

San Luis Obispo County  
Integrated Waste Management Authority

# 2025 Year in Review

*Reducing waste across SLO County*



# Letter from our Executive Director

This Year in Review is a testament to all that the IWMA Team, including the staff and our Board of Directors, have been able to accomplish. There is so much we're excited to share with you from the past 12 months.

We've continued to work closely with our member agencies and business community to ensure our region is fully complying with state mandates, most prominently SB 1383, California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy. In 2025 we coordinated agency meetings with CalRecycle Local Assistance and Market Development staff and our member agencies, as well as field visits by CalRecycle's Jurisdiction and Agency Compliance and Enforcement Branch. The feedback we received was positive, reflecting the relationships we've established locally and with our state partners to document our effective programs and initiatives.

Beyond ensuring compliance, the work of the IWMA has meaningful benefits to our region. We supported the work of the SLO Food Bank and other edible food recovery organizations to collect and distribute over 1.6 million pounds of edible food last year! This is all high-quality food that would otherwise rot in a landfill, instead it helped feed hungry families.

You can also read more about our household hazardous waste program, which kept over a million pounds of hazardous waste from being improperly disposed. In 2025 the IWMA focused on educating the public about the hazards of lithium-ion batteries, working with our local fire agencies to highlight the potential fire dangers that these items pose, especially if placed in our curbside bins.

And our outreach activities reached new heights in 2025. We greatly expanded the number of subscribers to our monthly newsletter, increased awareness through our social media outlets, connected with the community at events throughout the County, and reached over 15,000 students through our classroom presentations. We launched a wildly successful video campaign in partnership with KSBY, driving lots of new engagement on our website and increasing awareness of the work we do. In November we hosted our 3rd Annual Solid Waste Summit at the Pavilion on the Lake in Atascadero, with nearly 100 attendees from local government, private and non-profit sectors learning about the future of waste reduction and recycling.

2026 is already shaping up to be a significant year for the IWMA, with major improvements to our household hazardous waste program already underway. I am humbled to serve as the new Executive Director of this incredible organization, and look forward to the year ahead.

