

CalEPA Tribal Advisory Committee

June-August 2024: CalRecycle Report

CalRecycle recognizes California Native American tribes as the original stewards of California, whose leadership can guide us toward a future free of waste and trash pollution. Consultation, collaboration, and input from California Native American Tribes on our rules, regulations, policies, and programs, can help to advance decisions and policies for circularity. By returning to a circular economy that emphasizes sustainability through reduction, reuse, recycling, and recirculation of materials, we can regenerate healthy ecosystems and build thriving communities.

The Department of Resources Recovery and Recycling (CalRecycle) has been working with tribal governments throughout the state for many years and aims to further strengthen tribal consultation and engagement through the establishment of the Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal Relations, Education and Outreach.

Many opportunities exist for Tribes to engage with CalRecycle and participate in programs, including:

- Building California's Zero-Waste, Circular Economy
- Beverage Container Recycling Program Reforms
- Composting and Surplus Food Rescue for Climate
- Disaster Debris Removal
- Illegal Dumping Cleanup and Mitigation
- Other CalRecycle Grant and Loan Programs

Consultations

Consultations initiated during Q3

July 18, 2024

AB 52 Consultation on the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act (Senate Bill (SB) 54, Allen, Chapter 75, Statutes of 2022).

SB 54 requires California to fundamentally change its approach to managing the production and disposal of single-use packaging and plastic single-use food service ware (covered material). SB 54 applies waste hierarchy strategies to reduce the environmental and health impacts of covered material by focusing on waste reduction and moving to a circular economy. SB 54 facilitates shifting

the burden of managing covered material from local governments to the producers.

It is reasonably foreseeable that meeting the SB 54 source reduction and recycling rates will require the development of infrastructure to optimize recycling and disposal waste streams, including collection, sorting, and processing facilities. Potential infrastructure development will be presented at a program level and may not include site-specific locations or implementation details (i.e., the location(s) of potential future infrastructure is not known at this time).

Funding for Tribes

CalRecycle recognizes grant and other funding programs benefit from engagement with Tribes and continues to update grant program criteria, related budget and statutory language, and grant application documents to enhance tribal participation. In addition, CalRecycle is actively conducting tribal outreach on available grants.

In March and April 2024, CalRecycle recommended awards totaling \$805,457 for its first tribal specific funding opportunity under the Community Composting for Green Spaces Grant Program, Cycle 4.

Table 1. March 2024 Recommended Awards

Applicant	Award Amount
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians	\$46,450
Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake	\$29,410
Trinidad Rancheria	\$40,000
Bishop Paiute Tribe	\$100,000
Sherwood Valley Rancheria	\$100,000
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians	\$38,556
Wukchumni Tribe	\$100,000
Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe	\$55,584
Total Award	\$510,000

Table 2. April 2024 Recommended Awards

Applicant	Award Amount
Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe	\$44,165
Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	\$99,846
Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria	\$48,406
Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians Tribe	\$97,398
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians	\$5,642
Total Award	\$295,457

CalRecycle currently has active grant agreements for \$1,755,425 in awarded tribal grant projects that include:

- **Community Composting for Green Spaces (CCG)** to increase the number of community groups operating small-scale composting programs in green spaces within disadvantaged and low-income communities, and to increase the capacity of those composting programs.
- **Edible Food Recovery Grants** to support new and expanded edible food recovery and food waste prevention projects to keep unsold food from creating climate pollution in landfills by redirecting it to those in need.
- **Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grants** to clear illegally dumped materials from farming or agricultural land and prevent future dumping.
- **Waste Tire Cleanup and Amnesty Grants** to clear or prevent the illegal dumping of waste tires that threaten the health of Californians and their environment.

Resources and Opportunities

Resources

- [CalRecycle Funding Homepage](https://calrecycle.ca.gov/funding/) (https://calrecycle.ca.gov/funding/)
- [CA Grant Portal Site](https://www.grants.ca.gov/) (https://www.grants.ca.gov/)
- Email: grant.assistance@calrecycle.ca.gov or Raaz.Morairty@calrecycle.ca.gov for grant questions.

