

Minutes
AB 939 LOCAL TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 11, 2024
12:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.
2300 County Center Drive, La Plaza A, Room A212
Santa Rosa, California 95404
Zoom link:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/95452631348?pwd=amRpWng4Ykc4YkhCRWV3WEtEb2RxZz09>

<u>Absent (In alphabetical order)</u>	<u>In attendance (In alphabetical order)</u>
<p>Aryam Blanco- Sonoma County Environmental Health Brandon Hart – TPW – Integrated Waste/ Sonoma Casey Fritz- Zero Waste by Sonoma County Emily Harris- Recycology Greg Carr- 1st district rep Hugo Mata- SOS and LatinX Hub Kristen Sales- Zero waste Jennifer Lyle, Sonoma County Joey Hejnowicz, Zero Waste Coordinator - City of Santa Rosa Katie Cushwa- Zero Waste Sonoma Leslye Choate- LEA Liz Bortolotto – Chair Luana Pinasco- Committee member Michael LeRusso Pheobe Schenker- Reuse Alliance Portia Sinnot, Zero Waste USA Samantha Stevens- County of Sonoma/LEA Stephen Zollman- Sebastapol city Sunny Galbraith – 350 Sonoma County, city of Sebastopol Trish Pisenti- Sonoma County Xinci Tan – Zero Waste Sonoma (by phone)</p>	<p>Alyssa Johnson- Sonoma County Resource Recovery Amber Johnson- Zero Waste Sonoma Alyssa Messer – 3rd District Rep Arthur Deicke- EPS Barry Vesser- The Climate Center Bob Cipolla Brian Bauer- Resynergi Celia Furber- Recology Chloe Ballard Dan Nobel- Association of Compost Producers Frances Finn- Cow Shades J. Glen Morelli – TPW – Integrated Waste Kyle LaRue- Director of Zero Waste and Compliance Laurie Ann Barber- public citizen Leslie Lukacs – Zero Waste Sonoma Mark Soiland- City of Cotati Representative Max Bridges- League of Women Voters Michael Anderson- Marketing and Recycling Historian Renee Gundy, city of santa rosa Sloane Pagal- Zero Waste Sonoma Stu Clark – 4th District Rep Tasha Wright- City of Santa Rosa (Water Dept) Terry Taylor- town of Windsor Taryn Obaid- Climate Seat</p>

III. Guest presentation: Center for Climate Protection, Barry Vessr

Presentation:

- Introduction to the climate center
- Founded in 2001
- Now a statewide organization that focuses on clean energy and climate solutions. Like to think as a think tank do tank.
- There is a lot of legislation in Sacramento currently and so we will focus on the climate center priority for this year.

- Our goal of our main campaign that ca will enact the bold policy required to reduce admissions and the reduce the carbon in the atmosphere as soon as possible
- Everything we do is inspired and shaped by- being based on latest climate science, prioritize climate science, include disadvantaged communities, ensure a just transition for fossil fuel workers and communities dependent on fossil fuels
- Individual priorities:
 - There is a budget deficit this year and that is a big driving force, there is a huge deficit
 - The proposal from the governor called for cuts to climate programs that have been funded in the past as well as some deferrals. All cuts are in the billions of dollars.
 - When they click expenditures to out years, in our position is to push back and look at other sources of revenue or not cut
 - There are sources of revenues out there (like tax breaks and subsidies for fossil fuel industry in the budget). Some of these proposed fossil fuels subsidies are being cut as per the governor's most recent proposal
 - SB 252- divest from fossil fuels (org is co-sponsoring)
 - Divest public employees and state teacher retirement funds from fossil fuels
 - Two-year bill
 - There are 130 organizations working on this bill.
 - Discussing billions of dollars on this retirement funds
 - These divestment strategies have been successful in the past
 - SB 233: bidirectional charging for a more resilient, reliable, affordable energy
 - We are having a lot of power outages and requesting that the power from car to in home charging port be bi-directional.
 - CA has 1.8 million EV on the road. This is about 6 times the power of the diablo nuclear powerplant.
 - The CA energy commission tells us we need to have 3x the amount of renewable energy and 8x the amount of storage
 - We are looking at 8 million EV by 2030, these are incredible assets we need to utilize.
 - Working on this bill with hundreds of other organizations.
 - It passed through the senate, and they are hoping to get it pushed through in the next couple of months
 - Ongoing state funding for resource conservation districts
 - Us climate bond to implement state targets set for natural carbon sequestration per AB 1757
 - What is needed now is technical assistance to scale up regenerative ag practices that will sequester carbon and increase production
 - Other benefits: better water retention, less air and water pollution, greater resilience to climate extremes
 - Some resources from the carbon cycle institute
 - A lot of proposed composting legislation which many is to make 1383 implementation a lot easier
 - SB 1135 (call out)- it would fund composting and healthy soils program and for it not to exceed 120 million dollars
 - It may be a stretch to get this through the legislature, but they are still analyzing whether to come on and support legislature
 - Other foundation is for larger priorities and a managed transitions away from fossil fuels and carbon dioxide removal

