Sustainable and Safe Recycling

Presented by the NCRA DEI-Committee Co-Chairs:

- **Portia Sinnott**, NCRA Vice-President and Editor and Zero Waste USA Program Director (not speaking)

- **Alina Bekkerman**, NCRA Board Member and San Francisco Conservation Corps, Zero Waste Consultant

- **Felisia Castañeda**, NCRA Member and Recology San Francisco Environmental Learning Center Supervisor
An Essential Workforce

- Zero waste and climate frontline workers support the green economy
- Across the US there are 21,000 workers sorting recycling material
- This workforce, that is often unseen, maintains the efficiency of recycling system
- Recycling plays a key role in job creation and creates 10x more jobs than landfiling
Key Issues

- High injury and fatality rates
- Unsafe working conditions
  - Loud, heavy machinery
  - Exposure to hazardous items
- Low wages, few benefits
- Limited advancement
- Common use of temporary workers
  - Fewer workplace protections
  - Less likely to be informed of rights
- The GAIA 2015 report [Sustainable and Safe Recycling - Protecting Workers Who Protect the Planet](#), provides an extensive overview...
Recommendations

• Require comprehensive worker safety programs and consistent evaluation of health and safety records of recycling companies
• Employ unions and incentives through company ownership, and end the use of temporary, untrained workers
• Minimize dangerous contaminants entering the recycling stream by enact strong community education programs
• Have a policy to empower workers:

“If you see something, say something”
NCRA DEI Efforts

TO BE POSTED SOON:

- Glossary
- Conference DEI Dedication
- Presenter Guidelines
- Organizational Self-Assessment
- How to Hire a Consultant

NCRA DEI RESOURCES