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

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?

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

Where has all the recycling gone?
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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