*Coby Skye, Executive Director*

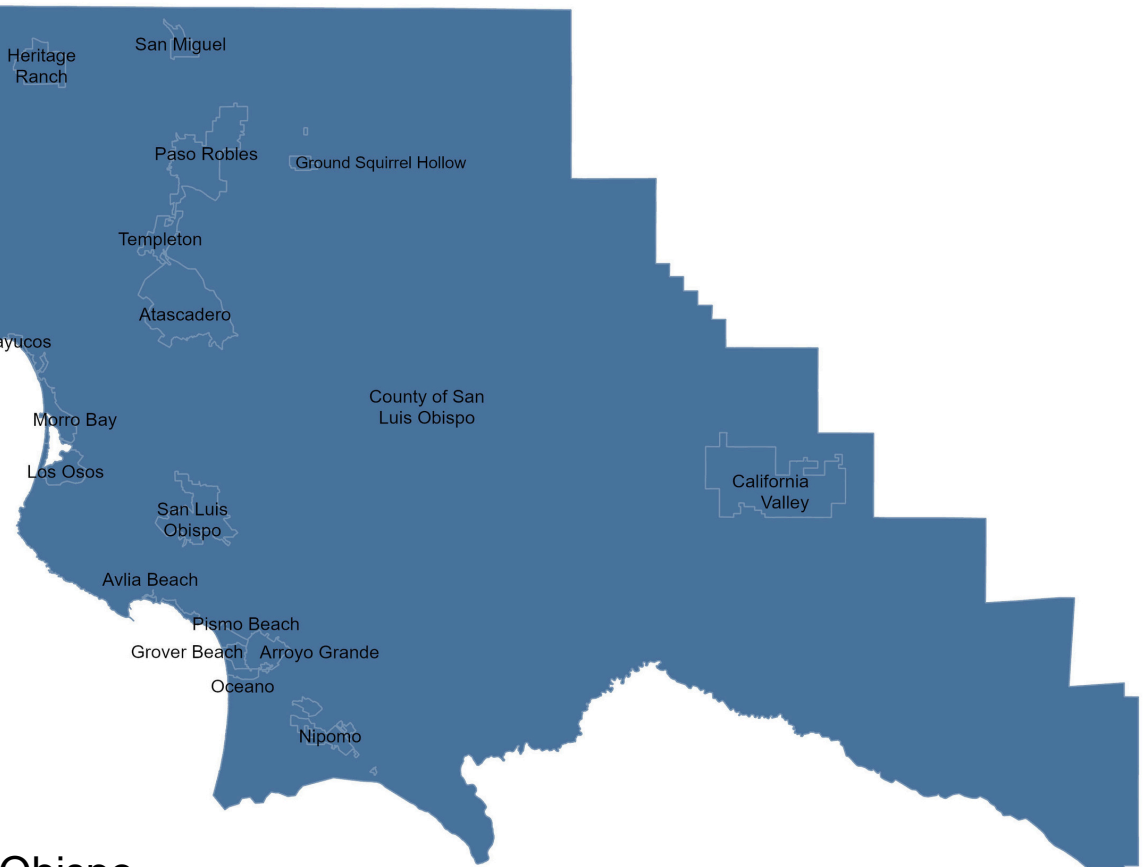


# We are the IWMA

Or the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority, in full. In partnership with our twenty member jurisdictions, we work to keep SLO County compliant with California state laws surrounding solid waste and recycling. We are proud to have served the residents of San Luis Obispo County for over 30 years.

## IWMA Member Jurisdictions

- Arroyo Grande
- Atascadero
- Avila Beach
- California Valley
- Cambria
- Cayucos
- County of San Luis Obispo
- Ground Squirrel Hollow
- Grover Beach
- Heritage Ranch
- Los Osos
- Morro Bay
- Nipomo
- Oceano
- Paso Robles
- Pismo Beach
- San Luis Obispo
- San Miguel
- San Simeon
- Templeton



## Our Team

**Coby Skye**

*Executive Director*

**Sasha Del Giorgio**

*Management Analyst*

**Janet Weldon**

*Clerk of the Board*

**Andrea Biniskiewicz**

*Administrative Analyst*

**Lucy Stanus**

*Deputy Director*

**Michael Williams**

*Program Manager*

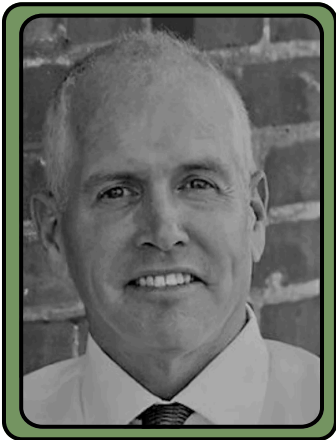
**Ashley Kuder**

*Program Coordinator*

**Holly Brue**

*Social Media Intern*

# 2025 Board of Directors



**Jim Guthrie, President**  
City of Arroyo Grande



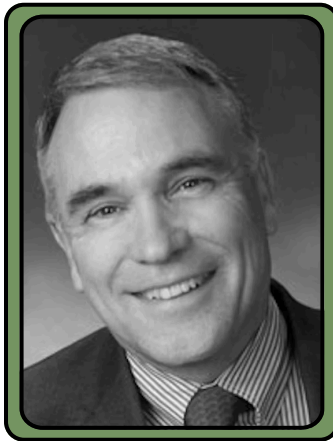
**Navid Fardanesh, Vice President**  
Templeton CSD



**Robert Robert, Past President**  
City of Grover Beach



**Jan Marx**  
City of San Luis Obispo



**Charles Bourbeau**  
City of Atascadero



**John Hamon**  
City of Paso Robles



**Cyndee Edwards**  
City of Morro Bay



**Scott Newton**  
City of Pismo Beach



**Heather Moreno**  
County of San Luis Obispo

# 2025 Board Meetings

Our nine-member Board of Directors consists of elected officials representing each of the 7 cities, one member representing the CSDs and one member representing the County of San Luis Obispo. In 2025, our Board and Executive Committee held a total of **22 regular and special meetings**.

