



# Senate Bill 54/ Assembly Bill 1080: Single-Use Packaging and Products



**Senator Ben Allen and Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez**

with Senator Skinner, Senator Weiner, Senator Stern, Assemblymember Friedman, and Assemblymember Ting

## IN BRIEF

---

SB 54/AB 1080 will ensure California is on the forefront of reducing pollution from plastic packaging and products. The bills would set goals to reduce waste from single-use packaging and products and ensure the remaining items are effectively recycled.

## BACKGROUND

---

Every day, single-use packaging and products in California generate tons of non-recyclable and non-compostable waste impacting our health, natural environment, and local governments.

Plastic pollution starts with fossil fuel extraction to create plastic and affects individuals, communities, and ecosystems all along the supply chain; from when the products are manufactured, transported, and used, to when they degrade and emit greenhouse gases or impact the environment as litter. Oil refineries, plastic manufacturers and incinerators tend to be located in disadvantaged communities, which then must bear the brunt of the associated health impacts from industry, such as higher asthma rates. With a planned 40-percent increase in plastic production over the next decade, plastic production will account for 20 percent of global fossil fuel consumption unless we make major policy changes to significantly counter this.

One way to reduce the production of plastics is to focus on its use in packaging. Packaging products are typically designed to be used just once and then discarded and they account for 42 percent of all non-fiber plastic produced.

Unlike natural materials that decompose, nearly every piece of plastic ever produced still exists in our landfills or in the environment. As these items fragment into smaller particles, known as microplastics, they concentrate toxic chemicals and contaminate our in food and drinking water sources, ranging from bottled water to table salt to fish and agricultural soils. Exposure to these plastics and associated toxins has been linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption and other serious health problems.

While the state and local communities in California have tried to reduce the burden from single-use packaging since the 1980s, taxpayers and local governments still spend over \$420 million annually in ongoing efforts to clean up and

prevent litter in streets, storm drains, parks and waterways. Not only is cleanup expensive, but it cannot keep pace with the production of single-use disposable items, which continues to grow exponentially.

Existing recycling infrastructure can't keep pace either. Less than 9 percent of plastic is recycled, and that percentage is dropping since the implementation of China's National Sword and policies in other countries, which severely restricted the amount of foreign waste these countries accept. These materials are now either piling up in recycling centers, being landfilled, or sent to illegal facilities in Southeast Asia where they are incinerated, or simply dumped in impoverished areas where it is never dealt with. California must reduce the amount of plastics as a result of these realities.

We can no longer afford to wait on this issue. This is why the European Union and other countries that are major purchasers of consumer goods are implementing comprehensive waste reduction frameworks which urge producers to share in the responsibility of reducing waste and designing products to be reusable, recyclable and/or compostable. As the world's fifth-largest economy, California has a responsibility to lead on solutions to the growing plastic pollution crisis.

## SOLUTION

---

Eliminating non-reusable, non-recyclable and non-compostable products and reducing packaging is by far the most effective, and least expensive way to protect the health of people, wildlife, and the environment. Many reliable and reusable alternatives already exist and the positive results of their use have been proven.

SB 54/AB 1080 establish a comprehensive framework to address the pollution and waste crisis.

- Specifically, single-use plastic packaging and products sold or distributed in California by must be reduced, recycled or composted by 75 percent by 2030.
- All single-use packaging and products must be recyclable or compostable on and after 2030.
- As part of a shift towards a more circular economy, the bills also instructs CalRecycle to develop incentives and policies to encourage in-

state manufacturing using recycled material generated in California.

CalRecycle will be given authority to adopt regulations to meet these goals, including developing criteria to determine which packaging material qualifies as recyclable or compostable.

## **SUPPORT**

---

Algalita Marine Research and Education  
Alvarado Street Brewery & Grill  
Audubon California  
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners  
California Cannabis Coalition  
California Coastkeeper Alliance  
California Compost Coalition  
California League of Conservation Voters  
Californians Against Waste  
California Product Stewardship Council  
California ReLEAF  
California Resource Recovery Association  
California State Parks Foundation  
California Teamsters Public Affairs Council  
CALPIRG  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research and Education  
Communication Workers of America District 9, AFL-CIO  
Community Environmental Council  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Environment California  
Environmental Defense Center  
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water  
Environmental Working Group  
Friends Committee on Legislation of California  
Green Valley Community Farm  
Greenpeace  
Heal the Bay  
Latinos in Action  
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)  
Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
Long Beach Environmental Alliance  
Long Beach Gray Panthers  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Stewardship Action Council  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
No Plastic Oceans  
Northern California Recycling Association  
Oceana  
Pacific Forest Trust  
Plastic Pollution Coalition  
UPSTREAM  
Recology

Repurpose  
Save Our Shores  
Seventh Generation Advisors  
Shizen & Tataki Restaurants  
Sierra Club California  
St. Francis Center  
Surfrider Foundation  
Sustain LA  
Teamsters Local Union No. 396  
The 5 Gyres Institute  
The River Project  
The Story of Stuff Project  
Tonic Nightlife Group  
TreePeople  
Trust for Public Lands  
Wholly H2O  
WILDCOAST  
Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation  
Zero Waste USA

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

---

**Tina Andolina; Office of Senator Ben Allen**  
(916) 651-4026 | [Tina.Andolina@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Tina.Andolina@sen.ca.gov)

**Laurel Brodzinsky; Office of Asm. Gonzalez**  
916-319-2080 | [laurel.brodzinsky@asm.ca.gov](mailto:laurel.brodzinsky@asm.ca.gov)