



**NATIONAL
STEWARDSHIP
ACTION COUNCIL**
ADVOCATING FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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For Immediate Release

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California Commission on Recycling Markets & Curbside Recycling Report Makes 30 Policy Recommendations to Save Recycling

Consensus provides lawmakers a clear path to transformative legislation

(Sacramento, CA) – On Friday, June 18th, California’s [Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets & Curbside Recycling](#) released their [first Annual Report with 30 policy recommendations](#) to help improve the state’s troubled recycling system. The Report, which has been delivered to California legislators and regulators, includes recommended policies to increase markets, and reduce contamination and costs in the recycling system. Some policies are basic safety recommendations to eliminate batteries and gas cylinders in waste streams that start fires in the system, where other policies request ending subsidies that undermine recovery economics. The Commission also asked for the State to end the exports of plastics to foreign countries unable to properly manage it which is currently embodied in [AJR 4](#) by Assemblymember Christina Garcia, to address what counts as recycling and ending our contribution to environmental injustice around the world. Other policies would require proper labeling on products and packaging, so they do not mislead the public to put non-recyclable materials in the recycling stream as introduced in [Senate Bill 343](#) by Senator Ben Allen. Additional policies promote waste prevention, such as allowing refillable bottles back into the bottle bill program and updating the State’s procurement practices, to outlining producer responsibilities to address markets, labeling, and material choice.

Richard Valle, President and CEO of [Tri-Ced Community Recycling](#) as well as serving as [Alameda County Supervisor](#), states, “The Commission has opened up the conversation about how our natural resources are being used, not just in California, but throughout the world. California must start talking about the new reality in recycling, organics, markets, advertising, and how product responsibility can be held accountable. There is a new reality, and we have to face the truth about our past practices.”

In 2019, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law the California Recycling Market Development Act by then Assemblymember, now Senator Susan Eggman ([AB 1583](#)), a response to the growing challenges facing the waste management industry in California. The law required CalRecycle to convene a statewide commission consisting of representatives of public agencies, private solid waste enterprises, and environmental organizations that have expertise in recycling. The 17-member Commission, appointed by CalEPA, is chaired by [National Stewardship Action Council’s](#) Executive Director, Heidi Sanborn. The Commission released their [first draft report with 19 policy recommendations](#) in December 2020, and their first annual report is built upon the preliminary report with the updating to several policies and addition of new policies. With a total of 30 policy recommendations released since its formation, 13 of which have resulted in state action, the Commission provided what the State requested of them.

“We worked hard to provide common sense policy advice that has the unanimous support by all 17 Commissioners” said Heidi Sanborn, Chair of the Commission. The problems facing California are virtually the same as those being faced by other states, and we hope these recommendations can inspire policymakers across this country to take action.”

Tedd Ward, [Director of the Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority](#) and Commissioner who helped author the report said, “In less than a year, seventeen recycling and composting professionals were able to all agree to thirty proposals about how to improve California’s discard and recovery systems. This report is sounding an alarm, calling for

urgent actions to make our recycling systems work as promised, and to reduce known fire hazards. What I really hope for is a response that matches our collective sense of alarm.”

About NSAC – www.nsaction.us

National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) was founded in 2015 as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization that engages in education and advocacy work that drives a circular economy, anywhere in the U.S. and at any level of government. Our vision is that the U.S. achieve a circular economy. You can follow us on social media via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [You Tube](#).