## 2025 Board Highlights

- Approved important new contracts for boosting outreach and education and improving operations
- Approved multiple grants supporting member agencies and businesses to boost waste reduction and implement new initiatives
- Reduced fees for ratepayers for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, adopting a tiered rate structure that reduced the Solid Waste Management Fee for all customers



*In June, our Board recognized Peter Cron for his service as Executive Director.*

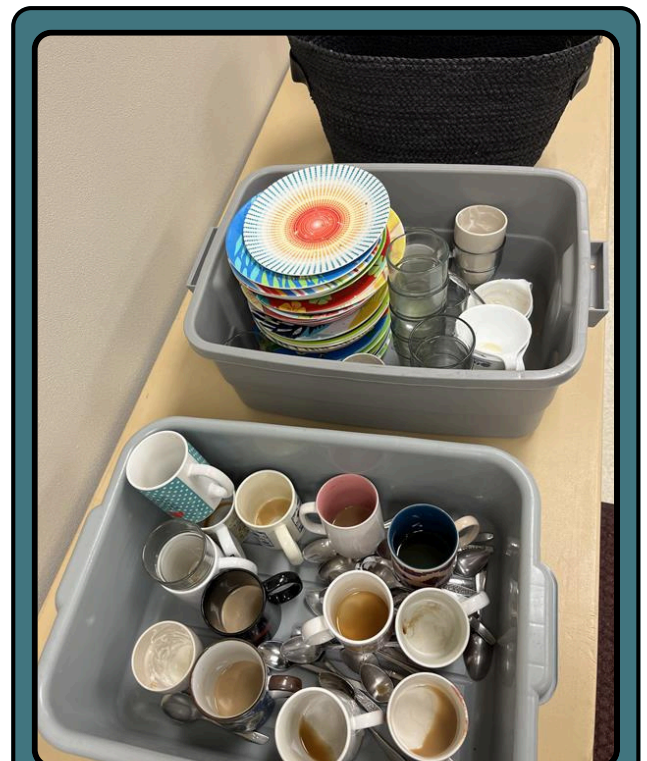
Our Board welcomed two new members in 2025, **Cyndee Edwards** representing the City of Morro Bay, and **Navid Fardanesh**, representing the Community Services Districts. The Board also recognized **Laurel Barton** and **Robert Enns** for their years of service on the board.

# 2025 Solid Waste Summit

On Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Solid Waste Summit. Representatives from the solid waste industry, local jurisdictions, local businesses, community members, non-profits and more from SLO County and beyond gathered for the day to discuss solid waste issues facing our region.

## Featured Presentations

1. **The Future of the Circular Economy**— *Heidi Sanborn, National Stewardship Action Council*
2. **The Future is Now: WM's Investment in Smart Tech & Clean Energy**— *Jessica McGinnis, WM*
3. **Household Hazardous Waste Program**— *Clean Earth*
4. **Saving Food, Serving People**— *SLO Food Bank*



*We provided reusable mugs, plates, napkins and more, to put on a near-zero waste event!*

# Trash to Treasure

This year, we piloted a new, innovative program called Trash to Treasure. Coinciding with Waste Connection's fall clean-up week, Trash to Treasure invited residents to post items that would have otherwise been hauled to the landfill on a community-wide map. Then, during the weekend of October 18<sup>th</sup>, residents placed their items on the curb for treasure hunters to come retrieve.

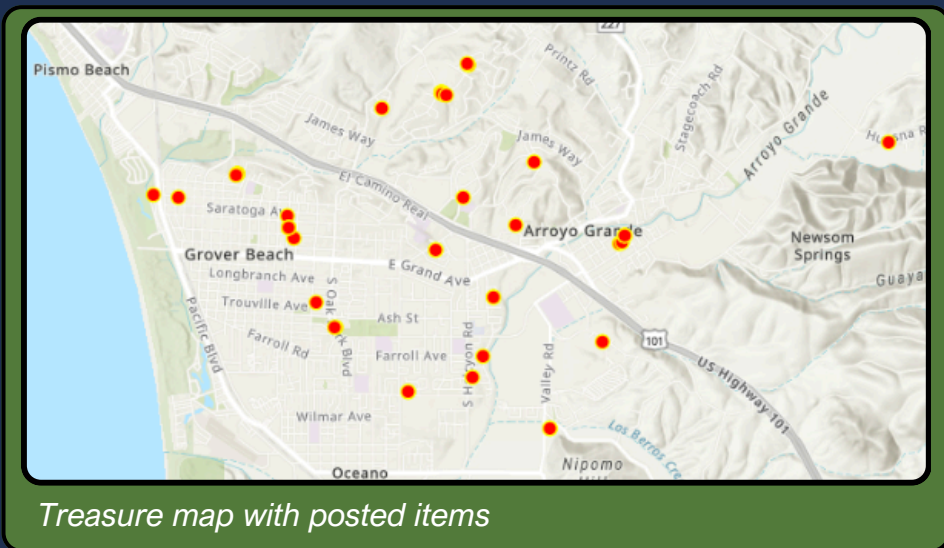
The treasure map gathered **878 views** online, demonstrating a clear community interest in events like these.

