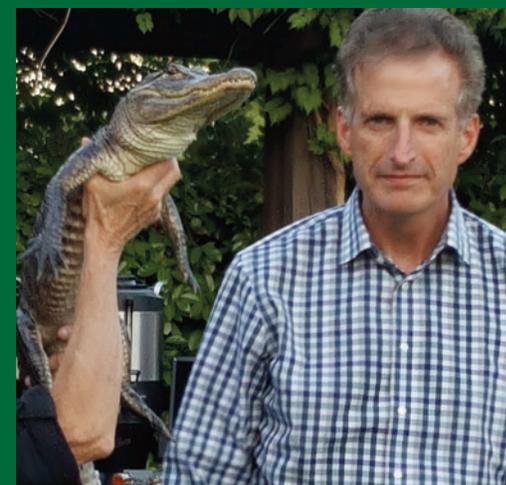


# WPA TODAY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN PLASTICS ASSOCIATION

WWW.WESTERNPLASTICS.ORG

JUNE 2017





John Picciuto, President of the Western Plastics Association

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: FUN IN SONOMA, AND NOW BACK TO WORK

Thank you all for making this year's annual conference in Sonoma a great success. Because of the participation of our members, and Laurie Hansen's creative approach to entertainment, it was a memorable event for us all. (I think Michael Rincon would have worn that albino boa constrictor necklace for the entire conference if we had let him.)

We had informative presentations on a wide range of subjects, from EPR to current events impacting our industry. Personally, I can't stress the importance of one topic that we touched on briefly: namely, the need to reduce plastic marine debris.

Oceans Conservancy predicts that if nothing is done soon there will be a ton of plastics for every

three tons of fish in our oceans by 2025, and we all need to do our part as consumers and members of the plastics industry.

With this in mind, I hope you take the time to look into Operation CleanSweep: [opcleansweep.org](http://opcleansweep.org).

Enjoy the summer months, and I will see you all in September. ●

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**SAVE THE DATE:  
SEPTEMBER 12**

**Pacific Northwest  
Meeting in BC  
WITH GOLF!**

**SAVE THE DATE:  
SEPTEMBER 19**

**SoCal Meeting in  
Norwalk**





WHEN PLASTICS ARE IMPROPERLY MANAGED, THEIR FULL SUSTAINABILITY BENEFITS AREN'T REALIZED.

## MARINE DEBRIS: PLASTIC MAKERS ARE FOCUSED ON SOLUTIONS

BY STEVE RUSSELL, AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL

*The United Nations Ocean Conference concluded on June 9, 2017 with a “Call For Action” for voluntary commitments on marine litter. American Chemistry Council (ACC) issued the following statement, which may be attributed to Steve Russell, vice president of plastics:*

“Experts agree: to stem the tide of marine debris, we must prevent land-based trash from reaching our oceans in the first place. We must do so urgently, with an initial focus on parts of the world where such systems are lacking. This includes reducing waste, improved collection and sortation, matched with the latest recycling and recovery technologies.

While we congratulate the United Nations on its tremendous work this week to prioritize this important issue, we had hoped the outcomes would focus more on building political and financial support for improved waste management, or on deploying innovative recycling and energy recovery. Recommendations to

instead ban or reduce the use of specific products may give the illusion of progress, but in fact don’t help us solve the bigger problem.

“Nevertheless, our industry remains committed to delivering solutions. Plastics makers currently have more than 260 projects [\[click here\]](#) around the world either planned, underway or completed to combat marine litter. Our combined efforts, to research and prevent marine debris around the world under our *Declaration of the Global Plastics Industry for Solutions on Marine Litter* [\[click here\]](#), have grown each year since 2011, when it was launched. Signed by 70 plastics associations in 35 countries, the declaration focuses on education, public policy, best practices, plastics recycling and recovery, plastic pellet containment, and research.

“In addition, we are working with leaders in regions where ocean plastic inputs are the highest, to ensure that waste management systems are a priority, and to

catalyze investment in those systems. And we are working with the UN to provide technical expertise and a range of commitments under the Global Partnership on Marine Litter.

“People around the world rely on plastics in innumerable ways. Durable and lightweight, plastics are amazing materials that provide important societal benefits including energy and resource savings, preventing food waste, improved healthcare and consumer protection. But when plastics are improperly managed, their full sustainability benefits aren’t realized. Solutions require the cooperation of industry, civil society and other stakeholders to effect meaningful change.” ●

*Press release reprinted from American Chemistry Council, June 9, 2017.*



*PLASTIC IS NOW EMBEDDED IN THE AQUATIC FOOD CHAIN—FOUND IN MORE THAN 800 SPECIES, AND COUNTING, OF MARINE LIFE.*

## **MARINE DEBRIS: CALIFORNIA MODELS HOW TO CLEAN UP, REDUCE, RECYCLE PLASTIC WASTE**

BY GEORGE LEONARD AND CHELSEA ROCHMAN

As the first-ever United Nations Ocean Conference is in full swing in New York, California's leadership and action on ocean issues can inspire the world.

Our brand has long been tied to the sun, sand and surf. We like to take care of what we love, which is why one day last September nearly 59,000 of us headed to the beach to pick up trash. Together, we removed 700,000 pounds of trash in a single day.

As part of the global International Coastal Cleanup, our partner, the California Coastal Commission, rallied volunteers across the state for California Coastal Cleanup Day. They logged their finds—18,879 straws, 13,361 plastic grocery bags and 188,003 cigarette butts—into the world's largest citizen science database on marine debris, giving us a snapshot of the most persistent forms of trash found along California beaches and waterways.

It was a huge and successful effort. But sadly, cleanups are not nearly enough to tackle the crisis of plastic trash in our ocean. Every year, 8 million metric tons of plastic waste leaks into the ocean—the equivalent of one garbage truck dumping a full load of plastic into the ocean every minute.

Today, garbage patches of plastic waste ranging from packaging and bottles to preproduction plastic pellets are found in all five of the world's oceanic gyres, or circular ocean currents. Plastic trash has turned up in the Arctic and floating near the equator. It bobs on the surface of the ocean, drifts in the water column and contaminates sediments at the very bottom of the sea.

Plastic is now embedded in the aquatic food chain. It has been found in more than 800 (and counting) species of marine life, from the smallest plants to the largest whales. Notably, plastic has been found in the stomachs of 49 species of commercial fish, many of which are being dished up right now—tuna and salmon as well as mussels, clams, scallops, oysters, shrimp and lobster. Microplastics have been found even in sea salt. What this means for food safety is unclear but it is rapidly becoming an important and active area of research.

We're all part of the problem. The developing world is consuming greater amounts of packaged goods without investing in modern waste management infrastructure. Most of the plastic waste in the ocean originates from five countries: China, Indonesia, the Philippines,

Thailand and Vietnam, where waste generation has outstripped waste collection and management.

Meanwhile, in most other countries, the use of single-use plastics continues to increase. Each of us in North America uses an astounding 220 pounds of this lightweight material per year. In most cases the availability of single-use plastics is not being met with a parallel growth in recycling or more sustainable products.

As the problem of ocean plastic has grown, California has taken action. Voters upheld the first statewide ban on single-use plastic bags (Prop. 67) and the Legislature passed a bill that incentivizes crab fishers to recover lost fishing gear (SB1287). In addition, Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation to ban plastic microbeads from personal care products in California (AB888). This bill is credited with catalyzing a similar federal law that passed with overwhelming bipartisan support just months later.

California is working hard to get the right solutions. We have grassroots engagement to get out and clean up our beaches, coasts and waterways. We have businesses and industries ready to embrace new innovations that (Continued, see Clean-up, page 5)

CALIFORNIA MODELS MARINE DEBRIS CLEAN-UP [CONT'D]

will help reduce, reuse and recycle plastics. We have a government that is committed to stemming the tide of plastic trash. There is always more to do but we have a good head start.

That's a model worth exporting to the rest of the world. After all, the ocean is not just a brand identifier for sunny California. It is what sustains all life and defines the very essence of our beautiful blue planet. ●

*George Leonard is the chief scientist of the Ocean Conservancy. Chelsea Rochman is an assistant professor specializing in ecotoxicology at the University of Toronto.*

*Reprinted from San Francisco Chronicle, [www.sfchronicle.com](http://www.sfchronicle.com), June 7, 2017.*



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**MARINE DEBRIS:**

**OCEAN CONSERVANCY, INDUSTRY TO RAISE \$10 MILLION TO COMBAT OCEAN PLASTIC**

BY STEVE TOLOKEN, PLASTICS NEWS

The environmental group Ocean Conservancy and its plastics industry partners are publicly committing to raise at least \$10 million by 2020 for scientific research and to build public support for addressing problems from plastics in the oceans.

The commitment was unveiled as part of a United Nations conference on the health of the oceans beginning June 5 in New York, an event that's drawing thousands of government officials, non-governmental organizations and other delegates.

The commitment comes from a group called the Trash Free Seas Alliance, which is part of the Washington-based Ocean Conservancy and includes some big names in the plastics industry on its eight-member steering committee around TFSA's signature goal, a 50 percent reduction in plastics flowing to the ocean by 2025.

They are the American Chemistry Council, Dow Chemical Co., Amcor Ltd. and the World Plastics Council. Other committee members include Coca-Cola Co., the World Wildlife Fund and Procter & Gamble Corp.

The TFSA document said the Ocean Conservancy and its TFSA partners will raise at least \$10 million between 2015 and 2020.

The group has raised about half of that so far and believe it's an "ambitious but achievable" target, said Susan Ruffo, managing director of international initiatives at the Ocean Conservancy.

"Our partners from the plastic industry are providing an important part of that funding," Ruffo said. "In addition, they are providing expertise, leadership within the private sector and are making their own commitments to solving the problem."

Specifically, TFSA said the money will be used to advance scientific understanding of the problem of marine plastic debris and work with governments, other institutions, corporations and the public.

It said, for example, that 8 million tons of plastic enters the oceans each year, "like dumping one New York City garbage truck full of plastic into the ocean every minute of every day for an entire year."

And TFSA noted that plastic is entering the food chain for people: it said that plastic has been found in 28 percent of the fish in markets in Indonesia and 25 percent of the fish in markets in California.

"That is why the Trash Free Seas Alliance is focused on finding multisectoral, collaborative solutions to addressing land-based

sources of plastics, to turn off the tap flowing into our ocean," the group said.

The UN conference, which runs June 5–9, includes more than 600 public commitments from governments, NGOs, companies and others toward improving the health of the oceans.

Most of them focus on other ocean challenges, like overfishing or acidification, but 95 of the commitments deal with plastic.

They include Monaco saying it banned thin plastic bags and the European Union, which said it expected its EU Plastics Strategy — to be finalized this year — will help comprehensively address the problem of marine plastics.

At a June 1 press briefing to preview the conference, Peter Thomson, president of the UN General Assembly, said plastic ocean pollution is moving from a problem of waste management to a broader public health and economic issue.

He said China and Indonesia are the two biggest sources of plastic pollution in the ocean, and that in Indonesia, the government is concerned the problem is hurting other parts of its economy.

(Continued, see Trash, page 7)

TRASH FREE SEAS ALLIANCE [CONT'D]

"They are seeing that marine pollution is starting to hurt their tourist industry," Thomson said. "And so the Indonesian government is instituting laws that are going to stop plastic getting into it, because you know, it's going to affect jobs on the land in the hotel industry if the beaches and the seas are full of plastic."

Thomson also highlighted microplastics pollution from clothing and other sources as a topic that needs more attention.

"I would like to see more honesty in the microplastics area," he said, noting that he had seen video at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts showing phytoplankton in the mid-Atlantic eating microplastics.

"Where's the phytoplankton going?" he said. "It's being eaten by bigger fish, and ending up eventually on your dinner plate. What's that going to do to humanity. It can't be good."

"This is a moment of honesty for all us in terms of the plastic pollution," he said.

A draft of a final declaration from the UN conference calls for "robust strategies to reduce the use of plastics and microplastics, particularly plastic bags and single use plastics."

Ruffo said the \$10 million represents a major increase in funding from TFSA's first phase of work from 2011 to 2015, and said money that is "deployed strategically" can influence action beyond the group's work.

For example, she said previous TFSA work identified that 80 percent of plastics in the ocean comes from land, mostly from sources that escape waste management systems or leak from existing waste management.

"TFSA has helped governments and other actors direct their resources toward real solutions that will make real progress," she said.

Ruffo said at least 3 billion people do not have access to safe and well-managed waste disposal facilities, and that meetings like the UN conference and discussions at the G20 and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum have the potential to unlock development capital.

"We need the reach of consumer brands, the innovation of plastic producers, the advocacy efforts of conservation groups and world-class research by scientists to truly make progress," she said. ●

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THE CLEANUP CONTRIBUTES TO THE WORLD'S MOST ROBUST DATABASE ON MARINE DEBRIS.

**MARINE DEBRIS:**

**GLOBAL ACTION STOPS MORE THAN 18 MILLION POUNDS OF WASTE TRASHING OUR OCEAN**

BY OCEAN CONSERVANCY

As world leaders gather at the first UN Ocean Conference that will get underway on June 5th, World Environment Day, Ocean Conservancy is releasing data from more than half a million International Coastal Cleanup volunteers who removed 18,399,000 pounds of trash from beaches, coasts and waterways in 112 countries last September, in the world's largest volunteer effort on behalf of the ocean.

"We are grateful for the volunteers around the world who literally moved mountains of trash from entering our ocean," said Allison Schutes, senior manager of Ocean Conservancy's Trash Free Seas Program.

The report [\[click here\]](#) released today identifies a piano among the other more unusual items found. Small, ubiquitous items like cigarette butts, plastic beverage bottles, food wrappers, plastic bottle caps and plastic straws remain the most commonly collected items—and remain among the most deadly to wildlife like seabirds, marine mammals and sea turtles.

The International Coastal Cleanup contributes to the world's most robust database on marine debris, which is built entirely on the individual action of the citizen scientists who meticulously log their finds. Last year, Ocean Conservancy debuted the Clean Swell

mobile app to allow volunteers to more easily log trash that they collect.

"The International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) is perhaps the clearest expression of grassroots global action on behalf of our ocean, something Ocean Conservancy is proud to have led for over 30 years," said Janis Searles Jones (@InVeritas\_Jones), CEO of Ocean Conservancy. "But we recognize that cleanup efforts alone cannot tackle a crisis of this magnitude with an estimated 8 million tons of trash makes its way into our ocean every year, which is why we invite partnerships and collaborations across sectors."

The Cleanup is part of Ocean Conservancy's larger strategy for Trash Free Seas and is one of the many ways the organization is joining with others to help find answers and solutions to address existing ocean trash and eventually stop its flow into the ocean.

Ocean Conservancy also started the Trash Free Seas Alliance® to coordinate across industry, government, NGOs and public interest organizations to identify ways to stop land-based trash from ever reaching the ocean. Scientists have identified that by improving waste management and collection in the 20 countries where the mismatch between plastic consumption and mismanaged waste is greatest, we

can reduce by 2025 the amount of plastic entering the ocean by more than 40%.

"Ocean Conservancy is excited to see the solutions and commitments that emerge from the United Nations' Ocean Conference to tackle ocean trash," added Jones. "We are ready to step up to the challenge of turning the tide on ocean trash together."

Ocean Conservancy acknowledges with thanks the support of The Coca-Cola Company for the International Coastal Cleanup over the past 19 years. Last year, Coca-Cola activated a global employee engagement campaign to encourage participation in the Cleanup—more than 7,000 Coca-Cola system associates volunteered along with their friends and families, cleaning more than 150,000 pounds of trash. As part of its commitment to address global climate change, Bank of America has supported the Cleanup since 2002, with thousands of employees participating in Cleanup events all around the world. Other national sponsors include National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Altria Group, Inc., Brunswick Public Foundation, Cox Enterprises, The Dow Chemical Company and the Martin Foundation. ●

*Reprinted from [oceanconservancy.org](http://oceanconservancy.org), June 2, 2017.*



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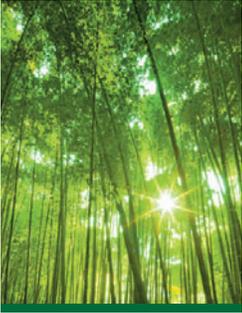
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MANUFACTURERS SHOULD BE ON NOTICE THAT FALSE AND MISLEADING ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIMS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

## SUSTAINABILITY: COURT CRACKS DOWN ON GREENWASHING

BY CALIFORNIANS AGAINST WASTE

A 2013 administrative complaint filed by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) against an Ohio company, ECM Biofilms Inc., has finally concluded.

