



Recycling Update's Glossary of Commonly Used Terms and Acronyms

AB 32 (AB = Assembly Bill) the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006; established timelines for the reduction of greenhouse gases (**GHG**), and created a “cap and trade” market system for GHG emissions. AB 32 recognizes source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting as strategies to reduce GHG emissions.

AB 341 2011 California law; sets a statewide recycling goal of 75% by 2020 and requires businesses with 4+ cubic yards of garbage service per week and multi-family dwellings (**MFDs**) with 5+ units to recycle

AB 939 landmark 1989 law; requires each local jurisdiction in CA to **divert** at least 50% from landfill or **transformation** facilities through **source reduction**, reuse, recycling, and composting

AB 1826 2014 California law; requires businesses to divert their organics. The deadlines for businesses to comply phase in based on the volume of material generated each week, starting with the largest generators on April 1, 2016. The law also required each local jurisdiction to adopt an organics recycling program by January 1, 2016.

AB 2020 1986 California “Bottle Bill;” established refundable deposits (**CRV**) on beverage containers; required certified recycling centers in specified “convenience zones” to pay refunds

Anaerobic Digestion a method of processing **organics** in an enclosed environment without oxygen, in order to create and capture methane for energy production. Organics that have gone through anaerobic digestion can then be composted aerobically (with oxygen) to create a soil amendment.

Bin mid-size garbage/recycling containers with lids; 1 to 8 cubic yards in size; typically used at apartments and businesses; often called “Dumpsters” after a common brand name, but different from the larger **roll-off boxes**

Biomass Conversion the controlled combustion of wood or other organic material; used for producing electricity or heat. Biomass conversion is considered **diversion** under **AB 939** and is distinguished from **transformation** by the clean, separated nature of the feedstock. Woody **discards** are sometimes referred to as **biomass**.

CalRecycle commonly used name for the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

CARE Carpet America Recovery Effort, the organization representing carpet manufacturers that implements carpet recycling programs in California and other states

Cart small two-wheeled plastic container used at residences and smaller businesses; typically ranging in size from 20 to 96 gallons; sometimes called a “Toter” after a common brand name

C&D Construction and Demolition; used to refer to the **discards** from construction/demolition/remodel sites. Typically includes wood, metal, concrete, sheetrock, dirt, cardboard, etc.

CDFAs California Department of Food and Agriculture

CRV California Redemption Value - The recycling deposit on beverage containers; currently 5 cents for each beverage container less than 24 ounces and 10 cents for each container 24 ounces or greater

CY Cubic Yard, widely used for container sizes and for measuring **generation**

Discards Materials no longer desired by individuals or organizations; materials that somebody wants to get out of his or her life. As a verb, “discard” means the same as “to throw away.” No particular disposal system is implied.

Disposal/Disposed landfilled or incinerated instead of **diverted**

Diversion/Diverted recycling/recycled: Keeping **discards** out of landfills and incinerators through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. “Diverting from landfill” as an analogy to diverting water, traffic, etc. from a typical destination.

Diversion Rate (%) a calculation of tons **diverted** divided by tons **generated**. Generation = Diversion + Disposal, therefore the Diversion Rate = Diversion / (Diversion + Disposal)

Dual-Stream A recycling collection method in which recyclables are sorted into two categories, typically 1) Paper and cardboard and 2) bottles and cans

EOW Every Other Week; used in the context of frequency of collection (as opposed to weekly pickup)

EPR Extended Producer Responsibility; policies to make manufacturers of products or packaging (as opposed to consumers or local government) responsible for recycling the material after its useful life; a mandatory type of **product stewardship**

Food Insecurity when access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources

Food Rescue recovering and redistributing food that would otherwise be discarded

Generation/Generated/Generator Materials are “generated” at the point that it is discarded by the original user. The entity discarding the material is the “generator.” Generation includes both **discards** that are **diverted** (recycled) and discards that are **disposed** (landfilled/incinerated). Generation = Disposal + Diversion.

GHG Greenhouse Gas; gases that contribute to climate change, such as carbon dioxide and methane

HHW Household Hazardous Waste; unwanted hazardous materials typically found in a home such as paint, motor oil, cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, etc.

LEA local solid waste enforcement agency; a local agency given responsibility (by CalRecycle) for managing and enforcing California solid waste regulations and laws in the local jurisdictions

MFD Multi-Family Dwelling; apartment, condo, or townhome complex, typically with shared garbage service

MRF Materials Recovery Facility, a facility that sorts and separates materials and prepares them for market. There are different kinds of MRFs for different types of materials: **Dual-stream** recyclables, **single-stream** recyclables, mixed **C&D**, “Dry” waste (no wet discards/food/diapers), and mixed **MSW**. MSW MRFs are sometimes called “Dirty MRFs.”

MSW Municipal Solid Waste; garbage from typical residential and commercial generators; not including hazardous materials or material from the industrial, construction, agricultural, forestry, and mining sectors

OCC Old Corrugated Cardboard, a technical term for cardboard boxes

Organics food scraps, yard trimmings, wood, paper products and other compostable materials

PaintCare A non-profit product stewardship organization representing paint manufacturers that implements paint drop-off and recycling programs in Californian and other states that have adopted **EPR** laws.

PAYT Pay as You Throw - charging customers based on the volume of materials set out for collection

PCC Post Consumer Content, recycled product made from material used and discarded by a consumer, as opposed to recycled products from materials of the manufacturing process that did not reach a consumer (pre-consumer content)

PET #1/ HDPE #2/ PVC #3/ LDPE #4/ PP #5/ PS #6 Types of plastic resin commonly used in consumer products and packaging. The plastic industry developed the “resin identification code” numbers typically associated with each type.

Product Stewardship is the goal of minimizing health, safety, environmental and social impacts, and maximizing economic benefits of a product and its packaging throughout all lifecycle stages, including disposal

Roll-off Box large metal container that “rolls off” the truck; often used at construction sites; typically 10-40 cubic yards and hauled away to be emptied - also called a “drop box” or “debris box.” It’s sometimes referred to as a “Dumpster” after a common brand name, but different from a **Bin**, which is smaller and emptied onsite.

SFD Single-Family Dwelling; house or condo/townhome with individual service, typically in **carts**

Single-Stream A recycling collection method in which all types of recyclables (paper, cardboard, bottles, cans, etc.) are mixed together in a single recycling container and sorted at a **MRF**

Source Reduction Preventing disposal at the source through such practices as product redesign, switching from disposable to reusable products and packaging, double-sided copying, **food rescue**, etc, also called “waste prevention”

T14 Title 14, California’s composting operations regulatory requirements

Transformation incineration; also known as **WTE** (Waste to Energy) and sometimes “conversion”

WTE Waste to Energy

Zero Waste the goal of reducing, reusing, recycling, composting or redesigning products so nothing is burned or buried