Items recirculated ranged from office chairs to outdoor shelving units to an automatic bubble blower!



**49** items  
were saved from the  
landfill through this  
program!

This limited-scale pilot took place in Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach, and outreach was targeted specifically to residents of those communities.



Thank you to Waste Connections for the partnership in making this event a success!

# Household Hazardous Waste Program

We manage the collection and responsible disposal of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) at six collection sites across SLO County.



*Our Morro Bay Site*

We offer two collection types. Drop-off is free for **residents**, up to 15 gallons or 125 lbs of waste per visit. **Businesses** must make an appointment through our website, and can bring up to 27 gallons or 220 lbs of waste per month.

## Our Sites

- Cold Canyon Landfill
- Chicago Grade Landfill
- Heritage Ranch CSD
- Nipomo HHW Facility
- Morro Bay HHW Facility
- Paso Robles Landfill

In 2025, businesses made

# 146

hazardous waste drop-offs

## Mandatory Retail Take-Back

We had **414**  
RTB pick-ups in 2025.

Our agency was the first in California to implement a mandatory Retail Take-Back (RTB) program. Every retailer of covered products in the county is required to accept, collect, and arrange for the disposal of those materials at **no cost** to the consumer. Fluorescent bulbs, batteries and home generated sharps are all covered under the RTB program.

# Household Hazardous Waste Program

## Liquid Gallons Received

Material Type	Gallons Received in 2025
Oxidizing base	265
Oxidizing acid	450
Antifreeze	1,323
Motor oil	7,635
Bulked flammable liquids (acetone, gasoline, solvents, etc.)	14,950
Poisons/toxic liquids	27,991
Oil-based paints	119,858
Latex paint	128,403
Paint related material (paint thinners, glues and adhesives, etc.)	161,308

## Individual Units Received

Material Type	Units Received in 2025
UV lamps	700
CFLs	4,724
Used oil filters	5,350
Compressed gas cylinders	13,672
Fluorescent tubes (straight)	17,886

# Household Hazardous Waste Program

## Pounds Received

Material Type	Pounds Received in 2025
Elemental mercury	33
Flammable solids	208
Asbestos	250
Rechargeable batteries	2,000
Home-generated sharps	3,184
Fire extinguishers	4,108
Auto type batteries (motor vehicles)	5,608
Inorganic acid (solid and liquid)	9,950
Poisons/ toxic solids	12,789
Aerosol cans	18,885
Inorganic base (solid and liquid)	23,390
Electronic waste	610,440

