water Heater grant agreement between StopWaste, EBCE, and MCE is going to the Board 4/22
- BayREN reach code call 4/23 open to all jurisdictions to provide reach code updates
- Thank you for the updates to the BayREN Codes & Standards committee this morning on how building departments are being impacted by COVID-19
 - Can share info with TAG members
- Last week BayREN held a coordination call with CCAs on collaboration on programs and shared efforts (such as electrification)

What COVID-19 and the Shelter In Place order mean for our collective work, now and “after”–
Miya Kitahara, StopWaste

How is your work being affected right now?

- Cities are facing acute, immediate impacts. What might the longer-term implications be?
 - Many cities have staff pulled into emergency operation center work and have less capacity to work on climate programs

- Long-term budget reductions mean some cities planning to hire new staff to support energy and climate work may not be able to.
- Some cities have committed short-term to keeping on and paying all staff, but that is not guaranteed for the length of the pandemic. Others have had reductions of part-time staff or those who cannot work remotely.
- Existing work on climate action plans may be paused or need to be reframed
 - Many issues addressed in CAPs, such as equity and resilience, are even more important to address now as COVID-19 has shown vulnerabilities.
 - Messaging and community outreach is affected, and while cities are exploring virtual outreach, this time highlights equity issues for those who do not have access to high-speed internet or computers.
 - Budget cuts mean some climate action plan updates might be postponed or money for consultants will not be available.
- Many cities' city council meetings are via video conference, and it can be difficult to get items on the agenda that are not related to COVID-19
- Cities want to identify positive changes in behavior, things that people are doing now because options have changed, things that are beneficial to the climate and that we want to continue (i.e. driving less, telecommuting).
 - There are other habits that we want to encourage a return to (i.e. reusable bags and containers, taking public transit), which could be challenging based on perceived sanitation issues.

If we accept that “after” will look very different, how can we guide it to be healthier (for planet, including people) instead of the same or worse?

- What might this create an opening for? Should we reframe our climate action work as resilient recovery work?
 - Could be powerful at regional scale to pivot messaging around climate to health
 - Put more meaning in and raise the profile of a just economic transition
- Aleka Seville is working with BayREN to identify added value during this time
 - Looking at maintaining/strengthening partnerships with contractors, realtors, energy professionals, and cities, while also making new relationships
 - Continue to build capacity in local governments, as resources may be constrained
 - Work more with public health departments while being sensitive to their overwhelming responsibilities
 - Investigating the possibility of a BayREN stimulus package using incentive dollars and workforce training opportunities
 - What would you like to see at the regional level that you think BayREN can do?
 - Plug into Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) efforts, including electrification focus and stimulus dollars
 - Assure that any stimulus packages address sustainability and climate (similar to ARRA funds)

- Messaging opportunities around COVID - the terms “vulnerable” and “resilient” can more accurately describe efforts related to the economy, and how an event can impact those who are vulnerable and create ripple effects, similar to the impacts of climate change.
 - Identify actions in CAPs that help with GHG reductions with cross-cutting impacts
 - Example: bolstering the repair and reuse economy more creates jobs, provides lower-cost options, and reduces solid waste going to landfill
 - People need to feel safe using public transit and reusables so messaging around best practices for cleaning is key (including non-toxic products).
 - Promote universal access to high-speed internet as way to reduce transportation impacts (telecommuting).

Continue the conversation – next steps

Miya will organize the conversations, divided into themes:

- Designing a stimulus package - tracking advocacy efforts, initiatives around workforce development and economic recovery, identify cities' top concerns and lobby to State agencies collectively as a region (e.g. CalEPA), look to ARRA lessons learned
- Sources of revenue and other help – help support cities with GHG inventories, CAPs, implementation in light of expected reduced resources and capacity
- Messaging and reframing - review of media/articles, CAP and specific topic area messaging changes, virtual and other communication channels, consistent regional messaging
- What to keep and what to change – identify shelter-in-place habits to continue and what to return to, with new opportunities to reframe the conversation around climate?

