

HOT TOPICS IN RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE

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BURNING ISSUES

DISASTER! Floods and fires and mudslides, oh my!
AFTER NATIONAL SWORD: What do we do after China?
DRUG AND SHARPS TAKEBACK GOES STATEWIDE
ORGANICS! Compost, anaerobic digestion or?
PLASTIC MADNESS!/: Bans on straws, bags and more!



California Wildfires Cleanup To Cost At
Least \$3 Billion
Tuesday, December 11, 2018 |
Sacramento, CA



Huge cleanup awaits along Russian River
as high toll of flooding emerges
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT
March 1, 2019



The Washington Post

A Terrible Year for Natural Disasters: Is It the New Normal?

What we don't know:

- Exactly, what, when, where, or how bad.

What we do know:

- It's getting worse
- Government help is slow, inadequate and unreliable
- Private insurance isn't enough
- Your turn is coming
- Citizens and businesses will demand your help
- It will be expensive
- Planning ahead can help

China's Green Fence: What Does it Mean?

The New York Times

**The Conflict That Is
Killing Recycling**

The Washington Post

**A move by China puts U.S. small-town
recycling programs in the dumps**

The Atlantic

Is This the End of Recycling?
Americans are consuming more and
more stuff. Now that other countries
won't take our papers and plastics,
they're ending up in the trash.

Los Angeles Times

**Recycling in the United States
is in serious trouble.**

National Sword: The End of Recycling?

Where has all the recycling gone?

China's National Sword:

- 30-40% of the global recycling market is gone
- No, it's not coming back
- Other countries are trying to compensate, but are being overwhelmed
- Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia and India have banned some recyclables - especially plastics

How do we adjust?

- Remaining markets can be picky
- Material must be clean, dry and well sorted
- Will require investment in better recycling
- Large recyclers have an advantage
- Regional cooperation may be key



SB 212: Drug and Sharps Cleanup

- Signed by Governor Sept. 30, 2018
- Requires at least 5 takeback sites per county
- At least 1 per 50,000 population
- Any pharmacy can opt-in
- Mailback available for those who need it
- Paid for by pharmaceutical industry
- Does NOT preempt existing programs
- Begins by January 1, 2021
- CalRecycle developing regs now



Why Compost?

- Organic material in landfills is one of our largest sources of greenhouse gases
- Composting returns nutrients to the soil instead of locking them up in landfills
- Applying compost to farms, gardens and rangeland conserves water and removes carbon dioxide from the air
- CA AB 1826 and SB 1383 require separate collection and processing of all organic waste by 2021





Organics:
What you need to know:

- You're probably already behind
- It will be expensive
- Yes, you will need to raise rates
- Property tax increases an option
- Options for self-haulers required
- Don't forget food rescue
- Inspection and enforcement requirements
- Major penalties for noncompliance
- Regional cooperation probably needed
- Limited exemptions available



Plastic Pollution is Everybody's Business

- Plastic recycling markets especially tight
- Growing concern about plastic pollution
- Statewide ban on plastic bags
- Many local bans on styrofoam, straws and more
- Many companies voluntarily cutting back on plastic
- AB 1080/SB 54 "California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act" would require source reduction or recycling at least 75% of single-use plastic packaging and products by 2030, and all single-use packaging and products recyclable or compostable on and after 2030.



Thank you!

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