

2020 Recycling Plan Update

Beyond 75% Diversion: A Plan for Landfill Obsolescence

Measure D, the county charter amendment that established the Recycling Board, mandates that the Recycling Board create and periodically update a Recycling Plan to **plan, fund, and implement a comprehensive source reduction and recycling program**. The current Recycling Plan extends through 2020, and is therefore in need of an update.

Measure D also requires that the Recycling Board set a date to **reduce, recycle and compost all discarded materials generated within Alameda County by at least 75% by weight**. The current date to achieve the 75% goal is 2020. While there has been significant progress at preventing and diverting waste, the most recent estimated countywide diversion rate is less than 70%.

Despite robust recycling and organics collection programs, extensive infrastructure, mandatory requirements, and sophisticated franchise contract provisions, **both diversion rates and per capita disposal throughout the state have remained relatively flat for nearly 10 years**, while gross landfill tonnages have begun to increase after years of steady declines.

Both the data and the experiences of Alameda County jurisdictions and service providers suggest that the county is reaching the limits of an approach that relies on post-consumption collection and processing. **StopWaste is therefore proposing “landfill obsolescence” for discussion as the post-75% goal.**

Updates to the Recycling Plan are in development. For questions on the update, contact Meghan Starkey at mstarkey@stopwaste.org.

“Landfill Obsolescence”

Landfills become obsolete as a means of managing materials, replaced by:



Circular material flows that minimize the use of non-renewable resources



Elimination of landfill waste through redesign of products and systems



Effective recovery of materials

Recycling Plan

- Voter Initiative “Measure D”
- 75% and beyond
- Date requirement






- Issues
- Infrastructure & Programs
- Countywide Goals and Objectives
- Integrated Budget and Staffing

CoIWMP

- State Law AB 939
- Disposal Capacity
- Facility siting criteria
- WMA Policies
- HHW

The Recycling Plan and Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan exist as separate governing documents, but share some common elements that work together to shape StopWaste’s approach to tackling waste-related challenges in Alameda County.

Required elements of the Recycling Plan, and current status:

Requirement	Current Status
Source Reduction Program to minimize the generation of refuse.	 StopWaste and member agencies have multiple source reduction initiatives in place; see Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (ColWMP) and the Agency Annual Budget . Examples include: Food Waste Reduction, Reusable Food Ware, and Reusable Bag Ordinance projects.
Residential Recycling Programs to provide each Alameda County residence with curbside pick-up of recyclable materials.	 All jurisdictions provide residential curbside programs; see ColWMP for details .
Commercial Recycling Programs to reduce the refuse disposal costs of businesses and government agencies.	 All jurisdictions provide commercial recycling programs; see ColWMP for details .
Recycled Product Market Development Program to create and strengthen stable markets for recycled materials in Alameda County.	 StopWaste has several market development projects; see Agency Annual Budget . Examples include: Compost and Mulch, Packaging, Building Services and Partnership projects, and development of a countywide Recycled Market Development Zone.
Recycled Product Purchase Preference Program to further encourage recycled materials markets by maximizing the amount of recycled products purchased by County government agencies.	 The County of Alameda has a Green Purchasing Program, partially funded by Measure D. For over ten years, agency staff has worked with the County General Services Agency to not only increase environmentally preferable purchases directly by the County, but to also work with local purchasing officials to instill environmentally preferable procurement policies and tools, such as bid specifications and shared purchasing contracts. Examples include: Green Purchasing Fact Sheets , Green Purchasing Guides and Resources , and Model Policy and Implementation Guide for Environmentally Preferable Purchasing at StopWaste.org