



Senate Bill 54/ Assembly Bill 1080: Single-Use Packaging and Products



Senator Ben Allen and Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez

with Senator Skinner, Senator Wiener, Senator Stern, Assemblymember Friedman, Assemblymember Calderon and Assemblymember Ting

IN BRIEF

SB 54/AB 1080 will ensure California is on the forefront of reducing pollution from plastic packaging and products. The bills would set goals to reduce waste from single-use packaging and products and ensure the remaining items are effectively recycled.

BACKGROUND

Every day, single-use packaging and products in California generate tons of non-recyclable and non-compostable waste impacting our health, natural environment, and local governments.

Plastic pollution starts with fossil fuel extraction to create plastic and affects individuals, communities, and ecosystems all along the supply chain; from when the products are manufactured, transported, and used, to when they degrade and emit greenhouse gases or impact the environment as litter. Oil refineries, plastic manufacturers and incinerators tend to be located in disadvantaged communities, which then must bear the brunt of the associated health impacts from industry, such as higher asthma rates. With a planned 40-percent increase in plastic production over the next decade, plastic production will account for 20 percent of global fossil fuel consumption unless we make major policy changes to significantly counter this.

One way to reduce the production of plastics is to focus on its use in packaging. Packaging products are typically designed to be used just once and then discarded and they account for 42 percent of all non-fiber plastic produced.

Unlike natural materials that decompose, nearly every piece of plastic ever produced still exists in our landfills or in the environment. As these items fragment into smaller particles, known as microplastics, they concentrate toxic chemicals and contaminate our food and drinking water sources, ranging from bottled water to table salt to fish and agricultural soils. Exposure to these plastics and associated toxins has been linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption and other serious health problems.

While the state and local communities in California have tried to reduce the burden from single-use packaging since the 1980s, taxpayers and local governments still spend over \$420 million annually in ongoing efforts to clean up and prevent litter in streets, storm drains, parks and waterways. Not only is cleanup expensive, but it cannot keep pace with the production of single-use disposable items, which continues to grow exponentially.

Existing recycling infrastructure can't keep pace either. Less than 9 percent of plastic is recycled, and that percentage is dropping since the implementation of China's National Sword and policies in other countries, which severely restricted the amount of foreign waste these countries accept. These materials are now either piling up in recycling centers, being landfilled, or sent to illegal facilities in Southeast Asia where they are incinerated, or simply dumped in impoverished areas where it is never dealt with. California must reduce the amount of plastics as a result of these realities.

We can no longer afford to wait on this issue. This is why the European Union and other countries that are major purchasers of consumer goods are implementing comprehensive waste reduction frameworks which urge producers to share in the responsibility of reducing waste and designing products to be reusable, recyclable and/or compostable. As the world's fifth-largest economy, California has a responsibility to lead on solutions to the growing plastic pollution crisis.

SOLUTION

Eliminating non-reusable, non-recyclable and non-compostable products and reducing packaging is by far the most effective, and least expensive way to protect the health of people, wildlife, and the environment. Many reliable and reusable alternatives already exist and the positive results of their use have been proven.

SB 54/AB 1080 establish a comprehensive framework to address the pollution and waste crisis.

- Specifically, single-use plastic packaging and products sold or distributed in California must be reduced or recycled by 75 percent by 2030.
- All single-use packaging and products must be recyclable or compostable on and after 2030.
- As part of a shift towards a more circular economy, the bills also instructs CalRecycle to develop incentives and policies to encourage in-state manufacturing using recycled material generated in California.

CalRecycle will be given authority to adopt regulations to meet these goals, including developing criteria to determine which packaging material qualifies as recyclable or compostable.

SUPPORT

Algalita Marine Research and Education
Alvarado Street Brewery & Grill
American Sustainable Business Council
Audubon California
Azul
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
California Cannabis Coalition
California Coastal Protection Network
California Coastkeeper Alliance
California Compost Coalition
California Interfaith Power & Light
California League of Conservation Voters
Californians Against Waste
California Product Stewardship Council
California ReLEAF
California Resource Recovery Association
California State Association of Counties
California State Parks Foundation
California Teamsters Public Affairs Council
CALPIRG
Center for Biological Diversity
Center For Environmental Health
Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research and Education
ChicoBag
Cigarette Butt Pollution Project
Clean Water Action
Coastodian
Colorado Medical Waste, Inc.
Communication Workers of America District 9, AFL- CIO
Communications4Good
Communitas Financial Planning
Community Environmental Council
Conscious Container
Council Member Paul Koretz, 5th District, City of Los Angeles
Council Member Mark West, City of Imperial Beach
Defenders of Wildlife
Distance Learning Consulting
Dr. Bronner's
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Eco Imprints
Ecology Center
Environment California
Environmental Defense Center
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Environmental Working Group
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Full Circle Environmental, Inc.
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)
GoodLight Natural Candles
Green Retirement, Inc.
Green Valley Community Farm
Greenpeace
Guitarfish Music Festival
Heal the Bay
Inland Empire Disposal Association
Inland Ocean Coalition
Joshua Tree Music Festival
Kasperorganics
Kern Refuse Disposal, Inc.
Kite Music Productions/Flying Kite Motion Pictures
LA Hauler
Latinos in Action
Leadreship & Strategy for Sustainable Systems
League of Women Voters of California
Long Beach Environmental Alliance
Long Beach Gray Panthers
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)
Los Angeles County Waste Management Association
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California
Lydia's Kind Foods, Inc.
MD Global
MoneyVoice
Monterey Regional Waste Management District
Napa Recycling & Waste Services
National Parks Conservation Association
National Stewardship Action Council
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Natural Resources Defense Council
No Plastic Oceans
Northcoast Environmental Center
Northern California Recycling Association
Oceana
Owl Post Calligraphy
Pacific Forest Trust
Pacoima Beautiful
Pharmacists Planning Services, Inc.
Pier 23 Café Restaurant & Bar
Plastic Pollution Coalition
Ponce's Mexican Restaurant
UPSTREAM
R3 Consulting Group, Inc.
Recology
Refill Madness, LLC
Republic Services
Repurpose
ReThink Waste
San Francisco Baykeeper
San Francisco Department of the Environment
Save Our Shores

Sea Hugger
Service Employees International Union California
Seventh Generation Advisors
S. Groner Associates, Inc.
Shafir Environmental
Shizen & Tataki Restaurants
Sierra Club California
Sierra Leadreship
Smart Planet Technologies
Solid Waste Association of Orange County
St. Francis Center
Steelys Drinkware
StopWaste
Surfrider Foundation
Sustainable Environmental Management Co.
Sustain LA
Symbiosis Gathering
TDC Environmental, LLC
Teamsters Local Union No. 396
The 5 Gyres Institute
The River Project
The Story of Stuff Project
The Watershed Project
To-Go Ware
Tonic Nightlife Group
TreePeople
Tri-CED Community Recycling
Trust for Public Lands
Valley Improvement Projects
Waste Busters, Inc.
Wholly H2O
WILDCOAST
Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation
Women's Voices for Earth
Zero Waste Sonoma
Zero Waste USA
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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