

State Recycling Commission Recommendations

In the wake of changes in global markets for recyclable materials, in 2019, Governor Newsom signed into law AB 1583, requiring CalRecycle to convene a **Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling**. This collaborative concept was modeled after StopWaste’s own Alameda County Recycling Markets Network, and is tasked with evaluating California’s current state of recycling and recommending policies to fix it.

In December 2020, the Commission released a report outlining **19 preliminary policy recommendations** to help the state meet its recycling and composting recovery goals. The policy proposals focus on actions to:

- Reduce the risk of fire and other hazards in discarded materials and associated risks to workers and communities,
- Eliminate some packaging that impedes recycling,
- Reconfigure recycling market development efforts to improve effectiveness,
- Commit to ensure that materials separated for recovery will not be processed in a manner that contradicts the environmental and social intent of recovery efforts.



The statewide commission consists of representatives from:

- **public agencies,**
- **private solid waste enterprises,** and
- **environmental organizations** that have expertise in recycling.

[View Commission details](#)

Recommendations at a glance:



Food Waste Prevention & Recovery

Build on and support food recovery efforts required under SB 1383



Waste Prevention & Reuse

Promote the ability to repair and reuse over replace



Market Development

Increase local demand for products made with recycled content



Producer Responsibility

Require accurate labeling and responsible design



Limiting Acceptance of Recyclables & Organics

Ensure materials accepted are truly recyclable and compostable



Access To Recycling Centers

Improve ease of redeeming beverage container deposits

Opportunities for leadership for StopWaste and member agencies

StopWaste and its member agencies have an opportunity to help achieve the desired goals of the Recycling Commission in Alameda County by:

- **Working with private haulers** to better understand current market conditions and where materials are going,
- **Building greater transparency** in outreach to minimize public confusion,
- **Facilitating market development** for processing materials domestically,
- **Supporting recycling reform legislation,**
- **Providing accurate information** for sorting and upstream waste prevention through the [RE:Source search tool](#).

[View the full Commission report](#)