

# **Humboldt Progressive Democrats**

## **CA Food Waste Reduction Laws**

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

**Maggie Gainer, Presenter**





# CA Waste Laws Evolution -- *Fast Forward*

**1960s – 70s**

Highway and Park Litter  
Impacts on Tourism & Agriculture



**1980s-90s**

Landfill Space Shortages  
NIMBY  
California Real Estate



**2000s**

Climate Crisis  
Destruction of Global Warming  
& Plastic Pollution



# **Magnitude of the Food Waste Problem**

**An estimated 40% of food in the United States goes to waste.**

**This is the equivalent of us tossing more than \$165 billion into landfills each year. (NRDC 2017)**

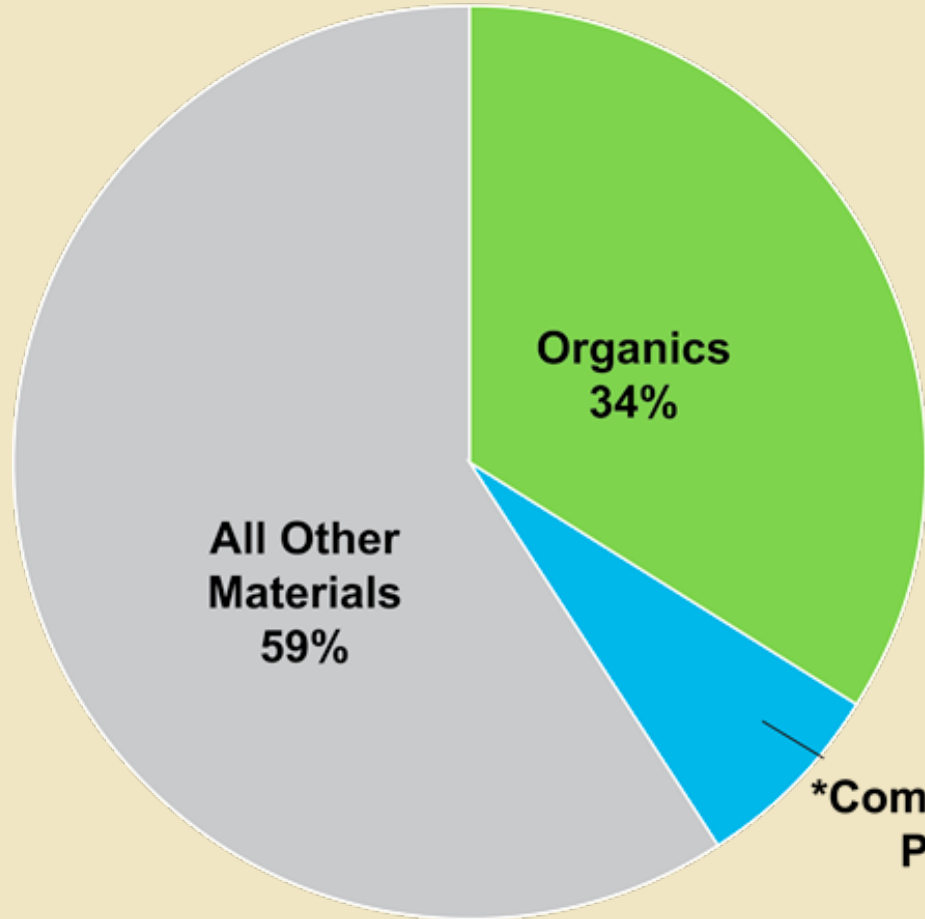
**In California, we throw out around 5.6 million tons of food every year, which accounts for 18% of the state's waste stream.**

**Food rotting in landfills is one of the biggest contributors of methane emissions, a greenhouse gas that's at least 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide.**

**Food insecurity affects 1 in 8 Californians, 1 in 4 children, and at the same time 40% of food available in the U.S. is never eaten. In California, food makes up the largest portion of total waste sent to landfills.**

# Organics in California's Overall Disposed Waste Stream 2014

Data from CalRecycle's 2014 Waste Characterization Report



## Organics Include

- Food Waste
- Landscape Trimmings
  - Leaves
  - Grass
  - Trimmings
  - Branches
  - Stumps
- Non-Hazardous Wood Waste
- \*Compostable Paper