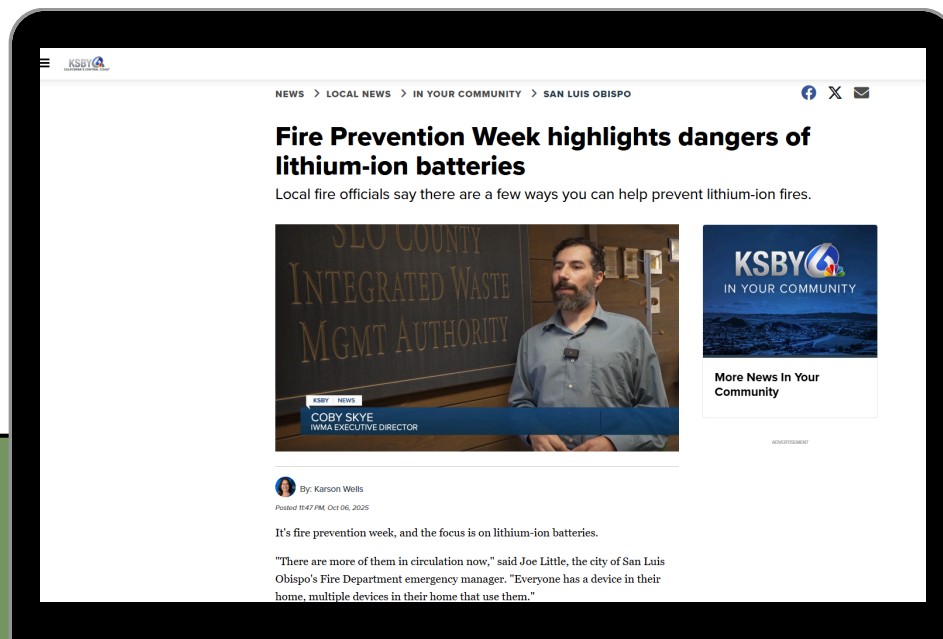
*Our Cold Canyon Landfill site is one of our most visited sites, located halfway between San Luis Obispo and Arroyo Grande.*



# Fire Prevention Week

In conjunction with **Fire Prevention Week**, in October the IWMA participated in events around the County, including sharing a booth with regional fire agencies at the SLO Farmers Market. The theme of these events was fire prevention, with an emphasis on proper disposal of batteries. Lithium-ion batteries started at least six fires here in SLO County in 2025, and education on how to correctly recycle these materials is critical to prevent future fires.

IWMA Executive Director, Coby Skye, and San Luis Obispo's Fire Department Emergency Manager, Joe Little, were featured on KSBY to amplify messaging about keeping batteries out of our waste streams, and methods for proper disposal. Information can be found on our website, [www.IWMA.com](http://www.IWMA.com).



See our feature on KSBY:

<https://www.ksby.com/san-luis-obispo/fire-prevention-week-highlights-dangers-of-lithium-ion-batteries>

# Public Outreach

In 2025 we attended **38 community events**. We love teaching our community about proper use of their bins at events across the county. Some of the events we attended include:

- Baywood Farmer’s Market
- Fire Prevention Week
- Paso Robles Dia de los Muertos
- Atascadero Pride in the Park
- SLO Earth Fest
- and many more!



In addition, our team hosted **14 public education programs**, reaching **266 residents** at libraries, apartment complexes, civic organizations and more.



If you see our team out in the community, come say hi, and ask us a question about recycling!

# School Education Program

Our education team, Science Discovery, presents free, interactive classroom programs to K-12 schools across SLO County.



In 2025, we visited

616 classrooms

and reached

15,071 students

Our programs focus on recycling, vermicomposting, hazardous waste and more, teaching these concepts in a fun and relatable way. Programs are offered either in-person or virtually, depending on the needs of the teacher. This program is very popular, and often has a long waiting list due to high demand from teachers.



# Commercial Outreach

Our Science Discovery commercial outreach team works one-on-one with commercial businesses and multi-family properties to bring them into compliance with SB 1383, AB 341, AB 1826 and related recycling laws.

In 2025, we got in touch with local businesses through:

2,901 Site Visits

1,377 Emails

860 Calls & Voicemails

## Waivers

SB 1383 requires that businesses subscribe to organic waste service, unless they have a waiver. We issue two types of waivers: **De Minimis**, for businesses that generate very little organic waste, and **Physical Space**, for businesses that do not have sufficient space for a green bin. In 2025, we issued **191 waivers** across the county.



## Summer Restaurant Outreach

Over the summer, we did a robust outreach effort targeting restaurants, reminding them of diversion requirements and working with them to set up functional recycling systems. We worked with **53 restaurants** to help get them in compliance.

# Commercial Outreach

Most businesses in SLO County are required to have blue and green bin service. To make this requirement easier, we offer free indoor collection containers to businesses looking to start or expand their recycling program.

We have available **blue bins** for recycling and **green bins** for organics, and provide guidance to recipients on how to properly use and maintain their new supplies.