- Which have the best benefits and guard rails to protect communities in the environment
- **Questions:**
 - **AB 1757: carbon sequestration: how are farmers across the state receiving this?**
 - *It depends on how they have been exposed to it, they are working on these resource conservation resource hubs to help guide the process and financing to support these new programs*
 - *They are universally well received- the healthy soil is perennially oversubscribed (many interested participants)*
 - *For some farmers, there is a concern that this may be another tax on their income or tie up their time.*
 - **Hundreds of millions if not more subsidies in play. Is there not a summary of how much we are talking about?**
 - *Shockingly, no there is not. Some of these subsidies are tax loopholes on how they will declare their assets. We know the programs (that can be sent), but they don't have a good grasp on how much oil and gas companies are saving these programs.*
 - **Interested in the bidirectional charging- will there be some retroactive accommodation for those who joined the charging program early but may not be able to invest in new tech that will allow the charging?**
 - *This may take a while, this may not go into effect until 2035, but this may come out faster (GM and Tesla are aiming to make vehicles bi-directional much sooner). We may see prices for bi-directional chargers go down (currently expensive). Our hope is that we are 3 years out for people who can afford these chargers and utilize them. Our goal is to see utilities also have programs to incentives these things for greater reliability.*
 - **Speak to the extent to which you are speaking to or negotiating credit trading?**
 - *Sb 1036 is on voluntary carbon offsets that ensures those offsets have credibility and the seller will be liable if not.*
 - *The cap-and-trade system is currently being reviewed; it is understood that there has been an overallocation of allowances.*
 - **Current actions towards bills that are gutting the solar industry**
 - *Currently taking some action and bills they are working on and there are a few different ways this conversation can go. It is a complex issue. They will need to change the way utilities are compensated.*
 - *Utility rates are grotesque at the moment and people are feeling the pain. Legislators are getting that- there are 5-6 bills dealing with that.*
 - *Copies of the presentation will be emailed to Liz or zero waste Sonoma County.*

IV. Update on SB 54, Overview, Rulemaking process – Sloane

Presentation:

- This group is pretty familiar with the overarching goals, but we wanted to go more into the rule making processes. This will ensure the legislation will put 5 billion (over 10 years) into packaging paid by the producers to collect materials, manufacture materials, and requiring recycled content material into these products.
- This will impact government, haulers, producers, and eventually consumers
- The draft rules have been established and they have until May 8th to respond
 - A group was formed in Sonoma County to read the rules as they stand right now and come back as a community to digest them together.

- Held second meeting last week and they already have formulated some of the input and questions
- Will forming a joint letter with this input
- This has been named as the circular action alliance and this group has experience with managing other EPR programs
 - CA recycle will set the rules that the PRO (producer responsibility organization) will adhere to
- Manufactures can opt in or out of the PRO, but if they opt out, they will have to comply all on their own instead of just submitting their data.
- The goal is that these items are compostable or recyclable in 50% of the CA facilities or more.
- Compostable plastics are not compostable in most of these facilities.

Questions

- **The reporting is also done by recyclers.**
 - All the facilities have an obligation to report to CAL recycle, this is for the producers and not just the recyclers. It will not require anything new on the recyclers.
- **Comment: tin (CA recycle listed materials based off materials reported by other facilities) is currently listed as not recyclable, but it is a valuable commodity.**
- **Where is the list available?**
 - This is based on what is put into a mixed recycling string
 - On Cal Recycle, there is a page and list to the PDF with the list. This is all public on their site.
- **The column it has on this table is potentially recyclable- will they revisit as the technology improves or the markets change?**

We will add this to the list and letter for consideration.
- **Is there anyone on the committee who is on the commission?**
 - Currently there are 2 people from Sonoma County on the advisory committee.
 - Members of LTF can contact Leslye if they are interested and want to increase the Sonoma County representation.