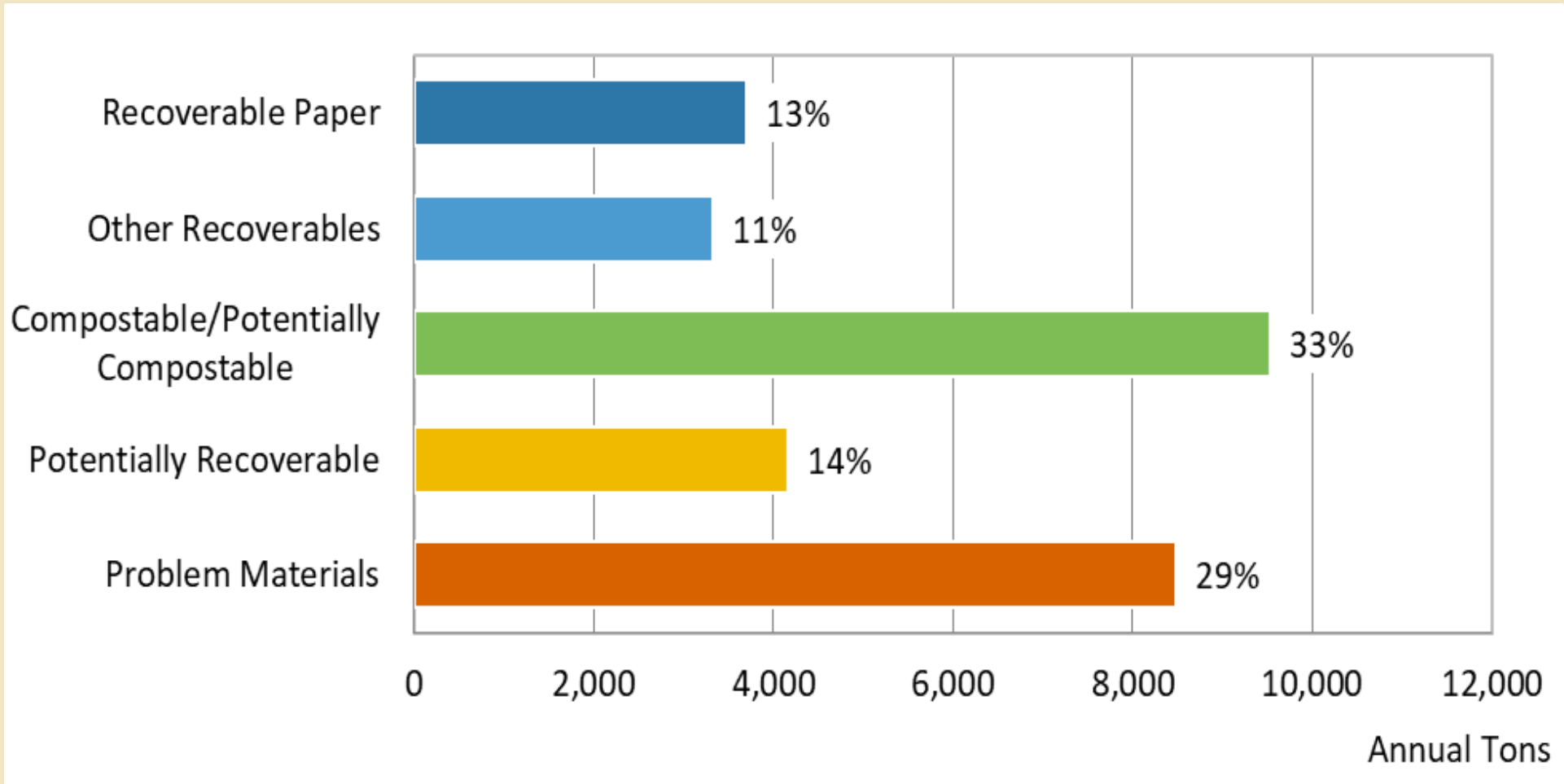
\*Compostable Paper  
7%

\*Compostable paper includes food-soiled paper and other compostable paper



# 2020-21 HWMA Waste Characterization Study

Figure 8. Overall Material Composition by Recoverability Group, Commercial Cascadia, October 2021