The FTC administrative complaint asserted that ECM's biodegradability claims were inherently deceptive. The marketing for the ECM product included statements such as, "The plastic products made with our additives will break down in approximately 9 months to 5 years in nearly all landfills or wherever else they may end up." The FTC Green Guides, which help marketers avoid making unfair or deceptive environmental claims according to federal law, provide guidance on biodegradability claims. The Green Guides expressly state that, "it is deceptive to make an unqualified degradable claim for items entering the solid waste stream if the items do not completely decompose within one year after customary disposal."

After laboratory tests and consumer surveys completed by experts from both parties, the administrative law judge (ALJ) determined that ECM's biodegradability claims were false and unsubstantiated. ECM appealed to the ALJ's finding.

However, another decision made by the ALJ wasn't in the FTC's favor. The ALJ also found that the FTC did not provide substantial evidence that ECM had implied a one year biodegradability claim, and therefore they failed to prove that ECM's other biodegradability claims were misleading. Appeals were made by both ECM and the FTC.

The five members of the Commission affirmed the ALJ's decision stating that there was, in fact, clear evidence from both parties' experts. The Commission also found that ECM had in fact made implied claims that their products would degrade within a short period of time, reversing the ALJ's second decision. ECM then petitioned a federal appeals court arguing that the decision from the Commission was made without substantial evidence, that the Commission invaded EPA's jurisdiction to manage solid waste disposal, and that ECM's First and Fifth Amendment rights were violated.

This March, the federal appeals court denied ECM's petition for review. This decision has affirmed the FTC's authority to enforce federal law regulating claims of

biodegradability, setting a precedent for all future administrative complaints filed against companies selling products with biodegradable claims. With California law, which prohibits claims of biodegradability for all plastic products sold in the state, and this decision made by the federal appeals court, manufacturers should be on notice that false and misleading environmental claims will not be tolerated.

[Click here](#) to view the entire decision. ●

*Reprinted from [www.cawrecycles.org](http://www.cawrecycles.org), May 22, 2017.*



COMPANIES HAVE BECOME VOCAL ABOUT THE NEED FOR PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE PACKAGING INDUSTRY TO TACKLE WASTE.

## SUSTAINABILITY: PEPSICO'S THE LATEST VOICE IN THE LOUD SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING CONVERSATION

BY JENNIFER HERMES, ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER

PepsiCo is the latest CPG company touting its commitment to reduce packaging waste, having announced that it has joined the New Plastics Economy initiative as a “core partner.” The initiative [\[click here\]](#), launched in London in May 2016, brings together industry, government, NGOs and others to build a more sustainable global plastics value chain. Other core partners with the New Plastics Economy Initiative include Amcor, Coca Cola, Danone, Mars Incorporated, Nestle, Novamont, Unilever and Veolia.

PepsiCo says its participation in the initiative supports the company’s previously announced goals to strive for 100% of its packaging to be recoverable or recyclable by 2025 and to work within the industry to increase packaging recovery and recycling rates.

This is another in a series of announcements from the beverage giant on how it plans to reach its sustainable packaging goals, including an agreement with biotechnology leader Danimer Scientific [\[click here\]](#) to develop biodegradable film resins for thin film packaging.

A recent study from Smithers Pira indicated that retailers and manufacturers say sustainable packaging is no longer just “nice to have,” but is something they expect from the packaging industry. Packaging materials are extremely visible to the consumer, and retailers, packaged product suppliers, governments, regulators, NGOs and environmental groups are placing intense and growing pressures on packaging manufacturers to develop environmentally friendly materials, packaging designs and end-of-life processes.

A number of consumer-facing companies have become increasingly vocal about the need for partnerships within the packaging industry in order to tackle waste, while simultaneously announcing their own sustainable packaging initiatives. These include:

**Amazon:** Amazon’s Packaging Certification Guidelines have been a hot topic within the sustainable packaging industry. Amazon says its Frustration Free Packaging eliminated nearly 83 million corrugated boxes last year, and that the company now has 1.1 million items available in certified pack-

aging. In terms of moving the needle on an industry that offers sustainable packaging, Amazon says the most important thing is that companies work together to educate the industry on the impact of sustainable packaging on customer satisfaction and on cost savings.

**Target:**

The retailer says it will use its “power and scale” to be a catalyst for change in the industry and advance the idea that all packaging will be recyclable one day, and to help consumers understand how and why recycling is so important. With that in mind, the retailer has joined the Material Recovery Facility of the Future, a collaborative committed to seeing that flexible packaging is recycled and that the recovery community captures value from it. The announcement is one of Target’s five new sustainable packaging goals.

**L’Oreal:**

The company is increasing reuse and recycling of waste by boosting material recovery at all L’Oreal sites. The beauty company is working with Suez, a company that provides solutions for the sustainable management of (Continued, see PepsiCo, page 12)

PEPSICO JOINS NEW PLASTICS INITIATIVE [CONT'D]

resources, to create processes that will improve resource management throughout its industrial, administrative and research centers, both in France and worldwide.

**Unilever:**

The company has pledged that 100% of its plastic packaging will be fully reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025. In partnership with Fraunhofer Institute for Process Engineering and Packaging IVV in Germany, Unilever has developed new technology called the CreaSol Process, to recover plastic from used sachets and create new sachets for Unilever products with the recovered material.

**Procter & Gamble:**

In partnership with recycling and environmental management companies TerraCycle and Suez, P&G developed the world's first recyclable shampoo bottle made from up to 25% recycled beach plastic.

**Coke:**

The company says sustainable sourcing plays a key role in the company's new sustainable packaging strategy and advancements in PlantBottle packaging. Coca-Cola has been producing a partially bio-based PlantBottle since 2009.

Ikea and Target have also recently pledged to reduce packaging and cut out harmful packaging materials. ●

Press release reprinted from [www.environmentalleader.com](http://www.environmentalleader.com), May 19, 2017.



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TARGET WILL CHAMPION THE CAUSE THAT ALL PACKAGING WILL BE RECYCLABLE ONE DAY.

## SUSTAINABILITY: TARGET ANNOUNCES PACKAGING SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

BY PACKAGING STRATEGIES

Furthering Target’s commitment to sustainability, the retailer just this week announced new goals that complement its existing product goals and look at the packages those products come in.

“We know our guests pay attention to packaging and its impact on the environment,” says Jennifer Silberman, Target’s chief sustainability officer. “When we provide them with thoughtfully designed, environmentally friendly packaging, we’re able to help them take another step toward sustainable living.” Our work began back in 2013 with our first packaging goal: to enhance at least 50 of our owned

brand packages to be more sustainable by 2016. Our teams exceeded it, serving up 160 enhanced packaging designs that used fewer materials and more recycled content, and were recyclable themselves.

Target’s five new sustainable packaging goals reflect guest expectations, business priorities, industry challenges and areas the retailer can drive the most change. Goals include:

1. Source all owned brand paper-based packaging from sustainably managed forests by 2022
2. Work to eliminate expanded polystyrene from our owned brand packaging by 2022

3. Add the How2Recycle label to all owned brand packaging by 2020 (where space allows)

4. Support The Recycling Partnership’s mission to improve how more than 25% of the U.S. population recycles by 2020

5. Create more demand for recycled packaging by creating three new end markets for recycled materials by 2020

“As a leader in design, we can use our expertise to create more sustainable packaging options for our guests and help deliver products that are both better-for-you and better for the environment,” says Silberman. “With the power of Target’s team and our scale as one of the country’s largest retailers, we hope to be a catalyst for change across the industry—aiming for the day when all packaging will be recyclable, and leading the way to a packaging-waste-free world.”

Here is a closer look at each goal:

### Eliminating expanded polystyrene

Polystyrene, or foam packaging, is a challenge in many ways. It’s a pain to recycle, both for our guests and our distribution centers. It’s also a major cause of ocean plastic contamination—by (Continued, see Target, page 14)



### GOALS

#### TARGET’S SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING GOALS:

- Source all owned brand paper-based packaging from sustainably managed forests by 2022
- Work to eliminate expanded polystyrene from our owned brand packaging by 2022
- Add the How2Recycle label to all owned brand packaging by 2020 (where space allows)
- Support The Recycling Partnership’s mission to improve how more than 25% of the U.S. population recycles by 2020
- Create more demand for recycled packaging by creating three new end markets for recycled materials by 2020

TARGET'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY [CONT'D]

2030, predictions say the oceans could have more plastic than fish! And when not produced using safe methods, it can be harmful to manufacturing workers' health. So as part of our chemical policy, we'll work closely with our suppliers and other partners to find better options for our packaging, taking into account the performance, cost and availability of materials.

**Sourcing from sustainably managed forests**

It's an important part of the forest products policy we unveiled earlier this month. With the help of our vendors and other partners, we'll work to understand the origin of the raw materials that go into our paper-based packaging and improve the sustainability of forests where the timber used to produce them was grown. We're kicking off the work with a focus on six of our owned brands: Spritz, Pillowfort, Cat & Jack, up & up, Smith & Hawken and Threshold.

**Adding the How2Recycle label**

GreenBlue's How2Recycle label is an industry standard that lets consumers know exactly how to recycle a particular piece of packaging [\[click here\]](#). As a member of the Sustainable Packaging Coalition, Target's already got it on 1,700+ of our product packages—more than any other retailer. We'll keep up the momentum by continuing to look for ways to place the label on more of our owned brand packaging whenever space allows.

**Supporting The Recycling Partnership**

Guests tell us they love to recycle, so as the first retailer [\[click here\]](#) to join The Recycling Partnership, we'll make it easier by increasing access to the resources they need. One big example? Studies show just 53 percent of the U.S. population have recycling as a standard service, and even fewer have cart-based programs. Our investment will bring curbside recycling to more underserved communities—increasing recycling and making more recycled raw materials available for packaging.

**Creating more demand for recycled packaging**

The recycling industry is struggling to help consumers understand how and why recycling is so important. So we'll champion the cause by advancing the idea that all packaging will be recyclable one day, making the process easier for all. We've joined two industry efforts to help: The Material Recovery Facility of the Future [\[click here\]](#), a project working toward a vision that all packaging can be recycled. And Beyond 34, a project focused on demonstrating and sharing the best practices to raise the U.S. recycling rate beyond the current rate of 34 percent [\[click here\]](#).

Target will report progress of its sustainable packaging goals annually in its annual Corporate Social Responsibility Report. ●

*Reprinted from [www.packagingstrategies.com](http://www.packagingstrategies.com), April 21, 2017.*



COORDINATED EFFORTS AROUND CUSTOMER EDUCATION ARE ESSENTIAL BETWEEN MANUFACTURERS, OPERATORS, CONSUMERS, MUNICIPALITIES, HAULERS AND COMPOSTERS.

## RECYCLING: THE IMPACT OF COMPOSTABLE FOODSERVICE PACKAGING

BY FOODPROCESSING STAFF

A literature review has found encouraging evidence about the impact of compostable foodservice packaging on waste and contamination.

The review, by the Foodservice Packaging Institute, examined literature relating to the impact of compostable foodservice packaging at different points in the composting value chain. It found a growing body of evidence demonstrating that the use of compostable foodservice packaging can increase food scrap diversion and reduce contamination when used in conjunction with known best practices for food scraps collection.

The study [\[click here\]](#) examined how compostable foodservice packaging impacts:

- composting program participation rates
- food scraps diversion rates
- contamination of composting feedstocks and finished compost
- the composting process, compared with traditional carbon sources.

“As the use of compostable packaging grows, so too should the opportunities to successfully recover those items,” said FPI President Lynn Dyer. “When considering whether to accept foodservice packaging, composters may have questions about the impact on their programs, and this study helped to identify resources to answer those questions.”

This is a new area of study and, as such, the availability of relevant sources varies widely by topic area. However, the available data suggests that compostable foodservice packaging use, in conjunction with programs such as outreach, education, new infrastructure and desired behavior models, can increase food scrap diversion rates and reduce observed contamination rates.

In order to realize the full benefits of compostable packaging, coordinated efforts around customer education are essential between manufacturers, operators, consumers, municipalities, haulers and composters, the study found.

A crucial gap identified in the available research is the extent to which compostable foodservice packaging compares to natural carbon sources typically used during composting. No data was found comparing their ability to balance compost carbon to nitrogen ratios, moisture content, porosity, composting rate, ammonia volatilization and final compost properties.

“This review will help inform our strategies, investments and activities to increase the recovery of compostable cups, take-out containers and utensils used by an increasing number of foodservice outlets,” stated Dyer. “Information sharing and education among manufacturers, foodservice operators, consumers, municipalities, haulers and composters are critical to our collective success.”

Read more online [\[click here\]](#). ●

*Reprinted from [www.foodprocessing.com](http://www.foodprocessing.com), April 4, 2017.*



THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY PRIZE IS A CALL FOR CREATIVE DESIGN AND TECHNICAL INNOVATION AT A CRITICAL TIME.

## RECYCLING: FOUNDATIONS BACK \$2 MILLION PRIZE TO HELP KEEP PLASTICS OUT OF THE OCEAN

BY THE ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation, together with The Prince of Wales' International Sustainability Unit, have today announced the launch of the \$2 million New Plastics Economy Innovation Prize. The Prize which is funded by Wendy Schmidt as Lead Philanthropic Partner of the New Plastics Economy Initiative, calls for innovators, designers, scientist and entrepreneurs to help create packaging that keeps plastics out of the ocean.

The demand for plastics products is expected to double in the next 20 years—but the plastics system is broken. Only 14% of plastic packaging is recycled, with the remainder, worth \$80–120 billion, lost as waste. Most plastic packaging items are used only once before being discarded, often ending up polluting the environment. If nothing changes, there could be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050. This new prize aims to keep plastics as valuable materials in the economy, and out of the ocean.

HRH The Prince of Wales, who has been a champion for the health and resilience of the ocean for over forty years, will deliver the keynote speech at the launch event. At a meeting earlier this year with business leaders, designers and material experts, The Prince emphasized

the urgency of the need to rethink the global plastics system and highlighted the important role of innovation and design in the transition to a circular economy in order to stem the flow of plastics into the ocean.

John Kerry, former U.S. Secretary of State, who has provided a video address for the launch event, commented in support of the New Plastics Economy Innovation Prize: “Focusing on ocean health, focusing on an initiative to save the oceans could not be more timely and it could not be more critical.”

To achieve the goal of eliminating plastic packaging waste, the Prize is composed of two parallel challenges:

1. The \$1 million Circular Design Challenge which invites applicants to rethink how we can get products to people without generating plastic waste. The Challenge will focus on small-format packaging items (10% of all packaging) such as shampoo sachets, wrappers, straws and coffee cup lids, which are currently almost never recycled and often end up in the environment. Anyone with a good idea for how to get products to people without using disposable packaging can enter this Challenge partnered by OpenIDEO.

2. The \$1 million Circular Materials Challenge seeks ways to make all plastic packaging recyclable. About 13% of today's packaging, such as crisp packets and food wrappers, is made of layers of different materials fused together. This multi-layer construction provides important functions like keeping food fresh, but also makes the packaging hard to recycle. The Challenge therefore invites innovators to find alternative materials that could be recycled or composted. The Challenge partner is NineSigma.

Innovators who apply to the Prize are competing for up to \$2,000,000 in grants and visibility of their solutions to major businesses, the innovator community and the public. Winners will enter a 12-month accelerator programme offering exclusive access to industry experts, commercial guidance, feedback on user and scalability requirements, advice on performance expectations, and access to innovation labs for testing and development. The first winners will be announced later this year. ●

*Reprinted from ellenmacarthur-foundation.org, May 18, 2017.*





THE FOOTBALL STADIUM WENT FROM ZERO TO AN AVERAGE OF 83 PERCENT DIVERSION IN TWO SEASONS.

## RECYCLING:

# LOS ANGELES COLISEUM “MODERNIZES” WITH ZERO WASTE

BY MARSHA W. JOHNSTON, BIOCYCLE

A frequent obstacle to greening sports venues is retrofitting old facilities with what is needed to sustain zero waste initiatives and other environmentally innovative features. But with the nearly 100-year-old Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum—home to both the University of Southern California (USC) Trojans and the National Football League’s (NFL) Los Angeles Rams—achieving as high as 94 percent waste diversion on some game days in 2016, a venue’s age clearly is no longer a deal breaker.