V. Update on Zero Waste Symposium, Earth Day – Celia

Presentation:

- There are several of individuals who are on the planning committee.
- Thursday May 2nd is a very inspiring day, and it will be a very packed day. There are some great key notes- she will be the zero-waste chef who is very inspirational.
- Also have Brock Dolman (cofounder of occidental arts and ecology center). He is running some cool experiments there are it is very inspiring. It is a great line up of speakers, and exhibit areas, and there will also be a networking period this year that will be fun. It will be an opportunity for networking. It is encouraging for registration soon because they are expected to sell out of seats soon.
- Earth day events in Sonoma County for April- (Celia will send to Sloane or Liz for distribution for this group)
- May 11th- there will be a compost give away.
 - This is a collaborative effort from a facility in Novato and Zero Waste
- There will be a repair fair for Windsor on the 4th.

VI. Update on Compost Council/State Updates - Dan Noble

Presentation:

- The compost coalition answers to this working group, but they are still in the process of identifying action steps. Time has been spent getting a sense of who they are and identifying a purpose.
- Got a call from the compost coalition in butte county to collaborate and support disadvantaged communities up and down the central valley.
- Currently putting down a proposal for a grant from the EPA to support this fellow community
- Looking for a Spanish speaking interpreter for the duration of the grant writing process.

Question?

- Next coalition meeting will be?
 - Possibly April 24th, but to confirm.

VII. Update on CRV buyback in the county – Sloane

Presentation:

- There have been some changes to the CRV program in CA. Liquor, beer, juices, and wine have been added.
- There is a dedicated page on the CRV website with locations to bring bottles and cans in for redemptions.
- The UCPNB sites are through a pilot program, but the Rohnert Park location will move to hybrid (both weigh and pay, but also a container that will allow for a drop off). There is a transition period. The bag used to put the material in will have a QR code and the bag will go in (mixed materials are allowed) and in 72 hours electronic payment will be issued.
- Grocery stores will be required to go through these materials as well.

Question:

- Are grocery stores actually taking these materials?
 - It can be difficult for smaller stores to hold, store, and send it out. Some of these smaller stores are losing money. Currently seeking guidance from Cal Recycle to provide more support to this store. Recommend calling ahead to the store to see if they can even take materials at that time.
- Where can this be found:
 - On the CAL recycle page.
- Is there a limit?
 - 25 per material type. The other locations on the map can take significantly more.
- When you put the CRV bottles and cans in the blue bin, does recycology get to redeem this?
 - Yes. PET beverage containers with CRV value will get recycled and basically CA recycle has a fund and they will audit the loads and determine an appropriate value and they will get a check.
- Is the value of non CRV stuff equal to a nickel?
 - If the question is around counting them out versus weight, then it is pretty close. They do need to account for contamination and some loss.
- What is the purpose of the CRV centers?
 - Also, that material is much cleaner when sourced separated and individual consumers get the money back.
- Comment: there are grants open for things such as reverse vending machines (to increase participation) and some organizations will go after this funding (hopefully we can add them to this site).

VIII. Public Comments*

None

IX. Member Announcements and Comments

Leslye Luckas- zero waste Sonoma was at the capital for 2 different bills.

- SB1066 Marin flares costs to dispose of it properly is highly costly and should be managed by the producers and not subsidized by the public. They are costly and dangerous, and many boaters currently don't know what to do with them. Testified in front of the senate/
- AB2346 Xinci was also at the senate and testified on behalf of the legislation on procurement. This legislation is to reduce procurement requirements. We don't need or want to compete with agriculture and there is currently wide support. The senate committee already moved it forward even before testimony.
- There is also an EPR bill that they are currently involved with. Currently working with lobbyist in Sac. This bill aims to have the producers of chemicals take responsibility and dispose of these chemicals and not the public.
- Alkaline batteries- do most go in the trash? Zero waste is promoting recycling and curbside recycling. The current direction is put on top of the blue cart, but not for communal dumpsters. Currently looking at this process.

Mike

- He and Liz have activated the membership committee and will be working on making membership more viable. If there are any suggestions or ideas, then get a hold of them.

Sloane

- Climate action night- held at SRJC (college and local high school participants) and small groups are formed to help educate and engage with the legislation at the state level.
- The reuse round table, next Thursday at 3:30, will be around infrastructure and what rebuilding a reuse infrastructure in Sonoma County will look like.