Opportunities

Funding Program	What's funded
<u>Beverage Container Recycling Program (RBC)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address recycling challenges, aid in increasing beverage container collection, and reduce beverage container litter in the waste stream. • Capable of financing projects from \$75k to \$275k.
<u>Beverage Container Recycling Innovation Grants</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CalRecycle was authorized to spend \$146 million to invest in innovative recycling collection for beverage containers, including, reverse vending machines (RVM), bag drop programs and mobile recycling.
<u>Community Composting for Green Spaces (CCG)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of community groups operating small-scale composting programs in green spaces within disadvantaged and low-income communities, and to increase the capacity of those composting programs.
<u>Edible Food Recovery</u> <u>Food Waste Prevention & Rescue (EFR/FW)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes new or expanding existing food waste prevention projects (either by edible food recovery for people or source reduction efforts) in California to reduce the amount of food disposed of in landfills.
<u>Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement (FR)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleanup of illegal solid waste sites on farm or ranch property.
<u>Household Hazardous Waste Grants (HD)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish or expand HHW collection programs
<u>Local Government Waste Tire Cleanup (TCU)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection, removal, transportation, recycling, and disposal of waste tires from illegal tire piles and areas where illegal dumping has occurred along public rights-of-way.

Funding Program	What's funded
<u>Local Government Waste Tire Amnesty (TA)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct free amnesty events for the public to recycle their waste tires.
<u>Organics (ORG)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For projects to lower overall greenhouse gas emissions by expanding existing capacity or establishing new facilities in California to reduce the amount of California-generated green materials, food materials, and/or Alternative Daily Cover being sent to landfills. • Each cycle has a different set of requirements or allowable project types.
<u>Recycled Fiber, Plastic, and Glass (FPG)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand existing capacity or establishing new facilities in California that use California-generated postconsumer recycled fiber (old corrugated cardboard, paper board, or textiles), plastic, or glass to manufacture products. • This program has not received funding since FY19/20.
<u>Reuse (GRU)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand and improve waste diversion in California through reuse. • This was a Pilot Project and has not received funding since FY19/20.
<u>Rubberized Pavement (TRP)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote markets for recycled-content surfacing products derived from waste tires generated in California and decrease the adverse environmental impacts created by unlawful disposal and stockpiling of waste tires. • Eligible projects are RAC and Chip Seal projects.
<u>Tire-Derived Aggregate (TDA)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides assistance for solving a variety of engineering challenges. TDA, which is produced from shredded tires, is lightweight, free-draining, and a less expensive alternative to conventional lightweight aggregates.

Funding Program	What's funded
<u>Tire-Derived Product (TDP)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the use of TDPs for repurposing projects such as pathways, landscaping, mats, curb stops, and ramps.

Engagement & Key Priority Projects

Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal Relations, Education, and Outreach

Under AB 649 ([Bennett, Chapter 492, Statutes of 2022](#)), CalRecycle established a new Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal Relations, Education and Outreach. In November 2023, CalRecycle appointed the deputy director to lead the office. The office is providing continued resource dedication for our tribal partners, aiming to enhance tribal consultation, outreach, and engagement in all programs, considerations, and initiatives.

In Quarter 3, the office has onboarded 3 new staff members.

Tribal Composting Needs Assessment and Permitting Guide

CalRecycle recognizes the critical role and commitment of California Native American tribes (Tribes) in advancing climate solutions. Composting is a proven practice to reduce the GHG emissions from landfilling of organic waste. Compost is a valuable resource often used as a component of systems and treatments designed for carbon sequestration, food production, green space development, erosion control, fire remediation, stormwater management, and other uses. CalRecycle is launching the Tribal Composting Needs Assessment and Permitting Guide to understand the priorities and resources needed by Tribes related to developing and operating composting facilities to divert materials from landfills and to help foster climate resilience. Contract was awarded and engagement will begin Fall 2024.

California's Zero Waste Plan and Public Education and Change Campaign

In February 2024, California launched the development of a Zero-waste Plan and Public Education and Change Campaign for the Circular Economy and Zero Waste to be conducted over the next 2 years. The Zero-waste Plan will identify actions to lessen the negative impacts of materials we produce, use, and discard. Wasting these materials generates climate pollution and results in other negative environmental and human health impacts, including toxic pollution and hazards. The Public Education and Change Campaign is intended to raise awareness and create behavior change related to recycling, zero waste, and the circular economy.

On April 8, 2024, CalRecycle co-hosted the first intergovernmental hybrid event focused on zero waste with Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians Tribe and Robinson Rancheria Pomo Indians along with representatives from the Native American Fiber Program.