The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (Coliseum) opened in June 1923 as the USC Trojans’ home field. In 1932, it hosted the Summer Olympics. And 90 years later, in 2013, the Coliseum’s management got serious about implementing zero waste practices. “When I got here, we weren’t even really recycling,” recalls Brian Grant, USC’s director of operations at the Coliseum since September 2013, the same year USC took over management of the stadium from the Coliseum Commission comprised of city, county and state officials. “We went live with Zero Waste on September 5, 2015, and went from zero percent diversion to zero waste in two football seasons.” On average, in 2016, the stadium had an 83 percent diversion rate.

The feat got the attention of the PAC-12 Conference, which

awarded USC First Place in the Fall 2016 Zero Waste Bowl Challenge that it conducts with the Green Sports Alliance. “It is hugely significant for a couple of reasons,” says Jamie Zaninovich, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer of the Pac-12 Conference, which is holding the nation’s first summit on greening collegiate athletics just prior to the 2017 Green Sports Alliance Summit this month. “One, because they were able to accomplish it despite the logistical challenges of having an NFL and a high-level collegiate team in the same facility. Second, this is an iconic building. It is not a LEED Gold facility built five years ago. We have had success around the conference with older buildings in Boulder and Cal [University of California, Berkeley], which won the Zero Waste Bowl a couple of years ago. But it takes a little bit more elbow grease in those older facilities to make it work.”

USC’s Sustainability Department had been pushing zero waste at the stadium for a few years, explains Halli Bovia, program manager. While it secured a sponsor partnership with Glad Corp. to pilot a successful Zero Waste Tailgate event in 2011, and piloted several zero waste events at the Coliseum, it took the arrival of Grant to launch an all-out assault. Grant, who had started a recycling and compost-

ing program for the University of Minnesota’s 50,000-seat stadium, was the “keystone,” Bovia says. “When he came on board, the university really made it a priority,” adding that USC has set a goal of 75 percent waste diversion by 2020 over its three campuses, various centers, and all Coliseum operations.

USC’s and the Coliseum’s Zero Waste Initiative partners include Athens Services, its waste hauler, and Legends Hospitality, the stadium’s concessionaire, along with BASF, EcoSafe Zero Waste and Waxie. Together, they accelerated stadium greening. “I’m a big proponent of designing with the end goal in mind,” notes Grant. “It was more efficient to go to the end of the line rather than to take it step by step. It made no sense to do recycling and then incorporate organics at a later date.”

### Zero Waste Playbook

The Coliseum was not built for waste diversion when it was commissioned in 2013, whether it be facilities for zero waste, pre-game kitchen prep or post-game sorting of compostables and recyclables. For example, says Gian Rafaniello, Legends Hospitality’s general manager for the Coliseum, the few noncompostable or nonrecyclable items it is unable to replace are predominantly prepackaged food products from manufacturers. (Continued, see Zero, page 18)

ZERO WASTE AT THE LA COLISEUM [CONT'D]

“A lot of the newer venues have kitchens with more storage, so they can fry their own tortilla chips, for example, and serve them in bulk. Because of our lack of fryers and storage, we have to use a prepackaged product.”

The Coliseum now averages between 10 to 15 percent of such items. “We have about half-a-dozen products that we would like to change out as soon as possible, such as kettle corn bags and some plastics,” explains Grant. “It’s mostly the national brands that are dictated by a national headquarters that we have trouble with, such as Red Vines® and M&Ms®. We’re pushing to minimize the amount of those items we sell.” He expects such national brands will begin reexamining their packaging as more sports venues green their operations. In the meantime, most end up in the compostables stream and get picked out in the waste sorting area.

However, some national brands surprised the team. “We totally thought the Chick-Fil-A® bag was noncompostable, but the company presented us documentation that it is completely compostable,” he adds. “It’s great when you find suppliers like that!”

EcoSafe, which manufactures compostable liners using BASF’s certified compostable biopolymer ecovio, trained concession stand managers, including all of the local vendors in the Coliseum concourse that subcontract to Legends. “We trained them on the program, bin set-up in their stand and what materials go in

each bin,” explains Jason Sanders, EcoSafe’s National Manager of Zero Waste Programs. “Then they trained their staff.” Jeff Farrell, USC’s Coliseum Facility Operations Manager, coordinated with the Zero Waste team to give each stand a compostable and recyclable liner, and a one-page document with the program’s guidelines and most recent weekly diversion statistics.

“At the beginning it was tough because we were asking vendors to buy their own products,” adds Sanders. “All of the sub-vendors were purchasing from local restaurant supply stores, which didn’t typically carry compostable products. The biggest challenge was finding compostable cutlery, followed by straws and soft drink lids.”

At this point, most service ware items have been switched out for paper and fiber-based trays, clamshells and bowls, and compostable cutlery and portion cups. Subcontractor noncompliance with the program is “largely on knives, forks and spoons,” notes Rafaniello, adding that the challenge is the additional cost. “We are paying 50 percent more for compostable products than other materials. We’re always trying to find a product that works for us [functionally] and cost-wise.”

At every game, EcoSafe and USC Sustainability audited subvendors on the materials they were using. “If fully compliant, they would get an award next to their menu board showing that they were a zero waste vendor,” says Sanders, noting that subvendors

were around 90 percent compliant by the end of last season. This year, the team is discussing a plan to streamline subvendor service ware purchasing by keeping the products on site.

**Postgame Sorting**

To facilitate postgame waste sorting, the zero waste team decided early on to go with only two bins in the consumer-generated waste areas: Compostables and Recyclables. “Getting people to make an ecologically friendly choice is hard, so we’ve worked hard to engineer a system where the patron doesn’t really have to make a choice that is friendly to already understood principles [such as recycling],” explains Grant, who adds that people know what goes into recycling bins, making it easier for them to understand that everything else goes in the compostables bin. Items that are “true trash” are sorted and weighed to count against the diversion percentage and hauled by Athens for disposal.

The limitations of the Coliseum’s old infrastructure quickly became apparent after every game when it came time to sort the average of 18 tons of collected material. “Our waste collection point has changed three times in the last three years,” notes Grant. Initially, an area at the adjacent Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena was used for sorting and to store dumpsters. But that venue went under construction to become a new soccer stadium. Then, says EcoSafe’s Sanders, “We had to reinvent and rebuild our sorting location and process.”

(Continued, see Zero, page 19)



Postgame sorting to remove ‘true trash.’ Photo ©USC



American Organics composting operation in Victorville, CA. Photo ©American Organics

## ZERO WASTE AT THE LA COLISEUM [CONT'D]

The result: A new concrete-floor, cinder block-walled, gated off 1,750-sq.ft. compound next to the Coliseum's delivery gate that was built in 2016. After every game, a crew of 80 to 100 does a first sweep of the 93,600-seat stadium to pick up compostables that didn't make it to the bins, and brings them to the sorting area. It then does the same for recyclables. The same crew collects the bags of compostables and recyclables, which also are taken to the sorting area.

USC selected and trained sorters from the ranks of its contracted custodial staff. Four to eight people (depending on the size of the attending crowd) do the sorting, which is set up in two lines, each with a collection point that goes onto a custom-built slanted table. "The staff rip open every bag and pull out items that are in the wrong stream," explains USC's Farrell. "The recycling bins have clear liners, so it's easy to see if something is in there we need to go after."

Once all contamination is removed, the recyclable and organic waste streams are loaded into one of four new 40-cubic yard (cy) Marathon "ram"-style compactors. On average, says Grant, about 60 percent of the 18 tons of material from LA Rams games are recyclables—mostly beer cans. Conversely, with no alcohol sold at USC games, 60 percent of the mate-

rial from Trojan games is organic, mostly food scraps but also fiber and paper-based containers that Athens accepts. Consequently, after USC games, three compactors are used for organics and one for recycling, while the opposite is true for Rams games—three for recyclables and one for organics. Trash is handled in 3-cy dumpsters; recyclables are mixed and compacted together.

#### Composting Facility

After every game, compacted organics are picked up and trucked 95 miles away to American Organics, Athens Services' composting operation in Victorville, California. Loads go to a dedicated sorting line where American Organics' staff conduct a third manual sort, pulling off noncompostable soft plastics, such as film and shipping-related plastics not caught in the waste sorting, according to Sanders.

The facility has a permitted capacity of 700 tons/day of organic material, up to 214,000 tons annually, and is not at capacity, says Jennifer Cilloniz, Major Account/Food Waste Manager for Athens Services. Material is composted in windrows, but the company is planning to switch to covered aerated static piles in early 2019.

To date, American Organics has had no trouble with the biodegradability of the compostable products used at the Coliseum,

and contamination rates—primarily from conventional plastics not sorted out at the Coliseum—were lower than the 2015 facility average of between 10 and 20 percent, adds Cilloniz. Compost is sold primarily to agricultural growers and donated to civic events.

#### Program Costs

According to USC's Grant, the zero waste program could have cost more than \$45,000/year, but instead is only about \$30,000. Costs have been offset by the Coliseum offering partnership deals to the vendors and Athens. "We developed partnerships with the program to provide financial assistance or cost reductions on products," he says. "We developed signage with partner logos in areas of the stadium where patrons interact with our zero waste program, so that every time patrons participate in the program they associate our partners with the success of the program." He adds that the Coliseum also gets \$16,000 to \$20,000 in commodity credits from Athens based on the volume of recyclables collected during the year.

During the 2017 football season, the Coliseum's zero waste program will continue to expand and be refined, e.g., by identifying more affordable compostable service ware, sourcing compostable alternatives to nonrecyclable packaging and devising

new ways to engage the public on the initiative. "Our intention has always been to develop a working zero waste model at the Coliseum that can be easily replicated at other sports and entertainment venues," notes Eco-Safe's Sanders. "A commitment that all LA venues for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games would be certified zero waste facilities would be a huge plus in the city's bid."

Jeanette Hanna, Biopolymers Market Development Manager for BASF North America, concurs: "The story at the LA Memorial Coliseum is a great example of multiple stakeholders coming together to create a pioneer program that is important for developing infrastructure to effectively manage organic waste on larger scales. Additionally, in some cases, it is the first opportunity for consumers and fans to participate in organics diversion; it's an important educational tool."

To that end, concludes Grant, having USC as the program manager is a distinct advantage. "Being a university-managed facility, there are people in place to help with our messaging and carry it forward to a much larger audience," he says. ●

*Reprinted from [www.biocycle.net](http://www.biocycle.net), June 2017.*



ONLINE MEAL KITS FROM DELIVERY SERVICES ARE A RECYCLER'S NIGHTMARE.

## RECYCLING: BLAME 'AMAZON EFFECT' FOR PROPOSED BUMP IN S.F. GARBAGE BILLS

BY RACHEL SWAN, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

San Francisco prides itself on being ecology-minded, having outlawed everything from plastic bags to foam meat trays. But those lofty environmental ideals are going up against a culture that's increasingly focused on convenience.

Many city dwellers have little time to cook or shop, so they order meals and groceries online, and buy outfits from Internet styling services that deliver to their doorsteps. The fallout from these new forms of consumption is readily apparent in the lobbies of apartment buildings, which are often littered with boxes.

"We see the recycling stream on a daily basis, and it's gone from gray to brown," said Darryl Moses, operations manager at the 200,000-square-foot Hunters Point recycling plant run by the city's long-standing waste and recycling hauler, Recology.

Years ago, residents' bins were chock full of translucent glass and grayish newspapers, Moses said. Now they're full of brown cardboard.

The increase in cardboard and other forms of packaging—cellophane, polystyrene, clamshell containers, puffy plastic shipping pillows—is part of what's driving Recology to seek a 14 percent

hike in the city's garbage rates in July, which already has approval from Public Works. Residents have until Tuesday to appeal the increase to the three-person Refuse Rate Board before it is made final.

A spokesman for the company blames the so-called "Amazon effect" of too many residents buying their goods from Internet sites, instead of at brick-and-mortar stores. The detritus from shipping all these goods is overloading the waste stream, thwarting the "zero waste" goal of a city that last year enacted the most comprehensive polystyrene foam packaging ban in the country.

That law has helped cultivate San Francisco's eco-friendly reputation, but it doesn't apply to e-commerce sites based outside the city. Such sites have soared in popularity among residents who buy most of their clothes and household goods over the Internet.

"People here work long hours, so instead of cooking, they're ordering online meal kits," said Recology spokesman Robert Reed.

Meal kits from delivery services like Blue Apron are a recycler's nightmare, because all the ingredients are individually wrapped.

And they're just one among many forms of Russian-doll packaging.

Recology described the problem in its application for the rate increase, submitted to Public Works this year. It said the ballooning volume of San Francisco's recyclables has forced the company to reconfigure its fleet, which currently has split-chamber trucks for recycling and trash, and single-chamber trucks for compost.

Under the proposed redesign, Recology would use the single-chambers for recycling and the split-chambers for compost and trash. The company would also add 23 routes to collect all the debris from San Francisco's new businesses and apartment buildings.

"Recology actually had to flip the system on its head, because having half a truck to carry recyclables wasn't good enough any more," said Heidi Sanborn, executive director of the California Product Stewardship Council, a statewide network of city governments and organizations working to reduce waste.

"Those changes cost money, and it's not just the hard cost" of switching the trucks, Sanborn said, noting that a wholesale (Continued, see Volume, page 21)

VOLUME OF RECYCLABLES HAS BALLOONED [CONT'D]

fleet redesign has labor costs, too. It consumes a lot of staff time to map out dozens of new routes.

She pointed out that San Francisco often serves as a place to test dramatic shifts in consumption. The congested streets make it a particularly difficult place to be a garbage and recycling hauler, so Recology had to react quickly to the recent avalanche of packing materials.

The swing from paper bags and newspapers to cardboard and plastic “went way higher and way faster in San Francisco” than in other cities, Sanborn said.

Collectively, residents throw 625 tons of material into their blue recycling bins each day—an amount that hasn’t changed much in the past four years. Yet the materials have gotten bulkier and more complicated to sort. Water that used to come in a glass bottle now comes in a bottle made of three different kinds of plastic — one for the cap, one for the label and one for the container itself.

Add to that the plastic boxes for prewashed salads, or the San Francisco definition of “fast food”: six dolmas in a clamshell container, rather than a paper-wrapped Quarter Pounder with cheese.

“The number of materials we’re dealing with has increased significantly,” Reed said, “and that’s more significant than the tonnage.”

Recology completed an \$11.6 million upgrade to its recycling center last year, adding a Willy Wonka-style maze of conveyor belts, chutes, optical scanners and other specialized machines from the Netherlands, which separate cardboard and plastic from other recyclables.

The new equipment has enabled Recology to divert more waste products. In the past six months, the center has sent only 6 percent of its recycling materials to the landfill—a significant improvement from 12 percent last year.

But Recology’s staff also has to contend with new kinds of packaging vessels, such as the nylon tote bags from Amazon’s grocery delivery arm, AmazonFresh. Inside each bag is a foam container for food.

“These things are showing up at the recycling plant,” Reed said. “And we have no idea what to do with them.”

With questions building about how municipal waste systems will handle these excess containers and boxes, some online retailers are trying to be more conscientious.

“Our packaging is recyclable and we offer customers the option of returning our packaging to us for recycling free of charge through our returns program,” a spokeswoman for Blue Apron wrote in an email to The Chronicle.

Other companies, such as Amazon, are shipping items in crinkled up paper, rather than foam packing peanuts, said Adam Gendell, associate director of the Virginia-based Sustainable Packing Coalition, which works with businesses to reduce waste.

In April, Target said it would work with suppliers to eliminate foam packaging, which is hard to recycle and often winds up in oceans.

While there’s definitely an industry push for recyclable packing materials, few companies are trying to reduce packaging altogether, Gendell said. Most items are shipped in the same flashy containers that appear on store shelves, along with protective insulation for transport.

That could be a cautionary measure, Gendell said, because it hurts retailers when products break or food spoils before reaching its destination. But it could also be branding—to some companies, efficiency is less important than a well-designed box.