2:30 – 3:30 pm East Bay Community Energy meeting

- Notes by EBCE

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Energy Council
TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 – 1:00pm to 2:30pm (Conference Call)

Attendance (all via phone):

Alameda County: Alison Abbors, Emily Sadigh
City of Alameda: Patrick Pelegri O'Day
City of Albany: Claire Griffing, Lizzie Carrade, Bianca Hutner (Fellow)
City of Berkeley: Billi Romain, Marna Schwartz, Rebecca Milliken
City of Dublin: Rebecca Parnes
City of Emeryville: Nancy Humphrey
City of Fremont: Rachel DiFranco, Robbie Barton
City of Hayward: Erik Pearson, Taylor Richard (Fellow), Jack Steinmann (Fellow)
City of Livermore: Judy Erlandson
City of Oakland: Shayna Hirshfield-Gold, Sooji Yang (Fellow)
City of Piedmont: Ignacio Franco, Justin Szasz (Fellow)
City of Pleasanton: Zack Reda
City of San Leandro: Hoi-Fei Mok
StopWaste: Jennifer West, Emily Alvarez, Chris Hunter, Miya Kitahara, Ben Cooper, Candis Mary-Dauphin, Karen Kho, Meghan Starkey
Guests: Laura Seidman, Alameda Municipal Power

Meeting Summary:

Introduction & Announcements – Jennifer West, StopWaste

Continued Conversations: What COVID-19 means for our collective work, now and “after”

Since the April TAG meeting, some Member Agency staff have participated in conversations hosted by StopWaste to continue working on COVID-19 response and recovery.

- Tracking Trends and Messaging on COVID-19 and Climate Change
 - Identify new behaviors that have emerged during shelter-in-place that are beneficial to the climate that we would like to continue
 - Shift messaging from climate-centric to language around control, health, saving money, or other co-benefits since climate may no longer be a motivating factor
 - Look for programs and actions to benefit economic recovery and climate
 - Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) helps support local farms, provides food to communities, and can help with food waste reduction
 - New outlook on active transportation and telecommuting, momentum at the State level to continue this progress
 - Potential intersection: Can buildings not being used for offices/working have potential to provide housing?
- Updating Climate Action Plans During the Pandemic
 - Without in-person public meetings, how can virtual engagement be effective and equitable?

- Some cities are continuing outreach through social media and virtual media (surveys, Zoom meetings). Others have all outreach on hold indefinitely while focus is on COVID-19 outreach and recovery.
 - Original CAPs for many cities are very structured. How could updates be more nimble to address health and resilience, and also unforeseen events that may come up in the future?
 - Increased importance on equity and resilience-oriented thinking in CAPs.
- Stimulus and Recovery Efforts
 - Many agencies and statewide coalitions are having conversations on recovery and stimulus funds, including Green Cities California and Local Government Commission.
 - Can current progress continue with projected State budget shortfall?
 - Alameda County is a leader and doing a deeper dive.
 - Need to make sure Bay Area voice is represented in statewide discussions.
 - BayREN is having a COVID-19 response and stimulus forum 5/28/2020.
 - Different focus for some cities, especially areas with disadvantaged communities, and are prioritizing workforce development. Some may have been harder hit by both the virus and economic losses.
 - CivicSpark shifting from climate focused projects to response efforts:
 - Partners with current Fellows can shift work, if desired
 - New Fellows for next year may work on either
 - Budget shortfalls may constrain Member Agencies to continue hosting Fellows - possibility for regional agencies to have fellows to focus on response efforts (StopWaste and/or EBCE)?
- Movement Generation
 - Series of webinars -- shifting from an extractive to a regenerative economy
 - Ties together the “3 E’s” – Equity, Environment, and Economy – instead of isolating and focusing on each one separately
 - Today’s economy is out of balance -- where not all people are equal – it is a system designed to build wealth and not the well-being of people
 - Vulnerabilities are highlighted now given the pandemic
 - A regenerative system would still have the virus, but could be more resilient with built-in safety nets (health insurance, sick leave, healthy foods, etc.)

Breakout Sessions – How can climate work be institutionalized within your city?

- Cities could see climate work cut if it is not valued throughout city departments.
 - Make connections as to how climate work is core to community vitality.
 - Cannot be seen as hindering economic recovery, many climate projects increase resiliency and can save costs long-term.
- Small Group exercise:
 - Think of someone who holds a position that is “core” to the city government - a specific person in a department other than yours. Picture being in that person’s

shoes - what brought them to this position? What is their daily life like? What excites or scares them?

- What is the potential they see for your city? When they picture your city thriving, what do they see? Picture the place they would describe.
- Where is alignment with their work and your work? Which of the initiatives you are advancing (or want to advance) would help the city actualize its potential as described by this person?

