

# *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



## 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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