A spokeswoman from Amazon said that stripping off bulky, oversized store packaging is “the primary challenge” for an online retailer. But she said that Amazon has made a concerted effort to cut down on shipping materials, and that the company shaved off more than 55,000 tons of excess packaging last year.

To Reed, the steps that these companies are taking seem well-intentioned, but won’t solve the problem in San Francisco.

The best solution, he said, is to do what your parents or grandparents did: buy things at the store and bring your own bag. ●

*Reprinted from www.sfchronicle.com, May 24, 2017.*



A GOOD DEAL OF AIRPORT TRASH GETS RECYCLED OR COMPOSTED.

## RECYCLING:

# WHERE DOES ALL THE AIRPORT GARBAGE GO?

BY PORT OF SEATTLE

Every day an average of 1,045 flights arrive at and depart from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Every day an average of 125,000 travelers fly through Sea-Tac—many of them grabbing a quick drink or bite to eat along the way.

To manage the mountain of garbage left behind by all those people, the airport has been working for nearly 25 years to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Last year Sea-Tac's passenger terminals generated 7,320 tons of trash, according to the Port of Seattle, with 87 percent coming from concession stands, public areas, and disposal of passenger trash from airplanes.

Thanks to Sea-Tac's Waste Minimization Program, established in 1993, a good deal of airport trash gets recycled or composted. Last year, one-third of all airport trash was kept out of the landfill.

How exactly does the airport do it? Jeremy Webb, who leads the Port of Seattle's Waste Minimization programs for Sea-Tac, shares their top strategies.

**Providing recycling bins in all public areas.** Hopefully you've noticed the many recycling receptacles for cans, bottles, paper and compostable materials—all well-marked for easy sorting—alongside the trash bins throughout the airport. But airport recy-

cling bins aren't just available to travelers. The airport's employee offices and leased spaces contain them, too.

### Offering water refill stations.

Water bottle refill stations beyond airport security checkpoints encourage travelers to fly with their own reusable water bottles. Liquid drain stations at security checkpoints allow passengers to drain liquids and either recycle their container or save it for refill after security (using the water bottle refill stations). The Port of Seattle estimates these refill stations prevented 10 tons of disposable water bottles from clogging landfills last year.

**Requiring concessionaires to recycle and compost.** As of 2017, airport pubs, eateries and retailers must sort their trash for recyclable and compostable materials. And if they're not serving drinks and meals with reusable dishware and silverware, they must provide customers with airport-approved compostable or recyclable service ware.

**Repurposing cooking oil and paper towels.** Last year, the program converted 71 tons of used cooking oil from airport restaurants into biodiesel fuel. Similarly, the program converted used paper towels from the restrooms of the airport's administrative offices into a nutrient-

rich soil additive for gardening and landscaping.

**Making recycling free for airport tenants.** The airport's free recycling program and fee-based garbage disposal service give airlines and concessionaires extra incentive to reduce the amount of waste generated during operations and sort their trash.

### Recycling construction waste.

Building contractors working on airfields or in terminals must sort and recycle their construction and demolition debris. Over the last two years, this has led to an annual average of more than 370,000 tons (or more than 90 percent) of construction waste being diverted from landfills.

**Donating extra food.** The airport has been funneling surplus meals from concessionaires to local food banks for the past decade. In 2016, the program donated 56,972 pounds of nutritious, ready-to-eat food to the local food bank—that's 876 meals a week for people in need.

All these efforts require airlines and airport vendors, contractors, employees, travelers and visitors to do their part, Webb stresses.

"We're basically one big family," he added. "We've all got to work together."

(Continued, see Sea-Tac, page 23)

SEA-TAC REDUCES DAILY WASTE [CONT'D]

So how can you help? Here are a few easy ways to start.

**Invest in a reusable water bottle.** Stop buying a plastic bottle of water each time you fly and start taking a reusable plastic, glass or steel water bottle with you. Sea-Tac's water bottle refill stations make it easy to refill your bottle after going through security.

**Only take what you need.** Do you really need that straw or more than one napkin for your coffee and muffin? Or three packets of ketchup for your burger? Be

mindful of how many dining accoutrements you grab. You can always go back for another packet of salt later or ask for an extra napkin on the plane.

**Sort your waste.** It's never too late to get in the habit of sorting your trash. If you haven't already, the next time you're in one of Sea-Tac's airport terminals or eateries, acquaint yourself with which items go in the clearly marked garbage, recycling and compost bins.

**Push your airline of choice to recycle.** Alaska Airlines is known for sorting through the trash left by its passengers for paper, plastic cups, glass bottles and other recyclables. But not all airlines do this. No matter which carrier you fly, let them know that recycling is important to you.

The Port of Seattle operates Sea-Tac Airport and is committed to being the greenest, most energy-efficient port in North America because sustainability is good for business, good for our planet, and good for our future.

Find out more about SeaTac's recycling and sustainability programs [\[click here\]](#). ●

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THERE IS A CLEAR ECONOMIC CASE FOR DELIVERING THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY.

## RECYCLING: UNILEVER DEVELOPS NEW TECHNOLOGY TO TACKLE THE GLOBAL ISSUE OF PLASTIC SACHET WASTE

BY UNILEVER

Unilever today unveiled its ground-breaking new technology to recycle sachet waste. This technology, called CreaSolv® Process, has been developed with the Fraunhofer Institute for Process Engineering and Packaging IVV in Germany and is inspired by an innovation used to recycle TV sets.

- Hundreds of billions of plastic sachets are thrown away globally every year.
- Unilever has developed ground-breaking new technology to recycle sachets.
- Circular economy in action: sachets will be turned into plastic and channelled back into the supply chain.
- Today, only 14% of all plastic packaging is recycled globally.
- Unilever has pledged to make 100% of packaging recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025.

Billions of single-use sachets are sold every year, particularly in developing and emerging markets. Sachets are extremely resource efficient and allow low-income consumers to buy small amounts of products that would otherwise be unaffordable to them. But without a viable recycling solution, sachet packaging ends up in landfill or as litter. As

part of its Sustainable Living Plan, Unilever has long been committed to finding an alternative to throwing sachets away.

CreaSolv® Process technology has been adapted from a method used to separate brominated flame retardants from waste electrical and electronic equipment polymers. During the process, the plastic is recovered from the sachet, and the plastic then used to create new sachets for Unilever products—creating a full circular economy approach.

Commenting, David Blanchard, Chief R&D Officer said: “Billions of sachets are used once and just thrown away, all over the world, ending up in landfill or in our waterways and oceans. At the start of this year we made a commitment to help solve this problem, developing new recycling technologies. We intend to make this tech open source and would hope to scale the technology with industry partners, so others—including our competitors—can use it.

“There is a clear economic case for delivering this. We know that globally \$80-120bn is lost to the economy through failing to properly recycle plastics each year. Finding a solution represents a huge opportunity. We believe that our commitment to making

100% of our packaging recyclable, reusable or compostable will support the long-term growth of our business.”

Unilever will open a pilot plant in Indonesia later this year to test the long-term commercial viability of the technology. Indonesia is a critical country in which to tackle waste, producing 64m tonnes every year, with 1.3m tonnes ending up in the ocean.

To tackle the industry-wide sachet waste issue, Unilever is looking to create a sustainable system change by setting up waste collection schemes to channel the sachets to be recycled. Currently Unilever is testing this by working with local waste banks, governments and retailers and will look to empower waste pickers, integrate them into the mainstream economy and to provide a potential long term income, generating wider growth in the economy.

This announcement is part of Unilever’s pledge to ensure all of its plastic packaging is fully reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025. Unilever had already committed to reducing the weight of its packaging by one-third by 2020 and increasing the use of recycled plastic content in its packaging to at least 25% by 2025.

(Continued, see Sachet, page 25)

INDUSTRY-WIDE SACHET ISSUE [CONT'D]

Dr. Andreas Mäurer, Department Head of Plastic Recycling at the Fraunhofer IVV said:

“With this innovative pilot plant we can, for the first time ever, recycle high-value polymers from dirty, post-consumer, multi-layer sachets. Our aim is to prove the economic profitability and environmental benefits of the CreaSolv® Process. Our calculations indicate that we are able to recover six kilos of pure polymers with the same energy effort as the production of one kilo of virgin polymer.”

While this new technology represents a major step forward, plastic waste is a multi-faceted challenge that will require continued innovation in technology, design, delivery models and materials to create a full circular economy for plastics. Unilever will continue its work with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation’s New Plastics Economy initiative and continue looking for additional solutions. ●

**ABOUT THE FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE**

The Fraunhofer Institute for Process Engineering and Packaging IVV develops high-quality food products and safe, effective, and convenient packaging. We put priority on the efficient use of raw materials and the minimization of any environmental impact. With the development of polymer recycling processes the Fraunhofer IVV recovers high-purity materials from complex mixtures of waste materials, e.g. from packaging, building waste as well as end-of-life vehicles

and waste electrical and electronic equipment. In addition to the food and packaging industries, other sectors such as the chemical industry, the pharmaceutical and cosmetics sectors, and the agricultural industry benefit from the expertise and technologies.

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*Reprinted from press release, www.unilever.com, May 11, 2017.*



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THE WRAP CAMPAIGN HAS SEEN SUCCESS IN WISCONSIN, AS WELL AS IN VANCOUVER.

## RECYCLING: CONNECTICUT WRAP CAMPAIGN AIMS TO TACKLE FLEXIBLE FILM

BY ARLENE KARIDIS, WASTE360

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) has a goal to double film recycling by 2020. One initiative aimed at helping hit that two billion pound target is the creation of Wrap Recycling Action Programs (WRAPs) in communities across the country.

These public-private partnerships aim to educate consumers and support retailers in collecting the material so it can be processed at correct facilities. Traditional material recovery facilities can't process polyethylene film and much of it can end up clogging waterways, killing wildlife, and polluting roads and terrain.

The WRAP campaign has seen success in Wisconsin, as well as in Vancouver, Wash., where collection of film has more than doubled through store drop-off sites facilitated by the program. With the support of the state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the ACC has brought the campaign to Connecticut last summer and it's already paying dividends.

"We are doing this so residents know what they can do, beyond simply not put plastic film in their bins," says Sherill Baldwin, environmental analyst at Connecticut DEEP. "We want to make sure they know they can bring it back

to retailers or participating municipal transfer stations. Ultimately, we want to improve quality and reduce contamination."

So far, about 30 municipalities have signed on: two groups each representing multiple towns; a council of governments that addresses issues regionally; and some grocers.

There are "WRAP Champions"—entities that build relationships with stores in communities to promote the program and build consumer awareness. These "champions" take on a supportive role, helping participating businesses figure out how to collect film or connecting companies with haulers and other resources.

The Connecticut Food Association (CFA) has worked to reduce and recover plastic film for years. Members have eliminated almost 300 million bags since 2010, representing a 30 percent reduction, through incentives and practices to decrease use, among initiatives.

WRAP has solid potential to boost their efforts, believes CFA President.

"The program provides us with bigger collection barrels and better messaging that informs folks we can take back more than before, as well as what items we

can take back," says Pesce. Prior to WRAP most customers only returned plastic bags.

The film is collected and backhauled to a central warehouse for transfer in bulk to Trex, who processes it to make decking and other outdoor products.

The CFA sees its members positioned to play a vital role in stepping up infrastructure and improving recovery and offering convenience through drop off sites.

"We are in every town and county. And most customers visit two to three times a week," says Pesce.

A survey, likely to take place this summer, will gauge consumer's gained recycling knowledge. The state will also look at recovery rates.

"Our thought is if we can increase recovery by about 30 percent through WRAP, it would tell us we are on to something," says Pesce.

Different towns are leveraging strategies, including options beyond store drop off sites.

For instance the town of Branford provides plastic bags for film at a transfer station that can be thrown in a bin containing other (Continued, see Film, page 27)

POLYETHYLENE FILM RECOVERY [CONT'D]

materials. The bags, which hold about 50 pounds of plastic film, have holes so they can be compressed and won't pop. They are pulled out at the recovery facility, eliminating an otherwise tedious separation process. Commercial businesses with low film volumes use this system, and the bags work for haulers, too, says Baldwin.

All municipalities working with the Housatonic Resources Recov-

ery Authority (HRRRA) have become WRAP champions, and soon nine of the authority's transfer stations will collect wasted film.

Once HRRRA can coordinate with a local hauler and grocery store to take the material, it will launch collection, says Jennifer Heaton-Jones, the authority's executive director.

The statewide initiative is in its infancy, focusing for now prima-

rily on grocery stores. But the hope, says Baldwin, is to eventually engage universities, dry cleaners, clothing stores and others that generate film waste. WRAP, believe the players behind it, could help bring the state closer to its overall waste diversion goal of 60 percent by 2024, while providing feedstock to create useful new products. ●

*Reprinted from waste360.com, May 22, 2017.*

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THE SAN DIEGO REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ALSO PRAISED THE CITY.

## RECYCLING: INSTEAD OF BAN, SAN DIEGO WILL ALLOW RECYCLING OF FOAM FOOD CONTAINERS

BY DAVID GARRICK, SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE

San Diego's efforts to become a "zero waste" city will include allowing residents living in single-family homes to start recycling polystyrene food and beverage containers on July 1.

Many California cities have banned the use of polystyrene – more commonly called Styro-foam, the brand name used by a leading manufacturer—and the California Legislature considered a statewide ban in 2011.

But San Diego has decided to take a more business-friendly approach by allowing the containers, which restaurants and other businesses consider highly cost-effective, to be placed in blue recycling bins.

The City Council unanimously approved the change on Tuesday.

It will cost San Diego \$90,000 per year, which will come out of the \$3.3 million in annual revenue the city receives from residents recycling other items like glass bottles, aluminum cans and paper products.

Bans in other places, such as San Francisco, have been passed because polystyrene doesn't biodegrade like organic material, instead turning into steadily smaller pieces that birds and other sea life consume.

Businesses, primarily restaurants and food trucks, complain that bans cost them thousands because paper products are more expensive and less effective.

Chris Duggan of the California Restaurant Association praised the city's decision last month, promising that local restaurants would help educate residents that they can start recycling the containers.

"I always say it keeps our hot foods hot and our cold foods cold," Duggan said of polystyrene.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce also praised the city.

"We believe recycling expanded polystyrene food containers is a sensible alternative to an outright ban," said Sophie Barnhorst, a chamber policy coordinator.

Opponents of bans say the cost of using more environmentally friendly materials would eventually get passed on to consumers.

San Diego last fall was unsure whether it would begin allowing residents to recycle polystyrene food containers when initial cost estimates from the city's recycling contractor came in at nearly \$300,000.

But the cost has been reduced to \$90,000 by a plan to send the polystyrene to a secondary processor that will further recycle and sort it.

In 2014, the city began allowing single-family residents to recycle polystyrene packaging material used in shipping, but not food containers.

Trash and recycling from businesses, condominiums and apartments in San Diego is handled by private contractors that may not allow recycling of polystyrene food containers.

The change for residential customers will help the city meet the goals of its zero waste plan, adopted in 2015. The plan calls for a 75 diversion rate by 2020, a 90 diversion rate by 2035 and 100 percent diversion by 2040. ●

*Reprinted from [www.sandiegouniontribune.com](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com), June 20, 2017.*



THE MOVE IS  
A PART OF THE  
CITY'S "ZERO  
WASTE" PLAN.

## RECYCLING: SAN DIEGO EXPANDS CURBSIDE RECYCLING TO ADD STYRO- FOAM CONTAINERS

BY SAMANTHA TATRO, NBC SAN DIEGO

The City of San Diego is expanding its curbside recycling program within city limits, adding polystyrene food service containers to the lineup.

"By expanding what we're able to recycle, we're moving in the right direction as we try to reduce, reuse and recycle as much of the trash we collect every day as we can," said Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer said in a statement.

The additional materials—usually referred to as Styrofoam—includes cups and food containers. The change is effective July 1, 2017.

The move is a part of the City's "Zero Waste" plan. By 2040, the City of San Diego hopes to reuse, instead of throwing away, the City's trash.

Adding items to the City's recycling lineup helps put the City closer to that goal.

"After several years of hard work and analysis, City residents are finally able to conveniently recycle Styrofoam materials. This action will not only improve our local environment but also prolong the life of the Miramar Landfill. I applaud the Mayor and ESD staff for making this vision a reality," said City Councilmember Scott Sherman, a member of the Council's Environment Committee, in a statement.

