

Attachment 1. Summary of CalRecycle Packaging Public Workshops and Themes of Public Comments

Date	Workshop	Description	High-Level Summary of Comments
12/11/13	<p>Bioplastics Workshop: Understanding Packaging Innovations and Materials Management in California</p> <p>More information: http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Actions/PublicNoticeDetail.aspx?id=1077&aiid=986</p>	<p>CalRecycle staff presented findings from several research contracts focused on bioplastics and discussed management of plastic packaging at end-of-life to help meet California’s statewide goal of 75 percent recycling by 2020.</p>	<p>Main comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Biodegradable” additives are a serious contamination threat for recyclers • CA Attorney General & FTC are aggressively pursuing “greenwashing” • PLA producer NatureWorks is making new efforts to recycle PLA • Avoid term “bioplastics” • Important to take lifecycle view of new materials • BPA & phthalates are “essential” in plastic production
12/12/13	<p>A Conversation about Packaging: Opportunities and Challenges</p> <p>More information: http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Actions/PublicNoticeDetail.aspx?id=1078&aiid=987</p>	<p>This workshop explored the role of packaging recovery in meeting California’s statewide goal of 75 percent recycling by 2020. The focus of this highly-interactive workshop was to use the group’s collective knowledge and expertise to share ideas about opportunities and challenges when discussing this immense category of materials. Expert panelists representing a variety of sectors shared perspectives on the issues, how they could be addressed, and potential policy approaches moving forward.</p>	<p>Main themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry, government, and others involved in the product chain need to work together • Infrastructure needs must be addressed • Packaging has many functions/Role of innovation as part of the problem and solution • Need for engaging, educating, and motivating the consumer • Is there a role for harmonization of standards? • LCA/lifecycle thinking should somehow be utilized • Focus on and expand existing programs that work • Need for metrics for program evaluation • What is the role of energy recovery for unrecyclable packaging materials? • How should packaging recovery be funded?
11/13/14	<p>Packaging Workshop</p> <p>More information: http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Actions/PublicNoticeDetail.aspx?id=1327&aiid=1203</p>	<p>CalRecycle solicited stakeholder feedback on potential policy approaches to increase the recovery of packaging as part of the statewide 75 percent goal. A follow-up to the 12/12/13 CalRecycle Packaging Workshop, staff presented a background paper that helped guide highly interactive small and large group stakeholder discussions.</p>	<p>Main themes, including written comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CalRecycle data is outdated and flawed • CalRecycle should focus on voluntary initiatives and partnerships first • Policy should be inclusive of all materials (material neutral) • Consider practical regulatory approaches • Need mandatory recycling • Need a framework to drive consolidation of existing programs • Make sure that we don’t end up with solutions put in place that end up on the backs of local government

1/5/16	<p>Manufacturers Challenge Workshop</p>	<p>CalRecycle offered the Manufacturers Challenge in response to industry's call for the department to focus on voluntary industry actions to increase packaging recovery in California following the 11/13/14 CalRecycle Packaging Workshop. Product industry associations and other groups were asked to come share what industry-wide actions they consider necessary to achieve this goal and what specific activities their members will undertake to reach the voluntary goal of 50% reduction in packaging landfilled in California by 2020.</p>	<p>Main themes from industry, including written comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry is already doing a great deal in this space; there are many collaborative efforts underway • There should be a role for energy recovery in meeting goals • Difficult to set goals, track progress • Difficulty to work in California versus nationally • Mandatory approaches are counter-productive to industry efforts to efficiently and effectively moving packaging sustainability forward • No support for EPR for packaging • Need common messaging, better metrics • CalRecycle and other stakeholders such as local governments can/should be doing more to efficiently and effectively manage packaging at end-of-use • Associations have no control over what individual companies do <p>Main themes from others, including written comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry did not respond to what CalRecycle specifically asked via the Challenge • Heard no new commitments from industry • Lack of California context; mostly restating existing, mostly national efforts • Desire to understand what companies are doing relative to working with upstream suppliers to optimize packaging and how they're addressing unrecyclable packaging • Voluntary efforts plateau • Need common messaging, better metrics
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