



# 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

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SB 54/AB 1080 will ensure California is on the forefront of reducing pollution from single-use packaging and products. The bills set ambitious goals and direct CalRecycle to reduce waste from single-use packaging and the most problematic plastic disposable items, saving local governments millions of dollars in disposal costs and protecting our environment.

## BACKGROUND

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Every day, single-use packaging and products in California, particularly those made of plastic, 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

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Eliminating non-reusable, non-recyclable and non-compostable products and packaging is by far the most effective, and least expensive way to protect the health of people, wildlife, and the environment.

SB 54/AB 1080 establish a comprehensive framework to address the pollution and waste crisis and set a statewide goal of ensuring that manufacturers reduce the waste generated by single-use packaging and products by 75% by 2030. Specifically, the bill requires CalRecycle to conduct a robust stakeholder process to develop regulations that do the following:

- Require manufacturers and retailers to design their packaging to reduce unnecessary waste and improve the recyclability or compostability of the packaging. Require all single-use packaging to be effectively reusable, recyclable or compostable after 2030.
- Identify the top ten most littered single use plastic products and require these to be manufactured with only recyclable or compostable material.
- Develop incentives and policies to encourage in-state manufacturing using recycled material generated in California.

## **SUPPORT**

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Algalita Marine Research and Education

Alvarado Street Brewery & Grill

American Sustainable Business Council

Anna Kauffman, Inc.

As You Sow

Audubon California

Azul

Ban Single Use Plastics (SUP)

Blue Plate

Bon Appétit Management Company

Breast Cancer Prevention Partners

Brent Allen Outside

California Association of Environmental Health Administrators

California Cannabis Coalition

California Catholic Conference

California Coastal Commission

California Coastal Protection Network

California Coastkeeper Alliance

California Compost Coalition

California Interfaith Power & Light

California League of Conservation Voters

California Product Stewardship Council

California ReLEAF

California Resource Recovery Association

California State Association of Counties

California State Parks Foundation

California Teamsters Public Affairs Council

California Urban Streams Partnership

Californians Against Waste

CALPIRG

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Climate Change and Health

Center For Environmental Health

Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research and Education

ChicoBag

Cigarette Butt Pollution Project

Civic Sundays

City of Alameda

City of Albany

City of Arcata

City of Beverly Hills

City of Buena Park

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea

City of Carlsbad

City of Concord

City of Culver City

City of Dana Point

City of Danville

City of Del Mar

City of El Cerrito

City of Fort Bragg

City of Fountain Valley

City of Half Moon Bay

City of Hayward

City of Hesperia

City of Imperial Beach

City of Inglewood

City of Lakeport

City of Long Beach

City of Los Angeles

City of Livermore

City of Marina

City of Monterey

City of Novato

City of Oakland

City of Orinda

City of Pasadena

City of Piedmont

City of Placentia

City of Pleasanton

City of Redwood City

City of San Diego

City of San Luis Obispo

City of Santa Monica

City of Sebastopol

City of South Pasadena

City of Sunnyvale

City of Thousand Oaks

City of Torrance

City of Watsonville

Clean Water Action

Coastodian

Colorado Medical Waste, Inc.