Residents can continue to recycle their cardboard, paper, newspapers, metal containers, plastic and glass bottles, and more.

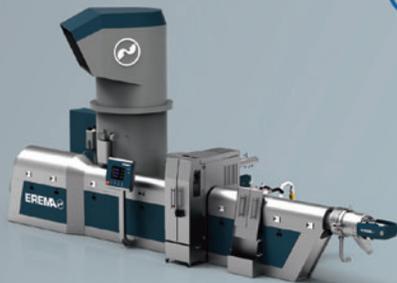
For more information about recycling programs in San Diego, including details about the City's efforts to divert waste from the Miramar Landfill, [click here](#). ●

*Press release reprinted from [www.nbcsandiego.com](http://www.nbcsandiego.com), June 21, 2017.*



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PLASTIC RECYCLING SYSTEMS



Laurie Hansen, Executive and Legislative Director for Western Plastics Association

AN EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY MEASURE FOR PLASTIC FOODSERVICE WARE HAS BECOME A 2-YEAR BILL AND CAN BE CONSIDERED AGAIN IN 2018.

**LEGISLATION:**

**CALIFORNIA CONTINUES TO FIGHT: TAX, TAX, TAX AND MORE TAX!!**

BY LAURIE HANSEN, WPA LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The California Legislature this year has been in the tax, tax and more tax mode since the 2017 session began in January. So far this year the Legislature has passed and the Governor has signed the first gas tax increase in years and, until this last week, was considering several more HUGE tax increases on individuals and corporations.

The State Single Payer/Universal Health Care System proposed by Senator Ricardo Lara (D-Los Angeles) was passed by the Senate and awaiting a hearing in the Assembly when the Speaker halted SB 562's progress and said that the bill was "woefully incomplete."

With a \$400 billion price tag (twice the total California State budget), many questions were left unanswered when the bill was passed by the State Senate in early June. When he slowed the bill down last week, Speaker Anthony Rendon commented: "Even senators who voted for Senate Bill 562 noted there are potentially fatal flaws in the bill, including the fact it does not address many serious issues, such as financing, delivery of care, cost controls, or the realities of needed action by the Trump administration and voters to make SB 562 a genuine piece of legislation," Rendon said.

Lara's proposal would have eliminated all private insurance companies in California, required employers to pay the state for managing their employees' health care, taken over insurance for all

public agencies, required those on Medicare to get their supplemental insurance through the state, and guaranteed health insurance for all Californians. Pushed by the California Nurses Association, the State would become the entity that contracts with all doctors and hospitals and any other health care agency.

The Legislative Analyst's office concluded that the total cost of the program—roughly \$400 billion—would have required at least \$200 billion in payments from employers. The nurses' association stated that the other \$200 billion would have been collected through increased sales taxes and supplemental taxes on all "non-essential" goods.

**Plastics**—Since the voters approved the plastic bag reduction initiative on the 2016 ballot, the Legislature has turned its attention to many other plastic products. SB 705 (Allen, D-Santa Monica) would have banned all expanded polystyrene foodservice ware. The bill passed the first policy committee and was defeated in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

However, an Extended Producer Responsibility measure for plastic foodservice ware has become a 2-year bill and can be considered again in 2018. AB 1659 by Assemblyman Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley) would require manufacturers and distributors of plastic foodservice ware to pay an Extended Producer

Responsibility fee to the state for recycling and clean up measures.

Another bill would focus on plastic ocean pollution and require the state's Ocean Protection Council to compile data identifying the primary sources and types of plastic pollution. AB 1594 (Bloom, D-Santa Monica) would further require the Council to provide recommendations to the Legislature on actions implemented by the state to reduce plastic pollution on state beaches and in ocean waters.

In addition to bills dealing with plastic, WPA has been tracking a number of bills that would affect employers in the state. These are included in the following bill tracking report [see page 34].

WPA participates with other business groups and plastic organizations in coalition efforts on a broad range of topics. The Board approves "signing on" to many support and opposition letters sent to Legislators to influence the outcome of legislation.

The following report is a shortened list of bills that WPA has been following that would affect the plastics industry and employers in the State. Many of these bills have already become "two year" bills which means they are not dead, and they can be considered again in 2018.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact WPA at [info@westernplastics.org](mailto:info@westernplastics.org). ●

## WPA TRACKED BILLS

### EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

#### **AB 1659 (Low D) Food Service Plastic Packaging Recovery and Recycling Stewardship Act.**

Location: 2 YEAR BILL

Summary: Would authorize a material recovery facility to send residual materials containing plastic packaging to a secondary sorting facility with the capacity of sorting or separating plastic packaging material from the residual material for recycling. The bill would encourage a solid waste landfill that receives solid waste that contains plastic packaging to send the plastic packaging to a material recovery facility, secondary sorting facility, or to a recycling facility that has the capability to sort, separate, or recycle plastic packaging material. *Position: Watch*

#### **SB 168 (Wieckowski D) Extended Producer Responsibility: Beverage Container Recycling Act of 2017.**

Location: 2 YEAR BILL

Summary: Would require distributors of beverage containers in the state to form a beverage container stewardship organization. The organization would be required to develop and submit a plan and budget for the recovery and recycling of empty beverage containers similar to that described in the Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act, and would require the organization to establish a stewardship fee, to be paid by distributor members of the organization, to assist in covering the costs of implementing the program. *Position: Watch*

### PLASTICS

#### **AB 958 (Ting D) Hazardous materials: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.**

Location: 6/14/2017-S. E.Q.

Summary: Would prohibit a person or entity from manufacturing, selling, or distributing in commerce any product that contains perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances with eight or more carbon atoms. Because the bill would create a new crime, it would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require the department to revise the 2015–17 Priority Product Work Plan, and subsequent work plans, as necessary, to include food contact substances containing perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances for consideration and evaluation as potential priority products under the Green Chemistry program. *Position: Watch*

#### **AB 1294 (Berman D) Solid waste: plastic products.**

Location: 6/7/2017-S. APPR.

Summary: Current law, until January 1, 2018, requires a manufacturer or supplier of plastic products making an environmental marketing claim relating to the recycled content of a plastic food container product to maintain specified information and documentation in written form in its records in support of that claim. Current law provides for the imposition of a civil penalty by a city, county, or the state for a violation of those provisions. This bill would extend indefinitely the provision concerning recycled content market claims. *Position: Watch*

#### **AB 1594 (Bloom D) Ocean protection: plastic pollution.**

Location: 6/8/2017-S. RLS.

Summary: Would require the Ocean Protection Council, on or before March 1, 2018, to compile existing data identifying the primary sources and types of ocean plastic pollution, as determined by an analysis of beach cleanup efforts in the state, including recommendations to be provided to the Legislature regarding legislative action or other strategies that may be implemented by the state to reduce plastic pollution on state beaches and in ocean waters. *Position: Watch*

#### **SB 705 (Allen D) EPS Ban: expanded polystyrene food service containers.**

Location: 2 YEAR BILL

Summary: Would enact the Ocean Pollution Reduction Act of 2017. The bill would prohibit a food vendor, as defined, that is subject to specified federal requirements for the posting of calories and nutrients imposed upon restaurants and other retail food establishments, on and after January 1, 2020, from dispensing prepared food to a customer in an expanded polystyrene food service container. The bill would prohibit all food vendors from dispensing prepared food to a customer in an expanded polystyrene food service container on and after January 1, 2022. *Position: Watch*

(Continued, see page 33)

**RECYCLING**

**AB 319 (Stone, Mark D) Recycling: single-use plastic beverage container caps.**

Location: 2 YEAR BILL

Summary: The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, which is administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, requires every rigid plastic packaging container, as defined, sold or offered for sale in this state, to generally meet one of specified criteria. This bill would prohibit a retailer, on and after January 1, 2020, from selling or offering for sale a single-use plastic beverage container with a cap that is not tethered to or contiguously affixed to the beverage container. The bill would define terms for purposes of these provisions. *Position: Watch*

**AB 906 (Bloom D) Beverage containers: polyethylene terephthalate.**

Location: 5/18/2017-S. E.Q.

Summary: Would, on and after October 1, 2018, define polyethylene terephthalate for the purposes of the labeling requirement as a plastic having certain characteristics, including, among other things, a melting peak temperature, as determined by a specified procedure, within a specified temperature range. Because the mislabeling of a bottle or container made of polyethylene terephthalate that does not meet those physical characteristics would be a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws. *Position: Watch*

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**AB 881 (Gallagher R) Property taxation: new construction exclusion: methane digester.**

Location: 3/23/2017-A. REV. & TAX

Summary: The California Constitution generally limits ad valorem taxes on real property to 1% of the full cash value of that property. For purposes of this limitation, “full cash value” is defined as the assessor’s valuation of real property as shown on the 1975-76 tax bill under “full cash value” or, thereafter, the appraised value of that real property when purchased, newly constructed, or a change in ownership has occurred. This bill would exclude from classification as “newly constructed” and “new construction” the construction or addition, on or after January 1, 2018, of a methane digester or methane digester electric generating system, as provided. By imposing new duties upon county assessors, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. *Position: Watch*

**AB 1036 (McCarty D) Organic waste: composting.**

Location: 5/18/2017-S. E.Q.

Summary: Current law requires the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Food and Agriculture, with the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the State Air Resources Board, to, among other things, assess the state’s progress toward developing the organic waste processing and recycling infrastructure necessary to meet the state goals specified in certain state laws and documents. This bill would require those entities to assess the state’s progress towards developing the organic waste processing and recycling infrastructure necessary to meet the state goals specified in an additional state law, as provided, and would make other changes in these provisions. *Position: Watch*

**AB 1342 (Flora R) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: healthy forest programs, organic waste projects, and recycling projects.**

Location: 2 YEAR BILL

Summary: Would make moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, upon appropriation, available to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for healthy forest programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by uncontrolled wildfires, as specified; to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery for instate organic waste recycling projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as specified; and to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery for instate recycling projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help achieve the state’s policy goal that not less than 75% of solid waste generated be source reduced, recycled, or composted by the year 2020. *Position: Watch*

(Continued, see page 34)

**GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION**

**AB 151 (Burke D) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: market-based compliance mechanisms: scoping plan: report.**

Location: 6/5/2017-A. THIRD READING

Summary: Would require the State Air Resources Board to report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature to receive input, guidance, and assistance before adopting guidelines and regulations implementing the scoping plan and a regulation ensuring statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 40% below the 1990 level by 2030. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws. *Position: Watch*

**AB 378 (Garcia, Cristina D) Greenhouse gases, criteria air pollutants, and toxic air contaminants.**

Location: 5/30/2017-A. RECONSIDERATION

Summary: The California Global Warming Solutions Act requires the State Air Resources Board, when adopting rules and regulations to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions beyond the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit and to protect the state’s most impacted and disadvantaged communities, to follow specified requirements, consider the social costs of the emissions of greenhouse gases, and prioritize specified emission reduction rules and regulations. This bill would require the state board to consider and account for the social costs of the emissions of greenhouse gases when adopting those rules and regulations. *Position: Watch*

**MANUFACTURING/EMPLOYMENT**

**AB 450 (Chiu D) Employment regulation: immigration worksite enforcement actions.**

Location: 6/14/2017-S. L. & I.R.

Summary: Would impose various requirements on public and private employers with regard to federal immigration agency immigration worksite enforcement actions. Except as otherwise required by federal law, the bill would prohibit an employer from providing a federal immigration enforcement agent access to nonpublic areas of a place of labor without a warrant and, except as otherwise provided by federal law, would prohibit an employer from providing voluntary access to a federal government immigration enforcement agent to the employer’s employee records without a subpoena. *Position: Watch*

**AB 600 (Cooper D) Sales and use taxes: exemption: manufacturing and research: useful life: electric power generation.**

Location: 5/10/2017-A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: Current sales and use tax laws partially exempt from those taxes, until July 1, 2018, the gross receipts from the sale of, and the storage, use, or other consumption of, specified tangible personal property purchased for use by a qualified person, as defined, to be used primarily in manufacturing or other processes, and in research and development. Consumables with a useful life of less than one year do not qualify for exemption, and useful life is defined by reference to state income or franchise taxes. This bill, on and after January 1, 2018, and before July 1, 2028, would additionally define useful life by reference to manufacturer or other warranties, maintenance contracts, and normal replacement as established by industry or business practices, would additionally exempt from those taxes special purpose buildings and foundations used for the generation, production, storage, or distribution, as defined, of electric power, and would expand the definition of qualified person to include, among others, a person primarily engaged in the business of electric power generation. *Position: Watch*

**AB 708 (Quirk-Silva D) Occupational safety and health: accidents: responding agency notifications.**

Location: 6/8/2017-S. L. & I.R.

Summary: The California Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1973 requires a state, county, or local fire or police agency that is called to an accident involving an employee covered by the act in which a serious injury or illness, or death occurs to immediately notify the nearest office of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health by telephone. This bill would revise that immediate notification requirement to apply to accidents in which death or loss of limb occurs and would instead require a responding agency called to an accident in which a serious injury or illness, other than death or loss of limb, occurs, to notify the nearest office of the division by telephone or electronic means within 24 hours. *Position: Watch*

(Continued, see page 35)

**AB 814 (Bloom D) Consumer protection: enforcement powers: investigatory subpoena.**

Location: 6/13/2017-S. APPR.

Summary: Current law authorizes a district attorney, upon reasonable belief there has been a violation of the Unfair Competition (UCL) or various other laws related to unfair business practices, to exercise all the powers granted to the Attorney General as a head of department to investigate the potential violation, including the authority to issue subpoenas. This bill would specify that this investigatory power granted to the Attorney General as a head of a department applies to a city attorney of a city having a population in excess of 750,000 or to a city attorney of a city and county when those city attorneys reasonably believe that there may have been a violation of the UCL. *Position: Watch*

**AB 912 (Obernolte R) Small business: California Small Business Regulatory Fairness Act.**

Location: 2 YEAR BILL

Summary: Would require a state agency to assist a small business, as defined, in complying with all statutes and regulations administered by the state agency and in any enforcement action by the state agency. The bill would require a state agency to establish a policy, by December 31, 2018, that provides for the reduction of civil penalties for violations of regulatory or statutory requirements by a small business under appropriate circumstances. The bill would authorize the state agency to update the policy to reflect current issues and conditions affecting small businesses and the state agency. *Position: Watch*

**AB 916 (Quirk-Silva D) Workforce development: career training and business needs.**

Location: 6/8/2017-S. L. & I.R.

Summary: The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 provides for workforce investment activities, including activities in which states may participate. Current law contains various programs for job training and employment development, including work incentive programs, as specified, and establishes local workforce development boards to perform duties related to the implementation and coordination of local workforce development activities. This bill would add to those duties requirements to identify and promote sector strategies, career pathways, and earn-and-learn training models that support new ways of working, as specified. *Position: Watch*

**AB 1132 (Garcia, Cristina D) Air pollution: order for abatement.**

Location: 6/1/2017-S. E.Q.

Summary: Current law regulates the emission of air pollutants by stationary sources and authorizes the regional air quality management districts and air pollution control districts (air districts) to enforce those requirements. Current law authorizes the governing boards and the hearing boards of air districts to issue an order for abatement, after notice and an abatement hearing, whenever they find a violation of those requirements. This bill would authorize the air pollution control officer, if the officer finds that any person is causing an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare, or the environment, by violating those requirements, to issue an interim order for abatement pending an abatement hearing before the hearing board of the air district. *Position: Watch*

**AB 1583 (Chau D) Proposition 65: enforcement: certificate of merit: factual basis.**

Location: 6/8/2017-S. E.Q.

Summary: The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 provides for enforcement by an action brought by any person in the public interest, if that private action is commenced more than 60 days after the person has given notice of the violation that is the subject of the action to the Attorney General and the district attorney, the city attorney, or the prosecutor in whose jurisdiction the violation is alleged to have occurred, and to the alleged violator. Current law requires factual information sufficient to establish the basis of the certificate of merit to be attached to the certificate of merit that is served on the Attorney General. This bill would require, if the Attorney General believes there is not merit to the action after reviewing the factual information sufficient to establish the basis for the certificate of merit and meeting and conferring with the noticing party regarding the basis for the certificate of merit, the Attorney General to serve a letter to the noticing party and the alleged violator stating the Attorney General believes there is not merit to the action. *Position: Watch*

(Continued, see page 36)

**SB 189 (Bradford D) Workers' compensation: definition of employee.**

Location: 6/1/2017-A. INS.

