

Section 4

Outlook for Increasing Waste Tire Diversion and Recycling

This section begins with a historical look at waste diversion and recycling trends and is followed by an overview of the short-term and long-term outlook for increasing levels in the future.

Historical Waste Tire Diversion and Recycling Trends

As detailed in Section 2, CalRecycle has shifted its focus to achieving a 75 percent recycling rate for all waste materials including tires. This is in addition to CalRecycle’s long-standing 90 percent tire diversion goal. The recycling-based measurement is defined in this report to exclude waste tire and TDF exports (but not used tire exports), ADC, and TDF sold domestically. Excluding these segments, the 2015 recycling rate was 36.8 percent, down from 38.5 percent in 2014. The 2015 tire diversion rate is 80.9 percent, down from 85.9 percent in 2014.

As illustrated in Figure 5, over the past 15 years California waste tire recycling volumes have fluctuated within a narrow band of 14.6 million to 20.6 million PTEs per year. Diversion volumes have been more erratic, ranging from 10.1 million to 22.3 million PTEs over the same period, with large shifts occasionally occurring in exports and ADC.

Figure 5
Waste Tire Diversion and Disposal Trends