Communication Workers of America District 9, AFL- CIO

Communications4Good

Communitas Financial Planning

Communities for Sustainable Monterey County

Community Environmental Council

Conejo Valley Audubon Society

Conscious Container

Consumer Action

County of Marin Board of Supervisors

County of Santa Clara

Democrats of Pasadena Foothills

Defenders of Wildlife

Dillon Beach Resort  
 Distance Learning Consulting  
 Dr. Bronner's  
 Earthjustice  
 East Bay Municipal Utilities District  
 East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice  
 Eco-pliant  
 Eco Imprints  
 Ecology Center  
 Environment California  
 Environmental Defense Center  
 Environmental Justice Coalition for Water  
 Environmental Working Group  
 Feminists in Action  
 Fiona Ma, California State Treasurer  
 Friends Committee on Legislation of California  
 Friends of the Earth  
 Friends of the Los Angeles River  
 Full Circle Environmental, Inc.  
 FullCycle  
 Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)  
 Global Eclipse  
 GOODONYA®  
 Goodr  
 GoodLight Natural Candles  
 Green Mary - Zero Waste Events  
 Green Retirement, Inc.  
 Green Valley Community Farm  
 Greenpeace  
 Guitarfish Music Festival  
 Harley Laguna Beach  
 Heal the Bay  
 Heirs to Our Oceans  
 Hillcrest Indivisible  
 Hollywood Chamber of Commerce  
 Indivisible Alta-Pasadena  
 Indivisible CA: Statestrong  
 Indivisible California Green Team  
 Indivisible Eagle Rock  
 Indivisible Media City Burbank  
 Indivisible South Bay LA  
 Indivisible Statestrong  
 Indivisible Ventura  
 Inland Empire Disposal Association  
 Inland Ocean Coalition  
 International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU)  
 ILWU Locals 13, 63 and 94  
 Joshua Tree Music Festival  
 Kasperorganics  
 Kern Refuse Disposal, Inc.  
 Kite Music Productions/Flying Kite Motion Pictures  
 La Cooperativa Campesina  
 LA Hauler  
 Latinos in Action  
 Leadership & Strategy for Sustainable Systems  
 League of California Cities  
 League of Women Voters of California  
 League to Save Lake Tahoe  
 Lockbox Productions  
 Long Beach Environmental Alliance  
 Long Beach Gray Panthers  
 Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)  
 Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
 Los Angeles County Waste Management Association  
 Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
 Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California  
 Lydia's Kind Foods, Inc.  
 MD Global  
 MoneyVoice  
 Monterey Bay Aquarium  
 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  
 Ocean Analytics  
 Ocean Conservation Society  
 Outdoor Outreach  
 Owl Post Calligraphy  
 Pacific Forest Trust  
 Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce  
 Pacoima Beautiful  
 Pharmacists Planning Services, Inc.  
 Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles  
 Pier 23 Café Restaurant & Bar  
 Plastic Pollution Coalition  
 Ponce's Mexican Restaurant  
 Public Health Advocates  
 R3 Consulting Group, Inc.  
 Recology  
 RecycleSmart (Central Contra Costa County SWA)  
 Refill Madness, LLC  
 Republic Services  
 Repurpose  
 ReThink Waste  
 Robin's Restaurant  
 Rooted in Resistance  
 Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment  
 Rural County Representatives of California  
 San Diego 350  
 San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility  
 San Francisco Baykeeper  
 San Francisco Chamber of Commerce  
 San Francisco Department of the Environment  
 San Francisco Wildlife Rescue  
 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management  
 Authority  
 Save Our Shores  
 Save The Bay  
 SeaLegacy  
 Sea Hugger  
 Service Employees International Union California  
 Seventh Generation  
 Seventh Generation Advisors  
 S. Groner Associates, Inc.

Shafir Environmental  
Shark Lock Bags  
Shizen & Tataki Restaurants  
SIC Productions Inc  
Sierra Club California  
Sierra Nevada Alliance  
Sierra Nevada Brewing Co  
Sierra Leadership  
Six Rivers Brewery  
Smart Planet Technologies  
Solid Waste Association of Orange County  
Sonoma County Farm Trails  
St. Francis Center  
Steelys Drinkware  
StopWaste  
SUPER  
Surfrider Foundation  
Sustainable Environmental Management Co.  
Sustain LA  
Symbiosis Gathering  
TDC Environmental, LLC  
Teamsters Local Union No. 396  
The 5 Gyres Institute  
The Last Plastic Straw  
The Little Chihuahua Mexican Restaurants  
The Nature Conservancy  
The River Project  
The Story of Stuff Project  
The Watershed Project  
Tiger!Tiger!  
To-Go Ware  
TOMRA Systems ASA  
Tonic Nightlife Group  
TreePeople  
Tri-CED Community Recycling  
Trust for Public Lands  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
UPSTREAM  
Valley Improvement Projects  
Waste Busters, Inc.  
Wholly H2O  
WILDCOAST  
Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation  
Women's Voices for Earth  
World Centric  
Yggdrasil Urban Wildlife Rescue of Oakland  
Zero Waste Sonoma  
Zero Waste USA  
350 Bay Area Action  
350 Riverside  
350 South Bay Los Angeles  
350 SoCal Climate Action  
350 Sacramento  
350 Silicon Valley

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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