Summary: Current law defines an employee, for purposes of the laws governing workers' compensation, to include, among other persons, officers and members of boards of directors of quasi-public or private corporations while rendering actual service for the corporations for pay. Current law excludes from that definition an officer or member of the board of directors of a quasi-public or private corporation who owns at least 15% of the issued and outstanding stock and executes a written waiver of his or her rights under the laws governing workers' compensation, stating under penalty of perjury that he or she is a qualifying officer or director. This bill would expand the scope of the exception described above to apply to an officer or member of the board of directors of a quasi-public or private corporation who owns at least 10% of the issued and outstanding stock and executes a written waiver, as above. *Position: Watch*

**SB 551 (Hueso D) California Pollution Control Financing Authority: Capital Access Loan Program for Small Businesses.**

Location: 5/26/2017-A. J., E.D. & E.

Summary: Current law, commencing April 1, 2017, requires a participating financial institution, when making a qualified loan that will be enrolled under existing law, to require the qualified business to which the loan is made to pay a fee of not less than 2% of the principal amount of the loan, but not more than 3 1/2% of the principal amount, for deposit in the loss reserve account. This bil would require the qualified business to which the loan is made to pay a fee of not less than 1% of the principal loan, but not more than 3 1/2% of the principal amount, for deposit in the loss reserve account. *Position: Watch*



ONE-FOURTH OF THE MONEY GENERATED FROM CAP-AND-TRADE AUCTIONS MUST BE SPENT TO BENEFIT POOR PARTS OF THE STATE.

**LEGISLATION:**

**CAPITOL FOCUSES ON ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE—BUT WILL IT LEAD TO REAL RESULTS?**

BY LAUREL ROSENHALL, CAL MATTERS

As Gov. Jerry Brown seeks support to extend a key environmental policy in California, he is planning a trip to a gritty corner of the state: the blue-collar neighborhoods southeast of Los Angeles, where thousands of people live alongside rail yards that spew plumes of smoke and freeways rumbling with big rigs.

Brown is better known as a global environmentalist: His zeal for fighting climate change has taken him to Paris, Rome and Canada for meetings with world leaders, and he's going to China next month for a clean energy forum with officials from two dozen countries.

But his Los Angeles trip reflects the rise of environmental justice concerns inside the Capitol. A new generation of legislators and the growing clout of eco-advocates from urban communities is changing the focus of environmental debates in California. Once sidelined as a fringe voice of activism, the "environmental justice" perspective—focused on how environmental decisions impact poor communities and people of color—is now at the center of high-profile deliberations.

It's emerged at the California Air Resources Board, which is overseeing plans by Volkswagen to

invest \$800 million in the state as part of the legal settlement over its emissions cheating scandal. And it's become pervasive at the state Capitol, where lawmakers are wrestling with proposals to extend California's cap-and-trade program, a key piece of the state's fight against global warming that makes industry pay for emitting too many greenhouse gases. The environmental justice perspective is gradually coming into the mainstream across state government, as new laws add representatives who work on those issues to commissions that regulate air quality and coastal access.

But the Legislature's record on environmental justice issues in recent years is mixed, and it's an open question whether the burgeoning focus will result in major policy wins this year.

"The (traditional) environmental movement has definitely overlooked certain parts of California," said Democratic Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia of Bell Gardens, who invited Brown to visit her district in southeast Los Angeles County. "Things are getting better. But clearly we still have work to do."

She wants the governor to see how close her constituents live to freeways, rail yards and toxic

industrial sites correlated with asthma and other health problems. And her invitation comes at an opportune time: Brown wants the Legislature to approve a plan this year to extend cap and trade past 2020. To protect the program from legal challenges, he's seeking a two-thirds vote. The high bar gives lawmakers leverage to try to steer cap and trade in a different direction, and they're looking at ways to put pollution that impacts Californians on par with emissions that warm the planet.

A Senate bill would eliminate cap and trade's use of carbon offsets, which allow companies to pollute in California if they pay for environmental benefits somewhere else. Garcia has introduced a bill [[click here](#)] that would expand the kinds of pollution monitored under the cap-and-trade program, so that it not only limits greenhouse gases emissions but also particulate pollution that can cause respiratory problems in those who live near industrial sites.

"We're doing both: We're talking about the global society, making sure the earth is not getting too warm too quickly, but we're also taking care of our own backyard," she said.

(Continued, see Rise, page 38)

RISE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN CA [CONT'D]

Garcia, who heads the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, is one of several lawmakers who hail from working-class communities that suffer from environmental pollution and now hold influential positions in the Legislature. The Democratic leaders of both houses—Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León—also represent urban, largely Latino neighborhoods and have prioritized environmental issues. Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia of Coachella—who chairs the Water, Parks and Wildlife committee—has also emerged as a new voice for environmental justice.

“You have new legislators who are bringing in new perspectives,” said Amy Vanderwarker, co-director of the California Environmental Justice Alliance, an advocacy group.

Yet the Legislature last month approved a gas tax bill to fund backlogged road repairs over the objections of environmental justice advocates. They opposed a last-minute amendment that eased environmental requirements on the trucking industry. It’s an example of the kind of concerns lawmakers are frequently asked to balance as industry groups contend that

California environmental regulations are bad for business.

Garcia said the concession to help trucks that rumble through her district from the Long Beach port makes her feel she needs to “fight that much harder” to look out for her community in the upcoming cap-and-trade debate.

Some environmental justice advocates are calling for even more radical changes. The advisory committee that reports to Brown’s Air Resources Board proposes eliminating cap and trade altogether and replacing it with a system that gives polluters less leeway.

But disadvantaged communities reap some benefits from cap and trade. One-fourth of the money generated from cap-and-trade auctions must be spent to benefit poor parts of the state, on things like solar power, electric vehicles and low-carbon transit. Brown highlighted these funds at a recent budget press conference in which he made the case that lawmakers should approve an extension of cap and trade this year.

“On the climate change front, it’s crucial that we get that cap and trade now. On the point of environmental justice, it’s also cru-

cial,” Brown said. “I don’t think we should turn our backs on the low-income communities of California by destroying millions and millions of dollars that they are now slated to get but will not get if the cap and trade is destroyed.”

Benefits to low-income communities—or lack thereof—have also emerged as a point of contention in the debate over how Volkswagen will spend \$800 million in California. It’s one piece of a larger legal settlement the car manufacturer reached with the government last year after it admitted installing technology to cheat pollution limits.

Volkswagen agreed to invest \$800 million in installing charging stations and other infrastructure to support an expansion of electric cars. But environmental justice advocates are pushing back, saying the carmaker’s plan doesn’t do enough to bring clean car technology to polluted areas where many residents are poor.

“Priority will be given to areas where VW can make the most money, places like Palo Alto, Beverly Hills and La Jolla. VW pays lip service to low-income communities—and the real money goes elsewhere,” Dean Florez, a member of the Air

Resources Board, wrote in a recent op-ed [[click here](#)].

Florez, a former legislator from the Central Valley, was appointed to the board following a 2015 law that required adding two environmental justice representatives. The air board also recently hired an executive, Veronica Eady, to coordinate environmental justice work throughout the agency.

Eady, a lawyer who recently moved back to California after living in New York and Massachusetts, said she’s awed by how much power the environmental justice movement here has gained: “There is a real partnership with the Legislature that has really put (environmental justice) issues front and center.”

Expanding government boards to include environmental justice representatives is becoming more common in California. Last year lawmakers passed a bill to require an environmental justice representative be added to the Coastal Commission, and this year, a bill proposes adding one to the Transportation Commission. ●

*Reprinted from [calmatters.org](#), May 17, 2017.*



THESE PROGRAMS ARE REALLY NOT VERY MUCH MONEY BUT THEY HAVE A TERRIFIC IMPACT ON MANUFACTURING.

**LEGISLATION:**

**INDUSTRY LOOKS TO DEFEND FEDERAL RECYCLING PROGRAM**

BY COLIN STAUB, RESOURCE RECYCLING

Recycling organizations will try to sell Congress on the economic and environmental benefits of the U.S. EPA's Waste Minimization and Recycling program, which is cut in President Trump's proposed budget.

An initial budget document released in March made clear that EPA would be targeted by the new administration for cuts. But the official proposal released last month, titled "A New Foundation for American Greatness," included appropriations reports containing much more detail about how those cuts would pencil out for specific programs.

A brief note links the cut to a wider back-to-basics directional focus the Trump administration has established for EPA.

"State and local entities or industry groups may elect to continue work to reuse and recycle materials," the appropriations report states, adding that EPA "will focus on core environmental work."

The proposal actually cuts more than was previously anticipated by EPA watchdog group the Environmental Protection Network. The group earlier cited internal budget documents suggesting Waste Minimization and Recycling, an \$8.8 million recycling program, would be cut by 20 percent, not eliminated altogether.

From here, both the House of Representatives and Senate will pass budget resolutions that set limits for spending but do not get into program specifics. Appropriations committees and subcommittees of each chamber will delve into program funding and come up with budget bills, which go back before each full chamber for floor votes. Once both the House and Senate have passed their own budget bills and have worked through the differences between the two in a conference committee, the final budget goes to the president for a decision.

Ideally, that all happens before Oct. 1, when the new fiscal year begins.

**Specifics spur action**

With more detail on which programs are in danger of losing funding, the lobbying will begin.

Billy Johnson, chief lobbyist for the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), said the Waste Minimization and Recycling program performs important work for the recycling industry as well as companies that use recycled materials.

ISRI's goal will be to "make (lawmakers) aware that these programs are really not very much money but they have a terrific impact on manufacturing as well as environmental protection," Johnson said. "I think they'll be very willing to listen to that."

Lobbyists will point not only to the environmental benefits, but to the economic impact of recycling, including job creation, municipal savings from avoided tip fees and the recycled material returning into the market to generate further commercial activities.

"I don't think that they are connecting the dots, and I think that's our job, is to try to help them connect them," Johnson said. "I think when they do, they're going to say, 'Oh yeah, we need to be helping there.'"

Johnson noted that the budget will certainly not move forward as written, since "all presidents' budgets are dead on arrival." Still, if the Waste Minimization and Recycling program were to be completely eliminated, Johnson said MRFs and curbside programs would be hurt the most. The majority of post-industrial recycling would not feel an impact, he said, but aluminum, paper and plastic would take a hit because EPA supports municipal collection programs.

"Some of those programs are, I wouldn't say 'propped up,' they're just helped by it," he explained.

**Allies in office**

Few politicians have specifically addressed the recycling-related (Continued, see Cuts, page 40)

EPA TARGETED FOR CUTS [CONT'D]

implications. Johnson said there are members of Congress who “definitely understand how important recycling is for steel, aluminum and paper and will be making that push.”

The Congressional Recycling Caucus was formed in 2006 with support from ISRI. In a statement to Resource Recycling, U.S. Rep. John Shimkus, R-Ill., co-chair of the House recycling caucus, noted EPA’s recycling efforts among those that should be prioritized.

“While the administration is absolutely right to request an overall decrease in funding for EPA, it is our responsibility on Capitol Hill to ensure that specific programs are funded at levels consistent with authorizations,” Shimkus said. “As we work through the budget process, Congress should prioritize programs—particularly site

remediation, technical assistance, and recycling programs—that not only improve our environment but that also generate economic benefits.”

Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark., co-chair on the Senate side, declined to speak to specific cuts because the budget is still only a proposal. In a statement, he noted this is only the beginning of the process, adding that “Congress has the power of the purse.”

Other ranking members of the recycling caucus did not return inquiries.

**Shifting to states**

Although the budget is likely to undergo many changes, the initial proposal is notable for signaling the administration’s priorities. Scott Pruitt, who took over as head of the EPA in February, has emphasized shifting environ-

mental regulatory responsibility away from the federal level.

An overview of the EPA budget proposal explains that “responsibility for funding local environmental efforts and programs is returned to state and local entities, while federal funding supports priority national work.” That could put some states in a financial bind.

“They’re going to have to do a lot of what the government’s paying for,” Johnson said. “A lot of states have relied on the EPA to do a lot of the environmental protection work for them.”

Under that approach, state regulations could also become more disparate, which means more flexibility, Johnson said, but also more inconsistency.

“If you’re in Arkansas they could enforce the same law or regulation very differently than they do

in Texas, or Missouri or California,” Johnson said. “The regions provide a lot of overlay to keep things more or less consistent between those states and the regions.” ●

*Reprinted from [www.resource-recycling.com](http://www.resource-recycling.com), June 4, 2017.*



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**LEGISLATION:**

**'BUYING' THE VOTES FOR A  
GAS-TAX HIKE: IS IT ILLEGAL  
OR JUST GOOD POLITICS?**

BY JIM MILLER, SACRAMENTO BEE

California drivers will begin paying 12 cents per gallon more in gas taxes later this year, the first of several tax and fee hikes contained in this week's road-funding bill that eventually will cost the average motorist about \$120 a year.

It wasn't the sort of vote any politician likes to cast. So the measure's success on Thursday relied on a collection of eleventh-hour sweeteners offered by Gov. Jerry Brown and Democratic legislative leaders to reach the necessary two-thirds super-majority.

Now that the dust has settled, it's clear they doled out nearly \$1 billion in district-specific transportation projects, with a popular commuter train system linking the valley and Bay Area headed to new locales. It also appears architects could get legal indemnity in construction lawsuits, and four Riverside County cities could see a budget boost.

Assembly Republican Leader Chad Mayes, R-Yucca Valley, said some supporters of the measure, Senate Bill 1, had been "bought off."

"When was the last time any member of the Legislature got \$10 million, let alone \$427 million for one group of legislators, and \$500 million for another group of legislators?" asked Mayes after the Assembly sent the measure to Brown. "If the goal that we have in the Legislature is to represent all of California, then our goal shouldn't be, 'Hey, I'm gonna get my pet project for my district at the expense of someone else.'"

California's Constitution says this: "A person who seeks to (Continued, see Vote, page 42)

**JERRY BROWN DEFENDS LOCAL  
PROJECTS IN ROAD REPAIR DEAL**

BY CHRISTOPHER CADELAGO, SACRAMENTO BEE

Brown, who says he will sign the measure when lawmakers return from their spring recess, was unapologetic. Asked about the deal-cutting following the vote, Brown told reporters that all of the money was being spent on worthwhile projects.

"That train going through the Central Valley, does anyone want trains more than me? No!" said Brown, who is behind the multi-billion dollar high-speed rail system now under construction. "To get projects, and parks in some of

the poorest neighborhoods of California, hallelujah!

"Sometimes these bills that take all these different arrangements and compromises help the very people that we came here to serve," Brown added. "And I am here to help all Californians ... What you see in this bill is good. It's all good."

Carl Guardino, president and CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, who heavily lobbied lawmakers to back SB 1, said the assurances reflected good policy,

specifically mentioning the money to pay for the extension of the Altamont Corridor Express train to Ceres and Merced. The cities are in the district of state Sen. Anthony Cannella of Modesto, the only Republican to support SB 1.

"We're talking about the extension of a train that runs at more than 100 percent of capacity, as an alternative to the pock-marked parking lot known as Interstate 580," Guardino said. (Continued, see Brown, page 42)

VOTE BUYING  
[CONT'D]

influence the vote or action of a member of the Legislature in the member's legislative capacity by bribery, promise of reward, intimidation, or other dishonest means, or a member of the Legislature so influenced, is guilty of a felony."

The section rarely results in prosecutions at the Capitol. Prosecutors aren't likely to get involved unless a lawmaker benefits personally from voting for a bill, such as by receiving cash bribes or campaign contributions, experts in political law say.

"They're looking for the big score — a bribery case," said attorney Richard Pio Roda, who helps train local elected officials on ethics laws. "It's a matter of resources for them."

Still, the line between illegal vote-trading and the legal give-and-take of the legislative process can be a fine one.

Jessica Levinson, a Loyola Law School professor and president of the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission, said "vote-trading never happens, but vote-trading always happens."