In 2025, we distributed:

48 3-gallon Recycle

43 7-gallon Organics

44 7-gallon Recycle

24 13-gallon Organics

82 23-gallon Recycle

105 23-gallon Organics

109 Dollies

## Food Scrap Pails

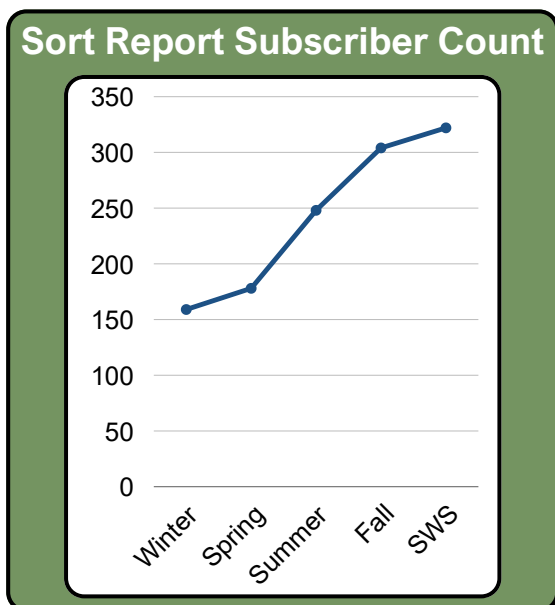
We also offer free kitchen food scrap pails, to support residents with organics recycling in their homes! In 2025, we distributed **2,136** of our countertop pail, and **386** of our bin insert pail.



# Digital Outreach

## Newsletter

Our quarterly newsletter, the Sort Report, is growing in reach! In 2025, cumulatively it arrived in **1,563 email inboxes**, with an average open rate of **68%**.



## Website

Our website, IWMA.com, is utilized by stakeholders across the county as a single solid waste and recycling resource. In 2025, our website pages received **138,000 views** from **65,000 active users**. Our most popular page was our Recycling Guide, which had over **13,000 views**.

## Recycling Guide

We rolled out a new look to our Recycling Guide in August of 2025. Since its launch, the new Recycling Guide has helped people find out how to dispose of **5,124 items**.

## Social Media

We continue to have an active presence on both Instagram and Facebook. In 2025, we received over **105,000 views** on our Instagram content, and **23,500 views** on our Facebook content. We also joined LinkedIn, and throughout 2025 gained over **1,000 impressions** and **70 followers** on the platform.

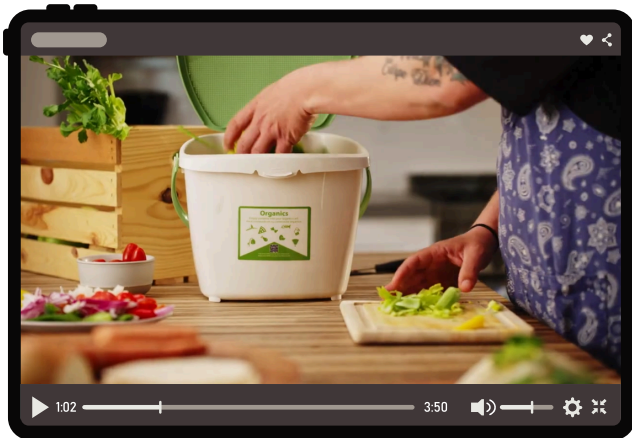
# Outreach Spotlight: Video Campaign

Sponsored by CalRecycle's SB 1383 Local Assistance Grant, our agency contracted with a video production company to produce a series of videos focusing on our local organic waste and recycling systems. With a production period in spring, and a release date in August, we produced **18 videos** centered around **4 different narratives**. This campaign was designed to clarify misconceptions around recycling, and reach a broad audience countywide.



*Behind the scenes of the video shoot*

We deployed a multi-pronged approach to the publication of our video series, streaming on social media, in person at city halls, YouTube, our website, and more. We partnered with **KSBY**, a local news-media outlet, to run a paid promotional campaign featuring the videos on local broadcast TV and streaming services.



From July to December  
2025, our campaign on  
KSBY reached

**226,940**  
households locally.

Visit [www.youtube.com/@recycle\\_slocounty](http://www.youtube.com/@recycle_slocounty) to view the full series!