Member comments and Announcements

- Announcements:
 - Heat Pump Water Heater (HPWH) mid-stream incentive program is up and running this week. Contractors are able to enroll to apply for rebates.
 - BayREN HPWH training for building department staff on 5/20 – over 25 staff from Alameda County jurisdictions have registered.
 - BayREN dashboard will be sent via email.
 - Planning a round of BayREN homeowner “virtual workshops” this summer, please fill out survey or contact Chris Hunter if you wish to participate.
 - BayREN contractor recruitment: planning a mailing to contractors throughout the county, and would like to send them out on city letterhead. StopWaste will pull a mailing list and coordinate printing and mailing, if we have City approval.
 - BayREN Q2 Forum on Benchmarking will be hosted by StopWaste on June 11 (virtually). Register!
- Reach codes:
 - Piedmont is considering a series of options, including solar requirements for new roofs, remodels \$25k or more choose one energy efficiency or electrification upgrades, \$100k or more choose 2, and all-electric new construction.
 - Berkeley BESO updates have been postponed due to COVID-19, but proposed changes focus on adding electrification recommendations into the report, and direction for upgrade requirements (when city funds stabilize and transfer tax rebate changes can include energy efficiency and electrification).
 - Please fill out reach code update tab of spreadsheet.

2:30 – 3:30 pm East Bay Community Energy meeting

- Notes by EBCE

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THE SAFETY OF REUSE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ANSWERS TO THE 7 MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SAFETY OF REUSABLE PRODUCTS



CAN COVID-19 SPREAD THROUGH CONTACT WITH SURFACES OF PRODUCTS?

Short answer: Your chances of getting the virus from surfaces are “virtually nil.”

According to the [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html), “The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person...between people who are in close contact with one another, through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.”

In addition, “It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.”¹

But the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html) also states that **transmission of the virus from surface contact has never been documented**.² Dr. Ben Locwin, an epidemiologist and consultant to the CDC says, “You really are almost at nil risk of getting a surface contact transmission of COVID-19.”³

Recommendations for disinfection of surfaces is being made through an abundance of caution approach.⁴



IF THE VIRUS CAN TRANSFER FROM SURFACES - ARE DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS SAFER THAN REUSABLE ONES?

Short answer: No. Even though odds of getting the virus from surfaces are extremely low, based on how long the virus lasts on surfaces and typical consumer and worker behavior - disposable products are not safer than reusable ones.

[The virus lasts up to 24 hours on paper and cardboard and between 2-3 days on plastic and stainless steel](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html).⁵ COVID-19 can be found on both disposable and reusable materials, and plastic is one of the materials on which it survives longest.

In theory, any object brought into a public space either by customers or workers could have the virus on it. Customer’s purses, wallets, credit cards and clothing also touch surfaces. However, they are not temporarily restricted like reusable bags in some places. This points to the inconsistencies, and also lack of rationale and science, which are driving these restrictions.

If you or your customers are still worried about surface transmission of COVID-19 (even though the latest research confirms there’s no evidence of this happening), let hygiene and sanitation guide your choices. The virus can last the longest (2-3 days) on plastic. Single-use products like plastic cups, plastic-wrapped utensils, or plastic bags are handled by several retail workers before reaching the customer. Whereas, reusable products provided by a retailer, like cups, utensils, and to-go containers, must be adequately cleaned and sanitized according to food safety regulations.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html> - Retrieved May 1, 2020

² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html> - Retrieved May 1, 2020

³ Dr. Benjamin Locwin - statements made during April 30, 2020 webinar- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKG-DRAwIxPw&feature=youtu.be>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973> - Retrieved May 1, 2020



WHAT DO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES SAY ABOUT RETAIL FOOD SAFETY AND REUSABLE FOODWARE AND PRODUCTS USED BY CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES?

Short answer: *In the CDC and FDA guidances, reusable products are not considered problematic or a cause for concern. Social distancing and hygiene are the primary protections for workers and consumers in retail food settings.*

To protect workers and customers in restaurants and bars, [current recommendations from CDC defers to the FDA](#).¹ The [FDA Guidance](#) on Best Practices for Retail Food Stores, Restaurants, and Food Delivery Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic focuses on social distancing, foodware washing and sanitizing, cleaning and sanitizing, and personal protective equipment (PPE) for workers.² **No mention is made of any threats posed by reusable bags, cups, or cutlery or other reusable products.**³

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) states: “The CDC, FDA and CDPH are not aware of any reports at this time that suggest COVID-19 can be transmitted by food or food packaging.”⁴



WHAT DOES THE FOOD INDUSTRY SAY ABOUT RETAIL SAFETY AND REUSABLE FOODWARE?

