

# Profile of the California Integrated Waste Management Board

## Background

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) is a State agency responsible for implementing the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Act). This is a comprehensive set of laws that were designed to address California's solid waste disposal dilemmas and lessen the demands upon our natural resources. The Act mandated that the cities and counties meet the waste diversion goals of 25 percent in 1995 and 50 percent in the year 2000. As part of this strategy, CIWMB, in cooperation with the California Department of Education, has developed and implemented an integrated waste management educational program to teach the concepts of source reduction, recycling, composting, and integrated waste management in California schools. In addition, CIWMB has developed a waste prevention and recycling program for school districts.

The CIWMB promotes the conservation hierarchy of "source reduction; recycling and composting; and environmentally safe transformation and environmentally safe landfill disposal." The primary mission of the CIWMB is to protect the public's health, safety, and environment through effective management of California's solid waste. By 1995 California had attained the goal of diverting 25 percent of solid waste from the waste stream. The CIWMB estimates that as many as half the State's more than 500 local jurisdictions met the 50 percent goal in 2000. With extra time allowed by statute and help from the CIWMB, all cities and counties will meet the goal.

## Public Education and Assistance for Schools by CIWMB

CIWMB's Office of Integrated Education's goal is to assist local agencies in meeting the challenge of a coordinated, statewide educational effort by promoting waste prevention and recycling programs in schools throughout the state. Staff provides training to kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers on how to incorporate integrated waste management into their teaching matrix as well as how to implement a successful waste diversion program in their schools.

*Closing the Loop (CTL)* is a curriculum that provides kindergarten through sixth grade students a broad exposure to fundamental concepts of integrated waste management. The six million children who are current and future waste generators are educated on the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling. Through school education the students are encouraged to make informed waste prevention choices throughout the rest of their lives. *CTL* not only provides accurate and current waste management information but also enables students to get involved with hands-on and action-oriented projects.

## Teacher Training

Interested educators can receive a copy of *CTL* by attending CIWMB's free teacher training workshops that are provided throughout the state. Each teacher participating in a workshop will receive a copy of the curriculum free of charge and training on how to use it effectively in his or her classroom.

For more information about *CTL* and the teacher training workshops, please contact the CIWMB's Office of Integrated Education at (916) 341-6769, or look for your regional contact on the CIWMB Web page at [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Schools/Contacts/Contacts.htm](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Schools/Contacts/Contacts.htm).