

Public Meeting to Update the Board on Mandatory Commercial Waste Recycling

October 21, 2011



California Environmental Protection Agency

 **Air Resources Board**

Overview

- Background
 - Need for Commercial Recycling Regulation
 - Benefits from Commercial Recycling
- Originally Proposed Approach - Regulation Development
- AB 341
- Next Steps
- Future Efforts



Background – Need for Commercial Recycling Regulation

- California generates 36 M tons of waste per year
- 75% - 28 M tons per year from commercial sector
- 50% - 14 M tons per year are “readily recyclable”



Background – Need (continued)

- Annual cost for commercial waste collection, transportation, and landfill management is \$2.6 billion



Background – Need (continued)

- Scoping Plan – Mandatory Commercial Recycling Measure
- Goal: 5 MMTCO₂e GHG reduction by 2020
 - Achievable by removing ~2 M tons of “traditional” recyclables from commercial waste
 - GHG reductions from energy saved by using recycled material instead of raw material
- Underlying authority for measure: AB 32
- Longer-term (>2020) potential for even more GHG reductions

Benefits from Commercial Recycling

- Achieves multiple objectives:
 - Achieves GHG emission reductions & energy savings
 - Conserves natural resources



Benefits (continued)

- Achieves multiple objectives (cont.):
 - Provides greater and more efficient utilization of the existing infrastructure
 - Provides opportunities to:
 - Reduce business waste management costs
 - Expand recycling manufacturing in CA
 - Create new jobs in CA



Regulation Development

- ARB/CalRecycle complementary roles
- 8 public workshops in 2009, 2010, 2011
- Many meetings with stakeholders

Regulation Development (continued)

- Integrate mandatory commercial recycling into existing AB 939 review and evaluation process
- Require local jurisdictions (~500) implement commercial recycling program consisting of education, outreach, and monitoring
- Require businesses and multifamily complexes (with 5 or more units) to recycle if they generate ≥ 4 cubic yards of waste per week



AB 341 Establishes a Mandatory Commercial Recycling Program

- Signed by Governor on Oct 6, 2011
- Objectives consistent with proposed regulation developed by ARB and CalRecycle
- Main difference – more multifamily complexes

AB 341 (continued)

- AB 341 gives CalRecycle authority to implement Commercial Recycling
- Require local jurisdictions (~500) implement commercial recycling program consisting of education, outreach, and monitoring
- Requires businesses that generate ≥ 4 CY of waste per week and multifamily complexes ≥ 5 units to recycle

Next Steps

- CalRecycle will initiate new rulemaking
 - Draw from collaborative work with ARB
 - Maintain parallel AB 939 program implementation, annual reporting
 - Continue focus on flexibility for businesses and jurisdictions
- CalRecycle and ARB will collaborate to ensure successful implementation of commercial recycling
 - CalRecycle monitor reductions and report to ARB
 - ARB responsible for recycling emission factors

Future Efforts

- Outreach to businesses and jurisdictions to implement new regulation
- Identify and support opportunities to expand recycling services and recycling manufacturing in California
- Continue collaboration with ARB on Waste Management/Recycling sector for GHG emission reduction opportunities

