

# Organics Recycling and Food Recovery

*Building a new model for  
circular climate action*

**Cara Morgan**

**CalRecycle Deputy Director**





Factories

Hauling Diesel Trucks

Cars and Trucks

Trash in Landfills & Seas

# DISPOSABLE ECONOMY



# Organics Recycling & Food Recovery

## Fast-track to Climate Progress

1. Collect food scraps, yard waste, fiber, and organics
2. Recover unsold food for neighbors in need

Cut landfill methane pollution equal to

**3 Million Cars  
Off the Road**



**75% Less  
Landfilled  
Organics**



**20% More  
Food  
Recovery**



# Local Program Requirements

1. Collect organic waste
2. Establish food recovery programs
3. Procure recycled organic products
4. Plan capacity for new programs
5. Keep records
6. Enforce local requirements

# Local Implementation Flexibility



- **Collection Programs**
  - 1, 2, 3, or 3+ containers
  - Container size
  - Collection frequency
  - Material separation
- **Container Color & Labeling**
- **Waivers & Exemptions**
- **Self-haul Option**
- **Phased-in Food Recovery Donation Requirements**

# Partners for Progress

## CalRecycle Support

- Local assistance and funding
- Model agreements, ordinances, signage
- Tools, education and outreach
- Peer sharing, one-on-one meetings

## Responsive to Challenges

- More time to comply (SB 619 of 2021)
- Procurement flexibility (AB 1985 of 2022)
- Ongoing support (AB 2346 of 2024)
  - Procurement, bear boxes, rural exemptions
- Compost facility environmental impact report (SB 1046)





# Compliance Assistance First

## CalRecycle support for jurisdictions

- Help identify and overcome barriers
- Finalizing first compliance evaluations

[CalRecycle Oversight and Enforcement - CalRecycle Home Page](#)

- Progressive enforcement

## Jurisdictions support for residents and businesses

- Focus on education and outreach
- Local enforcement requirements

# Compliance Evaluation Process

- Local Assistance liaison offers to review the jurisdiction's Implementation Record
- Commencement letter sent by Enforcement team (JACE)
- Introduction call with jurisdiction
- Request for Implementation Record
  - Implementation Record access due 10 business days after request is received
- Potential follow-up
- Field visits starting after Implementation Record is received and reviewed
- Draft Findings Report is reviewed by Local Assistance staff
- Findings report will be provided to the jurisdiction and the jurisdiction will be able to provide feedback
- Final report
- As needed, Notice of Violations will be sent for issues not resolved



# Implementation Record Access Options

- CalRecycle's File Sharing
  - Need to let CalRecycle know so we can send you a link
- Database Platforms
  - Google Drive
  - Paid Service
  - Jurisdiction-Hosted File Sharing – MS SharePoint
- Email
  - Note: CalRecycle can only receive a maximum of 153 MB per email
- In-Person

# Follow-Up After Implementation Record Review

- SRRE, HHWE, MCR, and MORe Information (if cannot be found in Implementation Record or the Electronic Annual Report)
- Field Visit Prep Information (if not already received)

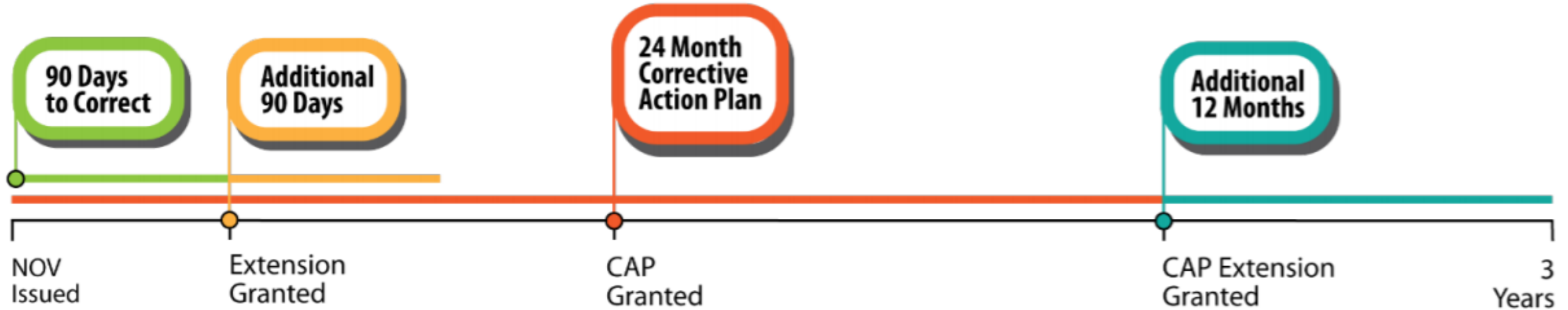
# Field Visit

- JACE staff will contact the jurisdiction at least two weeks before the field visit to let them know the dates
- Jurisdiction can shadow JACE staff
  - Expectations for shadowing include, but are not limited to:
    - Not traveling in the same car
    - Not analyzing together (JACE staff are gathering the facts in the field)
    - If jurisdiction staff want to provide assistance to entities encountered in the field, JACE staff will continue on without the jurisdiction staff (JACE is trying to be the most effective and efficient while in the field)
    - JACE staff do not need a guided tour through the jurisdiction
  - Keep in mind, JACE will only have 1-2 staff in the field (unless training)

# Findings Report

- Preliminary findings report is drafted
  - Reviewed by Local Assistance team
- Jurisdiction will receive the report and have two weeks to provide feedback
- If feedback is received, JACE staff will review and may either ask further clarifying questions and/or finalize the findings report
- If needed, a Notice of Violation may be issued

# Enforcement Timeline



# Preliminary Findings on Compliance Evaluation

- **Struggles:**

- Achieving the recovered organics waste product procurement requirements
- Full implementation in rolling out organic waste recovery programs
- Compliant Implementation Record

- **Successes:**

- Having an edible food collection program
- Providing required education and outreach
- Planning and reporting on capacity

# Diverse Organics Infrastructure

- Compost
- In-vessel digestion
- Co-digestion
- Community Composting
- Food rescue



**\$487 million for infrastructure**



# Implementation Progress

## Organics Recycling

- 93% with requirements have residential collection programs
- 72% of businesses recycling
- 2 million tons less landfilled organics (2018 to 2021)



## Food Recovery

- 100% expanded programs
- 94% of food recovery target in 2023
- 420,042 tons of food recovered
  - Nearly 700 million meals





# Building California's Waste-Free Future