"Politicians have to be able to compromise and to come to consensus. And I'm certain that part of that is, 'You help me and I'll help you,'" she said. "But you'll rarely have that e-mail where someone says 'I'll vote for this if you vote for that.'" ●

*Reprinted from www.sacbee.com, April 8, 2017.*

GOV. BROWN SAYS DEALS WERE 'ALL GOOD' [CONT'D]

Money for district projects and other incentives have been a longtime part of high-stakes legislative deal-making, when every vote counts and lawmakers often seek recognition of district or other needs. The results have been community centers, tax breaks, friendly political remaps and even changes to the state constitution.

This week's provisions stand out for the openness with which they occurred. Lawmakers spelled out the district-specific money in a separate bill, and recipients touted their gains in press releases.

"Cervantes Secures \$427 Million for Western Riverside County Roads and Infrastructure," read the headline on a press release Assemblywoman Sabrina Cervantes sent out Friday. The money will go to several major interchange and grade separation projects in western Riverside County, a political swing area represented by Cervantes and Democratic state Sen. Richard Roth.

For more than two years, Cannella has been the only Republican lawmaker open about his willingness to support higher gas taxes — as well as his requests for what he wanted for his district.

His support became crucial in recent days when it became clear that Democratic Sen. Steve Glazer would refuse to back the road bill unless it included a ban on transit strikes.

Around the Capitol this week, some insiders privately joked that the Altamont train, known as ACE, should be renamed the "Anthony Cannella Express."

An unabashed Cannella said he's termed out and doesn't intend to run for other offices. He met late Wednesday at the governor's mansion with Brown, Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, D-Paramount.

"At the end of the day, they delivered," Cannella said. "I can't negotiate if I'm not willing to vote for it. I got the things that were important to me."

**Four cities will also benefit.**

Until several years ago, the state's newest cities, all in Riverside County, received an extra boost of revenue to help them get started. In 2011, though, lawmakers approved a budget package that sharply reduced that funding. Since then, Brown has vetoed several measures to restore it, saying it would result in long-term costs "the state's budget cannot afford."

Brown now has agreed to fix the situation, Roth and Cervantes said in a joint statement late Thursday after SB 1's approval.

"We are proud to have worked to secure a commitment from the Administration to properly fund Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Menifee and Wildomar and finally deliver a measure of fairness and equity to Riverside County's four newest cities," they wrote.

Cannella also is in line to get Brown's signature on Senate Bill 496, a bill that emerged early Thursday after undergoing wholesale changes and is tied to the transportation package. The measure would give legal indemnity to design professionals, such

as architects, land surveyors and engineers. Cannella is a civil engineer.

Opponents of that bill, including cities, counties, builders and others, have quickly mobilized to try to stop SB 496, calling it a "special-interest giveaway" to design professionals in a floor alert this week.

Assemblyman Devon Mathis, R-Visalia, said the deal-cutting "gets at the trust issue" with voters. "They are going to go cut deals in the dark so they can tax us more, and then go home and say 'look what I did for you.' You're just cutting your neighbor's throat," he said.

Rumors of other SB 1 vote-getting arrangements lingered in the Capitol this week.

Brown has yet to fill a vacancy on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors created by the Dec. 26 death of former lawmaker John J. Benoit from cancer. Among the rumored finalists for the appointment is former Assemblyman V. Manuel Perez, D-Coachella. As a lawmaker, Perez' district director was Greg Cervantes, the father of Sabrina Cervantes.

De León, Rendon and several other lawmakers, including Cervantes and Roth, have urged Brown to appoint Perez. She declined to talk after Thursday's vote. Brown's office said Friday that the governor is still reviewing candidates. ●

*Reprinted from www.sacbee.com, April 8, 2017.*



ALL POLYMERS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE SUBSTANCES THEY ARE SYNTHESIZED FROM.

## LEGISLATION:

# SAFETY NOT THE ISSUE WITH POLYSTYRENE FOAM

BY GEORGE CRUZAN, OPINION/CAPITOL WEEKLY

If you've been following the debate in Sacramento over the use of foam cups and food containers in California, you probably have heard some outlandish allegations related to their safety.

After 40-plus years as a toxicologist, I can clearly state: There are no adverse health effects on humans from polystyrene foam food and drink containers. As California's elected officials review various proposals, such as recycling these containers, the issue of safety can be set aside.

I suspect that much of the confusion over the safety of polystyrene stems from the similarity in names between polystyrene, a solid plastic, and styrene, a liquid chemical. Although the names sound familiar, polystyrene and styrene are different and have completely different properties. Styrene is a reactive substance that combines to form inert polystyrene. In other words, polystyrene does not have the properties of styrene.

This is true of all polymers (what we typically call plastics): they are different from the substances they are synthesized from. A common example is the difference between sugar and wood. Sugar is a substance with distinct properties. Join many sugar molecules together, and you get cellulose, the main polymer in wood.

So as we look at the safety of a polymer/plastic such as poly-

styrene, we should focus on the polymer, not its precursors. And polystyrene polymer is safe.

Some have questioned the potential impact of the tiny amount of styrene that can remain in the polystyrene polymer. The amount is minuscule and was difficult to detect until recent technological advances. The amount that potentially can transfer into foods is even smaller and is dwarfed by the amount of styrene that we all come into contact with in our daily lives.

A naturally occurring chemical, styrene was first extracted from the oriental sweetgum tree (also called levant styrax, after which styrene is named). The natural resin can be used as incense or to add a vanilla-like scent, while the oil has a woody aroma. Styrene's chemical structure is similar to cinnamic aldehyde, the chemical component that creates cinnamon's flavor.

Styrene is naturally present in several foods. It has been measured in foods that have not had contact with polystyrene containers. It is present in the highest concentration in coffee, cinnamon, beer and nuts.

In fact, styrene is everywhere in minute amounts. The air surrounding us always contains styrene from automobile exhaust, smoke, plant emissions and other sources. We also may recognize styrene by its distinctive odor (described by some as

sweet) when using certain products such as latexes and paints.

The minute amount of styrene that may transfer from polystyrene containers into food or drink is about one-twentieth the overall amount we encounter every day when eating and breathing. Based on U.S. FDA's safety calculations, this overall amount is orders-of-magnitude less than the agency's "acceptable daily intake" of styrene.

In other words, there is no measurable risk. No governmental safety entity considers polystyrene a health risk. Numerous U.S. and state agencies, including the FDA, National Toxicology Program, National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences, and Cal EPA, have stated such.

There are real risks out there that require our attention. And it's important to make sure we use the best available science to measure and reduce those risks.

Polystyrene foam just isn't one of those risks. ●

*Toxicologist George Cruzan has a PhD in chemistry from The King's College and a PhD in biochemistry from Purdue University. He has served as president of ToxWorks, a toxicology consulting firm, since 1995, and occasionally provides professional services to the American Chemistry Council.*

*Reprinted from capitolweekly.net, May 24, 2017.*

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**MEMBER NEWS:**

**ADMIRAL PACKAGING ADDS 10C MIRAFLEX FLEXOGRAPHIC PRESS TO PRINTING CAPACITY**

Admiral Packaging, a mid-sized, nationally operating converter producing a variety of products for general food packaging, has stepped up printing capacity with the addition of a 10-color MIRAFLEX C II flexographic printing press from Windmoeller & Hoelscher.

The new press joins a 10-color NOVOFLEX, also from W&H, and provides Admiral with greater flexibility of job management as well as the ability to get customers' jobs to market quicker. A new inset feature for second pass printing such as matte finish and varnish applications has opened new opportunities for new and existing customers.

The MIRAFLEX II C was introduced at drupa 2016. The line at Admiral is the first in the U.S. and is equipped with W&H's fully-integrated VISION web inspection system with defect check and color check as well as the color management system EASY-COL. These automation and assistance systems give the machine operator complete overview and control of the job on press. An additional feature on the new press is the award-winning TURBOCLEAN ADVANCED E inking and wash-up system with electric pulsation-free pumps, which will help Admiral cut down on energy and ink consumption.

Robert Hummell, Production Manager at Admiral, reports that the EASY modules and W&H VISION system help get a 10c job up and running at 1,500 – 2,000 fpm in just a few minutes. "There are a lot of great new features that make the new MIRAFLEX II easy to work with, allowing us to be more efficient and deliver great throughput to the rest of our operation."

According to Admiral Vice President, John Wilbur, "We were looking to get the next generation of sophistication to provide the tools for us to reduce cycle times even further while increasing process rates. The MIRAFLEX II C fits nicely with Admiral's Lean manufacturing culture. We will continue to identify waste and work tirelessly to remove it!"

**ABOUT ADMIRAL:**

Admiral Packaging, Inc. is a 4th generation family-owned business headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island. Admiral Packaging, Inc. is a leader in printed, laminated and converted flexible packaging. Admiral Packaging, Inc. is committed to continually invest in people, technology and the environment. With Lean Manufacturing principles at its core, Admiral Packaging, Inc. delivers flexible packaging throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. To

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**ABOUT WINDMÖLLER & HÖLSCHER:**

Windmüller & Hölscher, a family-owned company, is world leader for machinery and systems for the manufacturing and converting of flexible packaging. The product portfolio includes high-performance machines for film extrusion, printing and converting. As a global company W&H offers its clients everything from a single source: from expert consultation and engineering to the delivery of high quality machines and complete packaging production lines. Approximately 2,500 employees create optimal solutions for the individual production tasks of flexible packaging producers—bringing the corporate philosophy "Passion for Innovation" to life. Machines from Windmüller & Hölscher are in use in over 130 countries and by more than 5,000 customers. In 2015 the Windmüller & Hölscher Group, headquartered in Lengerich, Germany, reached sales of approximately 720 Mio. EUR. ●

*Press release reprinted from Windmoeller & Hoelscher, April 27, 2017.*



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**MEMBER NEWS:**

**WHERE OTHERS SMELL TROUBLE,  
CEO ANOOSHEH OSKOUIAN SEES  
POLLUTION SOLUTIONS**

BY WENDY DONAHUE, CRAIN'S LOS ANGELES

At age 14, Anoosheh Oskouian persuaded her parents in Iran to allow her to move to the United States—alone—to attend high school and then college, where she studied chemical engineering.

Oskouian's tolerance for strategic risk would later lead her to drain her 401(k) to buy a Long Beach, Calif.-based sheet metal company. She has since converted it into a full-scale pollution abatement firm, Ship & Shore Environmental Inc., with \$12 million in annual sales. Clients include plastics, chemicals, aerospace and printing companies across the U.S. and beyond.

As California debates the merits of its cap and trade program, Oskouian's company goes about cutting greenhouse gases in its own way, one that underscores its CEO's penchant for taking the road less traveled.

*Q: What made you convert Ship & Shore to a pollution abatement company?*

Oskouian: I used to work at Fluor Daniel, one of the top engineering firms in the country. I wanted to see where all of this engineering and design work goes—how the systems are built, assembled and installed. In the late '90s I stumbled across Ship & Shore, which was a sheet metal com-

pany and built parts, but nothing highly technical or sophisticated. They had no engineers in house.

I joined in 1996 as a sales engineer. I said to the owner, "How about if we take it up a notch and bring in a couple of engineers and, rather than be just installers, install our own equipment?"

I thought, what better opportunity than the environmental field? Because there was a lot of need for air pollution [solutions], with the Environmental Protection Agency wanting to clamp down and make sure the air we breathe is cleaner. We were in California where the local agency is even stronger than the EPA.

*Q: How did you become the owner of Ship & Shore?*

Oskouian: I was with the company for about five years with different ownership and a different mindset. The gentleman eventually said, "I have no idea what you guys are up to," because he was not an engineer. He said, "To continue, you need to buy the assets from me because I'm not interested in continuing the business as such."

The entrepreneurial side of me and maybe a visionary side of me came out, with the underlying fact that there was not a woman in the [pollution abatement] industry and the implicit mes-

sage that there's no way that a woman can come in and do this. People told me, "You'd better stick to being behind the desk." I thought, maybe everything they say I can't do, maybe I really should do.

So I bought all of the assets and re-established the company. I have been CEO since June 2000.

*Q: Were you nervous?*

Oskouian: Nervous yet confident. It was a nerve-wracking time because I literally used every penny I had saved in my 401(k) from Fluor Daniel to come in and buy the assets. I was concerned whether this was the right thing. But you know that little voice inside—and I believe a lot of women have it, maybe stronger than some men at times—I believe in a woman's intuition. If we put our head and that little voice together, we can really conquer the world. That gave me the confidence, that this is the one time I have to do this and do it right.

I remember not sleeping for a few nights, but I'm happy about every challenge I've had and every move we've made.

*Q: Fast-forward to today: What does Ship & Shore do now?*

Oskouian: We help manufacturers to control the emissions they  
(Continued, see CEO, page 47)

CEO SEES POLLUTION SOLUTIONS [CONT'D]

generate through their processes. And when I give examples, people say, "Oh, I had no idea these companies would have any emissions." What comes off the process of making things, like paint, if you have any chemicals, making them or mixing them or making them into a new product, the volatile organic compounds, VOCs, or emissions, are produced, and they have to be released in order for a chemical compound to be formed, for bonding to occur.

A lot of companies have chimneys or smokestacks, or ducts, and release that polluted air into the atmosphere. Ship & Shore captures that polluted air coming from any size facility, and we take it into our equipment. Our system destroys the pollutants and you have clean air coming out the other side.

About 15 or 20 years ago, when people flew into LAX, there was so much smog that you really could barely see where you were landing; there was a yellow haze all across the area. Right now, if you fly into LAX, the quality of air is much better than many comparable-size cities. The local agency as well as the EPA has really cleaned up the industry.

All you have to do is drive a little farther south to the border, to Mexico, and you literally can see the difference. And worse than that, fly to China. You go to a big city and you feel like you're breathing out of a chimney because there is this heavy air all of the time.

*Q: How does what you do relate to cap and trade?*

Oskouian: Cap and trade entails the measurement of your carbon footprint. What the nation is doing in many places is they are rating the carbon that any facility may be producing. So if there is a huge refinery where they are still putting out a lot more emissions than are allowed, they would have to buy emission credits. They basically pay in order to be able to operate, to create more pollution than others. Because in many cases they've done everything they can to reduce emissions but just can't get them down to the allowable amount.

Our company reduces everything by 98 to 99 percent so a facility does not need to buy emission credits.

*Q: How do you turn polluted air into clean air?*

Oskouian: We have a very strong engineering background in-house and we have been able to organically create a lot of different solutions. One particular system is a regenerative thermal oxidizer. We treat all the polluted air inside this unit, and through very little natural gas consumption, we combust all the pollutants in the system. In addition, because there's a combustion process, heat is available, and we return it back to the plant so they can use it for plant heating or other processes. We take your emissions and turn them into assets.

*Q: Are you the only company doing this?*

Oskouian: I wish I could say we had a monopoly, but there are a few other companies that do this in the country. Some are much larger companies. The one thing that makes us unique is that we are the only company that does design, engineering, manufacturing and installation all under one roof. We don't have off-the-shelf systems to sell. We design around exactly what customers need.

*Q: Is your business just in California?*

Oskouian: We are nationwide as well as worldwide. A year and a half ago we were invited by China's equivalent of the EPA to go share our expertise. One reason that happened is, I serve on several boards, including one for the South Coast AQMD [Air Quality Management District], the toughest and most respected air quality agency in the country, and we have received a lot of recognition as a result.

China is not an easy country to walk into and feel comfortable about sharing technology, but we teamed up with a company in Shanghai that is very similar to ours in mindset as well as operation and manufacturing, in addition to being a woman-owned business. That is nice, very heartwarming for me. I go days and months and hardly ever come across a woman, and for her in China, it's the same. She also happens to be a chemical engineer. There are a lot of similarities, and maybe it was meant to be.

*Q: Why do you think so few girls choose engineering?*

Oskouian: I just think it's the same way as when I wanted to get into this. People said, "Don't think about getting into something so male-dominated." The "natural" thing is that women should not be in particular fields, and that, on its own, puts doubt in a girl's mind. If they're skeptical to begin with, they go in a different direction. I have been an advocate, as much as I can, to encourage girls to take up technical fields and study engineering. We truly are in desperate need of good engineers to begin with. For a while, engineering schools didn't have enough applicants. That is a shame.

The U.S. is built upon having all types of industries. If we want to bring manufacturing back to this country, we should have the man and woman power to support it. There are a lot of positions that will never be filled by non-immigrants. The immigrants who work in this country work in positions that are beyond belief. It will never be completely filled by—I can't even call them "pure Americans" because everyone is a mix here!