Short answer: *The National Restaurant Association’s Guide to Reopening re: COVID-19 adheres to FDA guidance, focusing on cleaning, disinfecting, and social distancing.*

They don’t promote single-use products. The only mention of reusable products is a suggestion to clean reusable menus.⁵



ARE REUSABLE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES REGULATED?

Short answer: *Reusable products used in food service must meet strict safety requirements.*

Restaurants and retail food service are among the most highly regulated businesses in terms of public health.⁶ Existing state food safety codes are based on FDA Guidance to States. **State food safety codes require extensive ware washing and sanitizing at high heat that meets the level of hygiene and disinfection required by the FDA and CDC.**

Tom Szaky, CEO of Terracycle/Loop cites their reusable container washing system, “We are protecting for other pathogens and concerns that are way more potent than Covid.”⁷

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

² <https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/best-practices-retail-food-stores-restaurants-and-food-pick-updelivery-services-during-covid-19#operations>.

³ *ibid.*

⁴ <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/RetailFoodBeverageandOtherRelatedServiceVenues.aspx>

⁵ <https://restaurant.org/Downloads/PDFs/business/COVID19-Reopen-Guidance.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.fda.gov/food/retail-food-protection/fda-food-code>

⁷ Tom Szaky - statements made during April 30, 2020 webinar - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKGDRAWlxPw&feature=youtu.be>



HOW CAN WORKERS BE PROTECTED WHEN CUSTOMERS BRING REUSABLES INTO RETAIL?

Short answer: *Even though this should not be a concern (according to health experts), if a customer brings reusable products into a retail space, contact-free practices could protect workers.*

Systems in which there is no contact between the customer's reusable cup, container, or bag and retail surface areas could, in theory, protect workers, and are consistent with the abundance of caution approach to addressing COVID-19 transmission.

For example, in states like California that have plastic bag ban laws, customers are accustomed to bringing their own reusable bags. [California's Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(CalOSHA\)'s guidance for infection prevention in grocery stores](#) recommends, "When customers bring their own bags, employees should be instructed:

- Not to touch or place groceries in customer brought bags.
- Ask customers to leave their own bags in the shopping cart.
- Ask customers to bag their own groceries."



ARE BRING-YOUR-OWN (BYO) REUSABLE PRODUCTS THE MAIN WAY TO REDUCE WASTE AND PLASTIC POLLUTION IN RETAIL FOOD SERVICE?

Short Answer: *While BYO is great, what's even better is when businesses have reuse systems which serve customers in ways that don't generate waste. When cafes and restaurants provide reusable cups and containers for take-out, customers don't have to remember to BYO.*

Any product designed to be used for a matter of minutes and then thrown away is not a sustainable or safe option, regardless of whether it's made from plastic, paper, metal or plants. The real culprit isn't just single-use plastics - it's "single-use" itself.

But the good news is, that all over the world, businesses are creating reusable cup, container, and packaging services so that customers don't have to remember to BYO. It's just the way they're accustomed to getting their coffee, takeout, or groceries.

Reducing disposables coupled with innovative reuse systems is not only the right thing to do for the planet - it also saves businesses money, creates local jobs, [protects health and reduces plastic pollution at the same time](#).

TO GET MORE HELPFUL RESOURCES AND SUPPORT DURING COVID-19, VISIT OUR DEDICATED WEBPAGE, [REUSE RESOURCES FOR THIS MOMENT](#), EMAIL US AT INFO@UPSTREAMSOLUTIONS.ORG AND [SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER](#) TO STAY UPDATED ON UPSTREAM NEWS AND EVENTS!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES on Food Safety, Dining out and Grocery Shopping are available from the [North Carolina State University Extension Safe Plates](#) program.

