

Solid Waste Local Task Force of Humboldt County,

As a community-owned grocery store with over 10,000 member-owners, the North Coast Co-op operates with input from the entire local community. The overwhelming unifying comment we have received over the last 10 years at Annual Membership Meetings, monthly Board and Committee meetings, and shopper comments is “less plastic”. We have made progress and changes over the years but we now find ourselves at impasse- which the COVID-19 pandemic spotlighted for our industry as a whole. Single use disposable items create a lot of waste.

As our local city and county governments- you are delaying our ability to meet state standards by not providing access to an industrial composter where organics waste and non-recyclable compostable packaging or food-soiled paper material can be diverted to. We are falling behind State-mandated standards to divert by means of recycling and composting at least 75 percent of solid waste from disposal facilities. Legislation below outlines our requirements of California State regarding waste diversion.

AB 341 Mandatory Commercial Recycling, 2011: 75% landfill diversion (via composting and recycling) by the year 2020

SEC. 2. 40004. (a) (1) Solid waste diversion and disposal reduction require the availability of adequate **solid waste processing and composting capacity.**

AB 1826 Solid waste: organic waste, 2014: Requires residential and commercial waste diversion and requires jurisdictions to implement a commercial solid waste recycling program

We need your support and action on this important matter.

**Our goal is to work with you, our County officials and any appointed staff to secure multiple industrial composters located throughout the county.**

We know there are some hurdles specifically funding and identifying potential locations for these industrial composters. We appreciate your hard work thus far but the problem is not solved yet. Legislation aside, large-scale landfill diversion is integral to reducing solid waste and minimizing greenhouse gas production associated with all aspects of landfill waste.

Sincerely,

The North Coast Co-op  
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<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/StateAgency/WMReport/AnnualLetter/>

<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/75Percent/>

<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/StateAgency/Requirements/>