*Q: What surprises people to learn about you?*

Oskouian: It surprises them when I tell them I immigrated here by myself as a 14-year-old girl, before the [Iranian] revolution. I was in love with the U.S. My parents finally agreed to let  
(Continued, see CEO, page 48)

CEO [CONT'D]

me move in with my cousins in Denver, who were much older, after much negotiation in which I promised to stay true to what my passion was, to study.

After nine months with my cousins, I realized I would not go anywhere if I stayed in that household that didn't have education and studying as a priority. I truly was committed to what I wanted to do and what I wanted to become. So after nine months, I moved out on my own. I was the only kid in high school who was living by herself. The news traveled, and my classmates said, "This is the best person to be friends with; we can party every night." I imposed my own curfew; I kicked everyone out at 9 or 10 o'clock. I knew I couldn't afford to get in trouble because I didn't have anyone to look after me.

Looking back now, would I be willing to do that with my own son? Probably not. But I try to raise him very independent because you never know. The only time I give myself a little pat on the back is looking back at those days. I did OK by what I had promised to my parents; I stayed true to what I told them I was going to do. The challenges have made me who I am. ●

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## 4 ORANGE COUNTY WOMEN FETED FOR ROLES IN BUSINESS

BY HANNAH MADANS, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Four women will be honored May 11 for their leadership roles as longtime business owners and executives.

The awards will be presented at the Women Business Owners, Orange County Chapter's 21st Annual Remarkable Women Awards Gala. The theme this year is "Stand."

"Our four honorees epitomize what you can accomplish when you stand for what you believe, stand in the face of obstacles, stand up for others, and stand together," said NAWBO-OC President Liz Camaur.

This year's honorees are:

**Women Business Advocate of the Year: Loreen Gilbert**

The Laguna Beach resident opened Irvine-based financial planning firm WealthWise Financial 20 years ago.

Gilbert serves as the company's founder and president. She is the only Californian and the only woman on the Trump Pence Small Business Advisory Council, which has 19 members.

**Lifetime Achievement Award: Heidi Hendy**

The Newport Beach resident started H. Hendy Associates, also in Newport Beach, in the 1970s. Hendy serves as the firm's managing principal.

**Business Owner of the Year: Anoosheh Oskouian**

The Newport Beach resident started Ship & Shore Environmental in 2000. She is an Iranian native who immigrated to the U.S. when she was 14.

Ship & Shore produces pollution abatement systems.

Oskouian also launched Green Energy Industrial Solutions in 2010 to help people reduce energy costs.

**Entrepreneur to Watch: Scharrell Jackson**

The Lake Forest resident founded Newport Beach-based Leadership in Heels, a speaker series.

The series began in 2015 and has hosted five sold-out events. Jackson serves as Leadership in Heels' chief executive.

She is also the COO and CFO for accounting firm Squar Milner. At the company, she established a philanthropic team that partners with various organization.

The women will be honored at the City National Grove of Anaheim on May 11. Tickets start at \$95. More information can be found by calling 626-292-1400 or visiting [nawbo-oc.org](http://nawbo-oc.org).

Founded in 1991, the local chapter of NAWBO provides information, resources and an environment for women business owners to help them thrive and grow. ●

*Reprinted from [ocregister.com](http://ocregister.com), May 1, 2017.*



OUR STRATEGY IS TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF PROVIDING INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS THAT PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES.

**MEMBER NEWS:**

**LAYFIELD GROUP WINS CANADA'S BEST MANAGED COMPANIES AWARD**

Layfield Group Ltd. was honored with the prestigious Canada's Best Managed Companies designation. The 2017 Best Managed program recognizes the best-in-class of Canadian-owned and managed companies with revenues over \$15 million demonstrating strategy, capability, and commitment to achieve sustainable growth.

Established in 1993, Canada's Best Managed Companies is one of the country's leading business awards programs recognizing Canadian-owned and managed companies for innovative, world-class business practices.

Layfield stood out from other candidates for their commitment and success in the execution of their strategy, financial planning, sustained performance and emphasis on employee engagement. Canada's Best Managed Companies offers this award to Layfield Group as an acknowledgment of their business and

management success. Founded in 1978, Layfield manufactures and supplies innovative plastics solutions to a wide range of industries across the world.

"As a family business, Layfield views success not by quarterly results, but rather by the longterm overall health and growth of the organization. Even in difficult economic times, we continue to invest in quality people, leading technologies, and capabilities that support our long-term vision. This award is a confirmation that we know how to manage our business and that we can meet our customers' needs. We're excited that you placed your trust in us, and we will continue to strive to be the best and do the right thing," said Tom Rose, President and CEO.

Layfield's strategy is to be at the forefront of providing unique, innovative, sustainable products that protect our communities, families and the environment.

Just a few examples of Layfield's innovative products include: Aqua Dams, used for flood protection; Evaporation Control Covers, used to protect and preserve water; and Bioflex™ packaging materials, designed to be discarded into a modern landfill and recycled into energy for communities, fuel for vehicles and heat for homes. The Best Managed program is sponsored by Deloitte, CIBC, Canadian Business, Smith School of Business and MacKay CEO Forums.

**ABOUT CANADA'S BEST-MANAGED COMPANIES**

Canada's Best Managed Companies continues to be the mark of excellence for Canadian-owned and managed companies with revenues over \$15 million. For further information, [click here.](#)

*Press release reprinted from Layfield Group, March 9, 2017.*



WE HAVE  
DECADES OF  
HANDS-ON  
EXPERIENCE  
THAT FLOWS  
INTO THE  
DESIGN OF OUR  
MACHINERY.

## MEMBER NEWS:

# INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AND TOP-QUALITY DISCUSSIONS

German machinery manufacturer, Windmüller & Hölscher, comes away from interpack 2017 very satisfied. “As a specialist in machinery for the production of flexible packaging, interpack is one of the most important international trade shows for W&H. This year, the importance of the trade show was underscored by the large number of international visitors and the high-quality discussions we had at the booth,” said Chief Sales Officer (CSO) Peter Steinbeck. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Jurgen Vutz added, “Customers invest in improving the efficiency and quality of their production to profit from the growing flexible packaging market. We saw this again and again through the high traffic to our booth, the interesting and fruitful discussions that were had as well as from the number of orders we were able to close on the show floor.”

At interpack, which ran from 4 to 10 May in Dusseldorf, W&H provided information about its entire

portfolio of packaging machinery from extrusion lines to printing presses to converting equipment. “Customers are interested in the potential for optimization that a continuous process from film to sack can offer. This is in part to better understand the correlation between individual steps and the effects they have one another, and also in part because they themselves offer their customers the entire production chain. In all areas of our business, we have decades of hands-on experience that flows into the design of our machinery and consulting we bring to our customers.”

### **ABOUT WINDMÜLLER & HÖLSCHER**

Windmüller & Hölscher, a family-owned company, is world leader for machinery and systems for the manufacturing and converting of flexible packaging.

The product portfolio includes high-performance machines for film extrusion, printing and converting. As a global company

W&H offers its clients everything from a single source: from expert consultation and engineering to the delivery of high quality machines and complete packaging production lines. Approximately 2,700 employees create optimal solutions for the individual production tasks of flexible packaging producers—bringing the corporate philosophy “Passion for innovation“ to life.

Machines by Windmüller & Hölscher are in use in over 130 countries and by more than 5,000 customers. In 2016 the Windmüller & Hölscher Group with its headquarters in Lengerich, Germany reached sales of approximately 785 Mio. EUR. ●

*Reprinted from Windmoeller & Hoelscher press release, May 18, 2017.*



S&S LOOKS TO  
EVAPORATE  
EXCESS WATER  
FOR OIL AND  
GAS SECTOR.

**MEMBER NEWS:**

**SHIP & SHORE INTRODUCES  
HYDROFLARE PRODUCED-WATER  
EVAPORATOR**

Ship & Shore Environmental Inc. today announced the introduction of Hydroflare, a first-to-market technology developed in partnership with Hydrozonix, a leading water quality management company. The companies have joined forces in response to recent demand for a viable, efficient and long-term solution for managing water sourcing and wastewater treatment in hydraulic fracturing. This new technology evaporates and treats the “produced water” that oil and gas companies generate in the fracking process.

“The number of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) shale oil and gas wells in the U.S., and worldwide, continues to increase. Discharge of water from the fracking process to the ground creates many environmental problems. In addition, demands on fresh water supplies are mounting, as is the need to process the large volumes of produced wastewater. Companies in the oil and gas industry are under increasing pressure to control the produced water and field gas, so we partnered with Hydrozonix to develop a technology that finally provides a solution. And no solution like Hydroflare exists on the market today,” said Anoosheh Oskouian, President & CEO of Ship & Shore Environmental, Inc

The U.S. has vast reserves of oil and natural gas which now are commercially reachable as a result of advances in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing technologies. But as more hydraulic fracturing wells come into operation, the stress on surface water and groundwater supplies grow more demanding. Withdrawing large volumes of water used in the process requires up to one million gallons (3,780 m<sup>3</sup>) of fresh water per wellhead to complete the fracking process alone.

In addition, the injection of produced water into disposal wells has negatively affected some areas. There have been recent incidents where the injection has induced earthquakes in Oklahoma and Ohio. As a result, some areas have placed restrictions on the injection of produced water into disposal wells. This has led to a lack of capacity and high disposal prices for produced water.

Hydroflare alleviates all of these issues. The new technology takes natural gases produced by the fracking process and uses it to provide energy to evaporate this produced wastewater. Ship & Shore Environmental and Hydrozonix have created a revolutionary solution that is long-term and efficient.

**ABOUT SHIP & SHORE  
ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.**

Ship & Shore Environmental, Inc. is a Long Beach, Calif.-based woman-owned, certified business specializing in air pollution capture and control systems for industrial applications. Ship & Shore helps major manufacturers meet Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) abatement challenges by providing customized energy-efficient air pollution abatement systems for various industries, resulting in improved operational efficiency and tailored “green” solutions. Since 2000, Ship & Shore has been prepared to handle and advise on the full spectrum of environmental needs with its complete array of engineering and manufacturing capabilities and multiple offices around the U.S., Canada, Europe and most recently, China. With over 100 specialized professionals spread throughout the world, the company is dedicated to designing tailored solutions for its energy clients. ●

*Reprinted from Ship&Shore Environmental press release, April 13, 2017.*



IMMIGRATION AGENTS SHOWED UP AT KEVIN KELLY'S FACTORY AND HE LOST HIS STAR WORKERS.

**MEMBER NEWS:**

**RAIDED: STAR WORKERS LOST TO IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT**

Kevin Kelly wasn't even in the United States the day Immigration and Customs Enforcement showed up at his manufacturing facility outside of San Francisco in February, 2011.

"When it happened, I was in Europe looking at printing presses," said Kelly, who took over Emerald Packaging from his father. He recalls rushing home as soon as he heard.

ICE would soon discover that 18 of Kelly's 180 employees had used fake documents to get hired at the factory, which makes plastic bags and other packaging for produce companies such as Dole, Del Monte and Earthbound Farm.

As far as Kelly knew, all his employees were in the U.S. legally. "There are always one or two that you wonder about," he admitted.

But Kelly said everyone had provided Social Security cards and identification, such as driver's licenses and green cards, as proof of their legal status before they were hired. And just as all employers are required to do by law, Emerald Packaging had completed I-9 employment verification forms for each employee.



When the ICE raid happened, the business had also just started using E-Verify—a federally run online tool that crosschecks the information on an employee's I-9 form against records maintained by the Social Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security and the State Department.

The ICE agents arrived at the Union City, California, facility on a Monday and requested I-9 forms for all Emerald Packaging's employees to be sent to the agency's local office by the end of the week.

"We sent over boxes of forms to them," said Kelly. After about three weeks, ICE had surfaced the 18 workers, all of whom had worked at Emerald Packaging for at least a decade.

As word of the ICE investigation spread across the factory floor,

a dozen workers confessed on their own. Eventually, all 18 were let go.

"Overnight, we lost 10% of our workforce," said Kelly.

Emerald Packaging was never fined "because the agency found that we did nothing wrong," said Kelly. And none of the 18 workers were arrested as a result of the audit, the company's attorney Marcine Seid said. Four of the fired workers eventually gained legal status and Kelly rehired them.

ICE spokesman James Schwab declined to comment on the Emerald Packaging I-9 audit other than to say the agency routinely conducts checks of companies' hiring records to ensure businesses are complying with the law.

**Still struggling to replace talent**  
Six years later, Emerald Packaging is still suffering.

"Productivity fell 15% right after the raid because suddenly we didn't have those people to staff the machines," said Kelly.

The company took an initial financial hit as it doled out extra overtime pay to the workers who picked up the slack.

(Continued, see ICE, page 53)

ICE INVESTIGATION SPREAD [CONT'D]

Hiring was also a problem. “We are willing to hire Americans. I mean, the people who work here obviously are Americans in the same way my grandparents became Americans when they emigrated from Ireland in the 1920s,” said Kelly. “But we can’t get white people, if you will, to take these jobs.”

And when Kelly did find people who wanted to work at the factory, many of them didn’t have the same level of skills or the years of experience of the lost workers. Other applicants failed to pass the drug test, said Kelly.

“New hires have come and gone, but we’re still in that period six years later where these workers don’t have the skills that those [fired] people had. This hurts productivity. There’s just no way around it,” he said.

While Emerald Packaging has grown—it has 239 employees today—there are 17 current job openings on the factory floor that Kelly is struggling to fill. Productivity is still down about 5% today, he said.

Kelly said his company wasn’t knowingly hiring undocumented immigrant labor to keep costs down.

“These aren’t cheap positions,” said Kelly. They range from \$15 an hour entry-level jobs to \$35 an hour for experienced mechanics. “With overtime of \$27 to \$35 an hour, you can make pretty good money of \$75,000 to over \$100,000 a year,” he said.

“The people who left were making over \$20 an hour, five or six years ago. They were putting their kids through school and college,” he said. “When people say these companies are hiring illegal labor because they want to keep their costs down... in our case that argument is complete bullshit.”

During the early years of the Obama administration, work site raids ramped up significantly. But in 2014, the administration began focusing more on arresting undocumented immigrants engaged in criminal activities instead.

Now, as President Trump fulfills his tough-on-immigration campaign promises, companies are growing concerned that work site raids may make a comeback, said Jeff Ghouse, a partner with Ansbach & Ghouse, a Dallas-based law group that specializes in immigration issues.

“One of the biggest worries that our clients have is that a government official with a gun and a badge will show up in their lobby asking questions,” Ghouse said. “This has the potential to disrupt business opportunities with customers that may be visiting the client that day, as well as cause concerns with existing employees.”

**Losing Miguel**

Kelly said the workers he lost as a result of the ICE raid were some of his most experienced employees.

“We lost tremendous talent. And to this day, we haven’t been able to replace it,” said Kelly.

Losing Miguel Gonzalez stung the most, he said.

Gonzalez had worked for Emerald Packaging for over 20 years. He started as a box handler, moving and storing product pallets and factory supplies, and worked his way up to assistant foreman. He was a gifted mechanic and Kelly relied on him to help keep the factory running.

“You not only end up losing a person who knew how to work the machines really well, you lose a person who could walk into my office and tell me what’s going on in the facility,” he said.

Keen to learn and move up the ranks, Gonzalez routinely took on extra work and hours. He also rarely missed work, even returning to the factory floor just two days after his first child, Casandra, was born.

“Losing him had an immediate impact on production because there just wasn’t anybody of Miguel’s caliber to replace him. There just wasn’t,” said Kelly.

When Gonzalez was flagged as one of the 18 undocumented workers, Kelly’s heart sank.

“I was very upset to see Miguel go, but I had to,” said Kelly.

“If Miguel came back to work at the company, he could have been charged with using false documents to deceive the U.S. government and receive U.S.



benefits,” said Helen Ramirez, an immigration attorney with Ramirez & Ramirez.

Neither could he have used the same fraudulent documents to obtain another job. “The system used by his new employer to verify employee eligibility to work would have flagged him,” she said.

So about five months after the ICE raid, Miguel moved his family to Mexico.

“Miguel was tired of driving down the street, worried about whether he was going to get pulled over by a police officer, checked and arrested,” said Kelly. “So he just finally had had it and left. He went home.”

See more of CNN’s “Undocumented” series, [click here](#). ●

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THE VOICE OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY IN THE WEST

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