[Food Safety, Dining Out and Grocery Shopping Is COVID-19 a Food Safety Issue?](#) (3.17.20)

[Is Coronavirus a Concern with Takeout?](#) (3.23.20)

[Is Coronavirus a Concern at the Grocery Store?](#) (4.16.20)

[Cleaning and Disinfecting Reusable Bags](#) (3.26.20)

[Shopping and Handling Groceries](#) (4.16.20)

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BREAKTHROUGHS

The Magazine of the Rausser College of Natural Resources

Economies of Global Garbage

Some surprising facts about the “world’s only growing resource”

Jacob Shea | [Spring 2020 \(https://nature.berkeley.edu/breakthroughs/spring-2020\)](https://nature.berkeley.edu/breakthroughs/spring-2020)

In her new book, *Waste*, environmental science, policy, and management professor [Kate O'Neill](https://ourenvironment.berkeley.edu/people/kate-o039neill) (<https://ourenvironment.berkeley.edu/people/kate-o039neill>) traces the emergence of the global political economy of waste over the past two decades. With chapters on topics including waste work, food waste, discarded electronics, and plastics, O'Neill investigates the complex interactions that make waste simultaneously a valuable resource, a livelihood, a public health risk, and an environmental disaster. Here are some surprising facts, detailed in the book, about the “world’s only growing resource.”

Waste can prompt consequential political outcomes.

In 1979, Margaret Thatcher came to power in the U.K. amid rampant discontent when garbage collectors went on strike and waste piled up on the streets. In 2015, Beirut and a nearby river were buried in municipal waste following the closing of a major landfill, which sparked widespread protest.

Some landfills are unfathomably big and support entire communities.

In Ghana, about 10,000 people live on or around one of the world’s 10 largest “mega- landfills,” and many of them salvage in the landfill. With at least 3.5 million tons of garbage produced around the world each day, such landfills are only growing.

Globally, a third of all food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted.

If food waste were a country, it would be the third-largest greenhouse gas emitter after the U.S. and China. In the United States, much wasted food is thrown out by consumers and retailers. Cosmetic imperfections and a nonstandardized system for labeling—“use by” and “best by” labels often have little to do with actual spoilage—are in part responsible.

Recycled scrap is big business.

In the U.S. alone, the industry is worth more than \$105 billion annually and supports over 150,000 jobs, with an average wage of more than \$75,000. In much of the developing world, this sector is informal but represents the major or sole mode of waste collection. In Brazil, for example, informal recycling accounts for a full 80 percent of cardboard recycling and 92 percent of aluminum recycling.

Climate change–fueled disasters have given rise to a whole new category



In 2017, a string of hurricanes across North America, typhoons in Asia, and fires in California and Europe left building materials and hazardous waste in their wakes that have been difficult to dispose of, from sewage to toxic chemicals to human remains.

Until it halted the practice in 2018, China took in staggering amounts of scrap. In 2016, it accepted 27 percent of all global waste and scrap imports, or 1,500 container ships' worth each day. Since the ban, U.S. recycling infrastructure has been overloaded as municipalities have scrambled to adapt, sometimes by burning recyclables or dumping them into landfills.

As in other markets, monopolization and big companies tend to threaten individual operators.

A few companies based in the U.S. and Europe dominate the global waste sector. In Cairo, a community of 50,000 to 70,000 garbage collectors had long offered a profitable and highly efficient service, recycling 80 percent of the city's salvaged waste, when the Egyptian government restricted the practice in favor of multinational contracts. After years of persistence, the collectors remain active today.

Not all benefits from waste are strictly monetary.

End-of-life ships and other structures can be sunk to provide habitat for marine life. Food waste, if diverted from landfills, can provide livestock feed or compost for crops while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Some waste even becomes art: sculptures made from plastic refuse are displayed in museums and city squares around the world.

Waste work can be exceedingly dangerous.

One study found that waste pickers in Mexico have a 39-year life expectancy—28 years lower than the national average. A March 2017 landfill collapse in Ethiopia killed no fewer than 113 people, and plastic incineration exposes communities to toxic chemicals like dioxins. The transnational Global Alliance of Waste Pickers advocates for human rights and better living conditions in 28 countries across Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

Plastic is a problem—big and small.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is at least three times the size of France, and experts predict that by 2050 oceans will contain more tons of plastic than fish. As this plastic slowly breaks down, it releases microplastic particles, as do discarded consumer products like clothing and cosmetics. Microplastics are eaten by small marine organisms and move up the food chain—into humans. A preliminary study in 2018 found microplastics in people's feces across eight countries.

Our huge global e-waste output—13.4 pounds per person on Earth in 2016—is partially driven by built-in obsolescence.

The practice is thought to date back to 1924, when industry leaders set an artificially low 1,000-hour standard for light bulb life spans. General Motors introduced the “model year” to prompt consumers to buy more cars. Today, a global backlash against throwaway culture, called the right-to-repair movement, is pushing companies to make products that are easier to fix.