# Senate Bill (SB) 1383

In 2022, California passed SB 1383, the Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Act. SB 1383 affects residents and businesses through its mandate to place all organic waste, including food waste, into the green bin. There are many other facets to SB 1383, including edible food recovery, organic waste product procurement, education and outreach, recordkeeping, audits and more.

Our agency leads the implementation of SB 1383 county-wide, and many of the programs our team works on are to support our member jurisdictions' compliance with this law.



In 2025, SLO County  
diverted over

**54,000 tons**

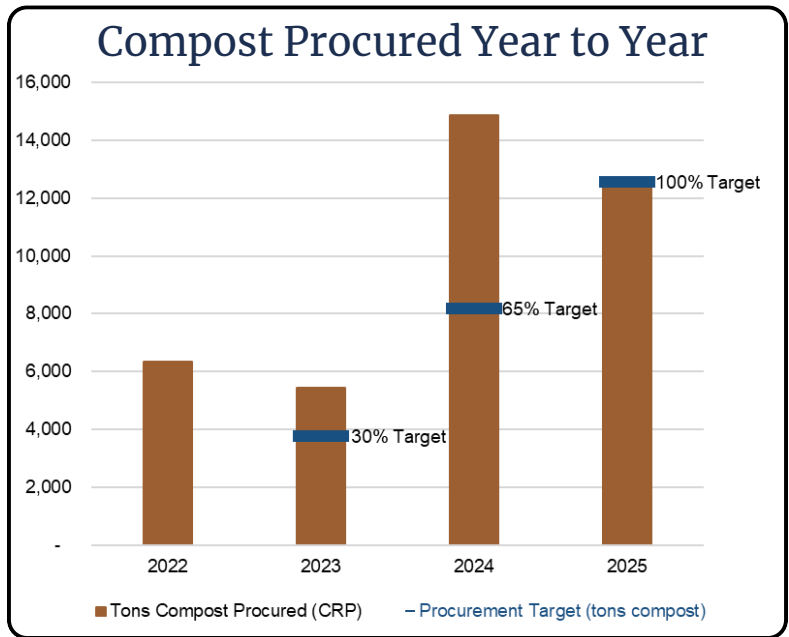
of organic waste from the  
landfill!

In 2025, we hosted state auditors with JACE, CalRecycle's enforcement branch. With collaboration from our team and each of SLO County's solid waste haulers, JACE auditors came out to our jurisdictions to evaluate our compliance with state mandated programs, primarily SB 1383. This is part of a regular, 4-year cycle of review that occurs in every jurisdiction throughout California.

# Compost Rebate Program

One requirement of state law SB 1383 is for local jurisdictions to procure **recovered organic waste products**, aka the products made from things that we all put in our green bins. Each jurisdiction has an annual target that they have to meet: our combined target is 21,665.55 tons of organic waste procured annually, which equals **12,582 tons of compost**. We are proud to keep our procurement local! We meet this target primarily through our compost rebate program, which provides a \$10 per ton rebate on eligible compost purchases.

In 2025, we applied  
**12,381 tons**  
of compost on local farms.



*This target was phased in, so 2025 was the first year we had to meet 100% of our procurement target.*

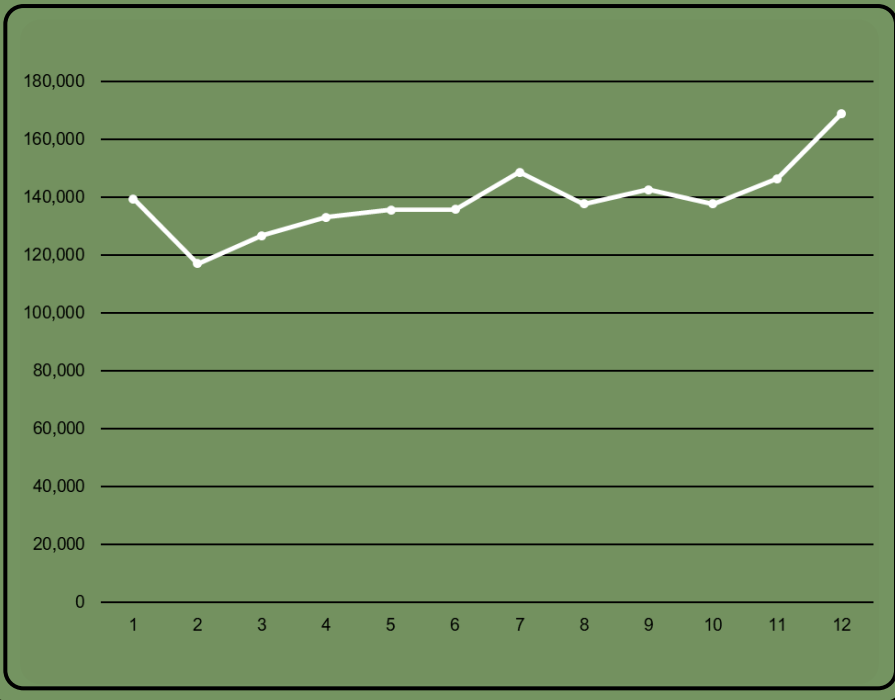
Our compost rebate program isn't the only way we meet this target! Compost purchased by jurisdictions, mulch purchases, and energy from Kompogas also count towards our target.

