

California governor signs recycling and waste bills as part of climate change package

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Bills concerning incineration rules, battery recycling programs and organic waste diversion were among those Gov. Gavin Newsom signed on Friday. Additional waste and recycling bills are pending.



California Gov. Gavin Newsom, pictured here at an August event, signed a slate of waste and recycling bills on Friday as part of a larger package of climate change legislation. Justin Sullivan via Getty Images

California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed several waste and recycling bills into law Sept. 16 as part of a broader legislative package the state says is its most aggressive action on climate change to date.

The bill package includes updates to state incineration rules, battery recycling programs, organic waste diversion efforts and about 40 other climate initiatives.

“Later is too late to act on climate change. California isn’t waiting any more,” Newsom said in a news release.

Among the waste and recycling-related bills is [AB 1857](#), which repeals a part of state law allowing jurisdictions to count up to 10% of the waste sent to “transformation” facilities toward a 50% diversion requirement. It also creates a Zero-Waste Equity grant program for projects that reduce reliance on incineration. These initiatives could affect California’s two remaining incinerators: Covanta, which opposed the bill, operates the Stanislaus County facility as well as a publicly owned facility in Long Beach.

Newsom also signed two bills meant to make battery drop-offs easier and reduce collection vehicle and recycling facility fires. [AB 2440](#) establishes an extended producer responsibility program for most batteries. [SB 1215](#) adds battery-embedded products to the state’s e-waste program, meaning consumers will begin paying a disposal fee when they purchase applicable products starting in 2026.

The governor also signed [AB 1985](#), which delays enforcement penalties for jurisdictions to meet their organic waste procurement targets set out in SB 1383. Bill sponsors say the legislation will give local governments more time to ramp up infrastructure needed to meet the goals. It also allows renewable gas procured from a publicly owned treatment works to count toward a jurisdiction’s procurement target until 2025.

Newsom previously signed a minor update to the state bottle bill, [SB 895](#), that updates definitions and requirements for nonprofit convenience zone recyclers to allow a longtime recycling center, Grey Bears, to continue to operate.

Multiple other recycling and waste bills addressing recycled content standards, plastic produce bag bans and bottle bill updates have been presented to the governor and await his signature.

Bill Number	Highlights	Bill Status
SB 54	Creates an EPR program for printed paper and plastic packaging and sets recycling rates and reductions for plastics	Signed by governor
SB 1013	Expands container redemption program to include wine and distilled spirits	Passed
SB 38	Exempts certain manufacturers involved in container redemption program from new state recycled content requirements	Passed
AB 1857	Repeals provision of law that allows jurisdictions to count up to 10% of the waste sent to waste-to-energy facilities toward their 50% diversion requirement	Signed by governor
AB 2440	Establishes an extended producer responsibility program for most batteries	Signed by governor

<u>SB</u> <u>1215</u>	Adds battery-embedded products to the state's e-waste program	Signed by governor
<u>AB 661</u>	Updates the State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign with new recycled content standards for materials purchased by the state of California	Passed
<u>AB</u> <u>2784</u>	Specifies recycled content standards for thermoform plastic food containers	Passed
<u>SB</u> <u>1046</u>	Bans plastic produce bags	Passed
<u>AB</u> <u>1985</u>	Delays enforcement penalties for organic waste procurement targets	Signed by governor
<u>SB 895</u>	Updates definitions and requirements for nonprofit convenience zone recyclers	Signed by governor