June 5, 2024, CalRecycle introduced the Zero Waste Plan initiative to the Tribal Advisory Committee.

On September 16, 2024, CalRecycle will host a Tribal Listening Session to provide early input into the development of the Zero Waste Plan.

Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act

California's Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act ([SB 54, Allen, Chapter 75, Statutes of 2022](#)) requires industry to form a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) to create and implement a source reduction, collection and recycling program for their single-use packaging and single-use plastic food ware. CalRecycle began a [robust rulemaking process in 2023](#) that will be continued into 2024. Regulations must take effect Jan. 1, 2025. CalRecycle is also collaboratively developing the first statewide needs assessment, which will guide the PRO's budget and plan detailing how California will meet the goals of SB 54. SB 54 was discussed with Tribes during the April 8 event, "California's Path towards Zero Waste with California Native American Tribes." CalRecycle seeks to continue meaningful engagement to inform the needs assessment and better understand tribal priorities, needs, and potential consequences as it relates to SB 54.

July 18, 2024, CalRecycle initiated Tribal Consultation under AB 52. Tribal Consultation is expected to conclude in October 2024.

Beverage Container Recycling Program (BCRP) Modernization

Coupling historic budget investments with the most significant beverage container recycling changes in over a decade under SB 1013 ([Atkins, Chapter 610, Statutes of 2022](#)), CalRecycle looks forward to working with Tribes to enhance convenient recycling solutions and new business opportunities for tribal enterprises and tribal members. The Beverage Container Recycling Program was discussed with Tribes during the April 8 event, "California's Path towards Zero Waste with California Native American Tribes," which included a tour of the Robinson Rancheria Recycling Center.

The following Tribes now have registered recycling centers:

- Hopland Band of Pomo Indians DBA Lalil Daqaw Pomo Recycling Center

- Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians
- Pala Band of Mission Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
- Fantasy Springs Resort Casino – operated by Cabazon Band of Mission Indians

Dealer Cooperatives - [Rulemaking is underway](#) to shape the creation of Dealer Cooperatives, which offer CRV retailers a new way to meet their legal redemption obligations under California's Beverage Container Recycling Program. If there are no recycling centers nearby to redeem consumer deposits, obligated retailers will no longer have the option of paying a \$100/day fee to fulfill their obligations. Starting in 2025, obligated retailers will be required to either:

- Redeem CRV containers in-store, or
- Join a dealer cooperative

A dealer cooperative is a nonprofit organization representing obligated retailers that must:

- Submit a plan to CalRecycle for approval on how it will redeem beverage containers
- Set performance standards and ensure collection in their convenience zone
- Provide at least one piece of technology that doesn't require an attendant
- Make sure materials are collected and sent to a processor

Disaster Debris Removal Operations: Pre-Disaster Planning

CalRecycle and the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) work in coordination on disaster preparedness efforts. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and/or California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) conducts consultation with interested tribes on disaster debris removal efforts managed by the state. Cal OES then provides information to CalRecycle for operational coordination during the debris removal process. Note that CalRecycle is not assigned to clean up after every disaster recovery mission. If a project is not directly managed by CalRecycle, the local jurisdiction will most likely be responsible for the clean-up.

CalRecycle is working to enhance tribal engagement as part of disaster preparedness and provide additional information in disaster debris brochures for homeowners and tribal communities. CalRecycle is currently finalizing an

informational flyer on CalRecycle's Tribal Coordination for Disaster Debris Recovery process. The Tribal Coordinator is working to develop methods to efficiently reach Tribes and their POCs more quickly for any unexpected California disasters.

CalRecycle's Tribal Coordinator developed a panel with Subject Matter Experts on disaster debris preparedness and presented at the Tribal EPA Region 9 Conference in 2023. CalRecycle will continue to seek opportunities to expand awareness of Disaster Debris Removal and Recovery Operations and build working relationships with Tribes to be well positioned to support tribal monitoring and protection of cultural resources in response to disasters.

Priorities for Next Quarter

- Further develop the Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal Relations, Education and Outreach.
- Launch engagement on the Tribal Composting Needs Assessment
- Conduct outreach and engagement on the Zero Waste Plan
- Conduct outreach, consultation, and engagement to inform the SB 54 Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act Needs Assessment

For more information:

- Email: tribalaffairs@calrecycle.ca.gov