# Prevention is first, then



Feed People



Feed Animals



Feed the Soil

## Food Hierarchy

Californians Against Waste

# **Current Focus on Planning & Implementing AB1826 and SB1383**

**Rural Waivers & Compliance**

**Changing Habits and  
Business Operations**

**Food Waste Prevention**

**Edible Food Recovery**

**Business-to-Business  
Support**

**Food Waste to Farm Animals**

**Food Waste to Compost**

**Carbon Farming, Digesters**





# TYPES OF FOOD ACCEPTED

<b>Food Rescue Organizations</b>	<b>Fresh Produce</b>	<b>Non-perishable Foods</b>	<b>Baked Goods</b>	<b>Frozen Prepared Foods</b>	<b>Cold Prepared Foods</b>	<b>Hot Prepared Foods</b>
<b>Food for People</b> 707-445-3166	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Arcata House</b> 707-822-4528	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Eureka Rescue Mission</b> 707-445-3787	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
<b>Salvation Army</b> 707-442-6475	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Betty Chinn Foundation*</b> 707-407-3833	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Arcata Presbyterian</b> 707-822-1321	✓	✓	✓	✓		

\*A relationship is required to accept donations.

## COMPOSTING SERVICES (As of Jan 2022)

Redwood Nation Composting by the Local Worm Guy - (707) 385-9676

Full Cycle Compost – (707) 633-9121

North Coast Co-Op --Limited capacity Email - [sustainability@northcoast.coop](mailto:sustainability@northcoast.coop)

# Current Status

- ✓ For Humboldt's seven local cities and the County, Humboldt Waste Management Authority recently contracted with Edgar Evans Associates to address the key requirements for compliance, financing for the facilities and services that will be needed. How well they can pull together for a regional approach will be important.
- ✓ He's currently helping the smallest cities to complete applications necessary for small populations / rural waivers and time extensions.
- ✓ All will be required to move forward with the first priority of Edible Food Recovery.
- ✓ The next requirements will be phased in over the next several years.

# **New California Laws to Go into Effect January 1, 2022:**

**AB 881 helps the state accurately measure how much plastic is actually recycled and prohibits plastic waste exports to other countries being counted as "recycled"**

**AB 1201 updates labeling for compostable products**

**AB 962 makes it easier for brewers and other beverage producers to create reusable glass bottle systems to reduce the need for single-use beverage containers**

**AB 1276 to reduce plastic foodware waste by giving takeout customers single-use foodware only when requested**

**SB 343 requires products to meet certain standards to be advertised or labeled as recyclable and prohibits manufacturers from using the chasing-arrows symbol**

**“Consumers are being misled by the placement of the recycling symbol on items that aren’t actually recyclable under real world conditions,” -- SB 343 author Sen. Ben Allen, D-Santa Monica**



**Thank you for your interest.**

**Contact us if you'd like to  
Learn more about the work  
we do and initiate the  
Zero Waste method in your  
workplace, school, at home  
and community events.**



**[zerowastehumboldt@gmail.com](mailto:zerowastehumboldt@gmail.com)**

**[www.zerowastehumboldt.org](http://www.zerowastehumboldt.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/ZeroWasteHumboldt](http://www.facebook.com/ZeroWasteHumboldt)**

**IF YOU'RE NOT FOR ZERO WASTE IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY, HOW MUCH WASTE ARE YOU FOR?**

**ZERO WASTE IS A NEW PARADIGM, A GOAL AND A PLAN.**

**ZERO**  
**WASTE**  
**HUMBOLDT**  
**REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE**

**TO JOIN: Go to [CONTACT@ZEROWASTEHEUMBOLDT.ORG](mailto:CONTACT@ZEROWASTEHEUMBOLDT.ORG)**





# What is the Zero Waste Approach?

Comprehensive with priority on Waste Prevention.

More rigor and attention to metrics, **measurement**, and monitoring, to establish an accurate baseline so you can track your progress.

**Fearless Goal-setting** based on accurate data.





# ZERO WASTE HUMBOLDT:

Always emphasizes Waste Prevention first, with focus on proactive decision-making, purchasing and design. (PDPD)

Targets single-use products and packaging and presents less wasteful alternatives.

Makes everybody a little uncomfortable!





**1971 - 2017**

# **Why Zero Waste?**

Mixed recycling is struggling financially. When you don't also commit to Waste Prevention, recycling accommodates wastefulness.

Need more of a manufacturing infrastructure to support recycling.

✓ Need to learn the carbon footprint of recycling and waste reduction activities.

Over emphasis on recycling is the biggest public education challenge for Waste Prevention.

Human rights violations.



# Zero Waste Public Education Challenges

Don't understand importance of point of purchase.

Extreme Convenience

Belief in a sanitized world.

Can't live without all the DTR, multi-material, plastics packaging.

Wishful Thinking = Contamination

Confusion perpetrated by "Green Marketing."