# Edible Food Recovery

**1,669,647** pounds

of edible food were recovered by our partners in 2025

Edible Food Recovered by month (lbs), 2025



## Our generators include:

4 Grocery Stores

40 Supermarkets

9 Wholesale Food Distributors

75 Local Education Agencies

4 Large Venues

3 Health Facilities

4 Non-Local Entities

Under state law SB 1383, commercial edible food generators are required to donate all leftover edible food to a local food recovery organization. Our agency supports these efforts by providing outreach to mandated donors, monitoring their programs for compliance and connecting them with resources.

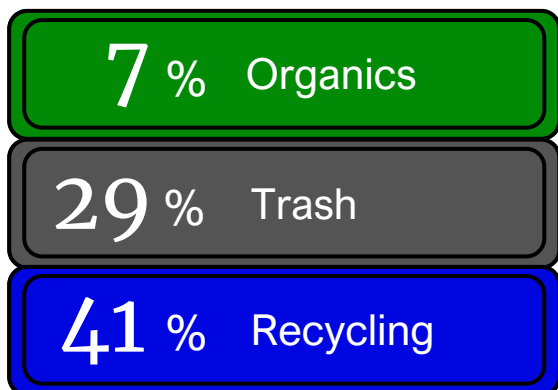
Thank you to our local food recovery organizations, who recover this food from donors and distribute it to those in need:

- Paso Robles Loaves and Fishes
- SLO Food Bank
- The Church of God and Prophecy

# Residential Route Reviews

As part of our SB 1383 programming, we conduct residential Route Reviews across the county. Route Reviews are our way of monitoring what people are throwing away at the household level, and how we need to target our efforts to increase diversion. Our team goes from bin to bin, inspecting the top layer of its contents to survey if there are contaminants. A **contaminant** is any item that does not belong in the bin it was placed in, for example food waste is a contaminant in the trash bin. We leave a tag on each bin based on if we found contamination or not, and every address reviewed gets a follow-up letter in the mail. In 2025, we completed **48 Route Reviews**, in total visiting **2,376 addresses**.

## Percent Contamination



**Percent contamination** tells us the percent of bins that were contaminated. For instance, 7% of the organic bins we surveyed had at least one contaminant, while 93% had no contamination. In 2024, we found 10% of organics, 31% of trash, and 51% of recycling bins contaminated, demonstrating that residents improved their recycling habits in 2025!

## Zabble

In the past, all of our Route Reviews were done with paper and pencil, filling out a chart by hand and then afterwards typing the information into a spreadsheet. In 2025 we transitioned from this method to Zabble, a smartphone app that enables data to be collected in the field, automatically tagged with the location and uploaded to a digital portal.



# Thank you!

From all of us at the IWMA, our sincerest thank you to our communities for your support. Everything that we achieved in 2025 would not be possible without the collaboration from each and every one of our stakeholders.

## Thank you to our:

- Residents
- Commercial businesses
- Food recovery organizations
- Solid waste haulers
- Member jurisdictions
- Science Discovery team
- Hazardous waste contractors
- IWMA Board of Directors
- IWMA legal counsel
- IWMA staff



for your support!

