

John Davis, recyclingjpa@gmail.com, (909) 553-7068
Recyclers Global Warming Council, California Resource Recovery Association

As Administrator for the Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling Authority, my work includes the High Desert Recycling Market Development Zone. Sustainable Materials Management work focuses on reduction, consumption, recycling and composting in California's greenhouse gas emission reduction programs including roles in the West Coast Climate Forum¹ and ICLEI.

Following adoption of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) the California Resource Recovery Association formed the Recyclers Global Warming Council. As first RGWC Chair, I provided input on documents and represented CRRRA at Air Resources Board and CalRecycle meetings. This required understanding materials lifecycle emissions and GHG protocols, key background for NRC's efforts. The State ultimately adopted recycling and composting emissions reduction factors reflecting local market and energy conditions; differing markedly from US EPA's WaRM approach for composting lifecycle and carbon storage²³.

Recycling and composting ultimately were included in the 2008 and 2014 Climate Change Scoping Plans, setting priorities for strategies and funding⁴. The 2014 included a complete "Waste Management" appendix, linking GHG reduction to the 75% statewide recycling (AB 341)⁵. Key points in the Scoping Plan should be modified and considered for NRC's National Sustainable Materials Management Recommendations:

- Take Full Ownership of the Waste Generated in California
- Maximize Recycling and Diversion from Landfills
- Build the Infrastructure Needed to Support a Sustainable, Low-Carbon Waste Management System within California
- Improve the Sustainability of California's Waste Management Infrastructure
- Reduce the Volume of Waste Generated

Recycling's materials lifecycle emissions reductions do not occur only in California, so are not verifiable and are considered additional reductions outside AB 32's goals. The Climate Action Reserve adopted voluntary composting and anaerobic digestion protocols⁶, but the Air Resources Board has not yet adopted similar protocols for cap and trade compliance. Consequently cap and trade carbon credits are not available to recycling or composting activities. However carbon credit auction proceeds may incentivize GHG reduction initiatives.

Composting and recycling were included in California's first Cap and Trade Auction Proceeds Investment Plan, receiving \$25 for infrastructure investment in 2014 and in 2015⁷. CalRecycle's first grant solicitation yielded 69 projects requesting over \$153 million⁸. This demand supports California's goal to build sustainable local infrastructure. That infrastructure creates employment and business opportunities far exceeding landfilling and incinerating. US EPA's report "Reducing Greenhouse Gases through Recycling and Composting"⁹ provides a template to determine those benefits and can be used with ICLEI's protocol for create an NRC SMM model.

¹ <http://www.westcoastclimateforum.com/> and <http://www.icleiusa.org/>

² Found at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/protocols/localgov/localgov.htm>

³ ICLEI's Recycling and Composting Emissions Protocol is at <http://www.icleiusa.org/tools/ghg-protocol/recycling-and-composting-emissions-protocol>

⁴ Both are at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/scopingplan.htm>

⁵ The Appendix is at http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/2013_update/waste.pdf

⁶ See <http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/>

⁷ See <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/auctionproceeds.htm>

⁸ Funded projects are at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Climate/GrantsLoans/Organics/ORG1Summary.pdf> and <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Climate/GrantsLoans/FPG/ProjectSum.pdf>

⁹ http://www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/climate/wccmmf/Reducing_GHG_s_through_Recycling_and_Composting.pdf