



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
Connecting the Community to Waste Solutions

IWMA Community Meeting Summary

Focus: Five Year Strategic Plan Update Stakeholder Meeting

When: Monday, 3/30/2026, 3:30PM - 5:00PM

Where: 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo and via Zoom

Meeting Recording: [Video: SLO County Integrated Waste Management Authority- March 30, 2026, 3:30 p.m. SLO-SPAN](#)

1. Meeting Purpose:

- Part of IWMA's planning process is compiling feedback from stakeholders, and this meeting was specifically focused on non-profits and community members located in our county. The purpose was to gain feedback on how IWMA can best support our community with waste and recycling. Our goal is to empower and provide support to members of the community, so they have the knowledge to stay in compliance, and to explore innovative solutions and drive positive change in our region.

2. IWMA Overview:

- Introduction to the IWMA
 - We are a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) formed by the Cities, Special Districts, and unincorporated area of San Luis Obispo County.
 - Our mission is to keep San Luis Obispo County in compliance with state laws surrounding solid waste, hazardous waste, recycling and organic waste
 - We have 20 member agencies, allowing for coordinated activities that are more effective
- IWMA Program Highlights
 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection
 - School Education
 - Organic Waste Diversion
 - Green waste collection reporting
 - Edible food recovery
 - Residential, Business and Public Outreach
 - Print, online, social media, in-person events, etc.
- California Legislation Driving our Programs
 - AB 939 (1989): Integrated Waste Management Act
 - AB 341 (2011): Mandatory Commercial Recycling
 - AB 1826 (2014): Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling
 - SB 1383 (2016): Short-lived Climate Pollutants Act
 - SB 54 (2022): Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act
 - SB 1053 (2026): Plastic Bag Ban



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3. **Strategic Plan Overview:** The updated Strategic Plan builds on the 2021–2025 framework and reflects IWMA’s continued focus on compliance, regional coordination, technical support, outreach, and long-term planning efforts.
 - Last Adopted in 2021
 - Identifies the IWMA’s Mission, Vision and Values
 - Established Objectives for 2021-2025
 - Identified 5 Objectives
 - Focused on navigating SB 1383, California’s far-reaching organic waste diversion mandate
 - Also reiterated IWMA’s regional role and prioritized restructuring, facilitated by the 2022 updated Joint Powers Authority resolution
 - **Draft 5 Year Strategic Plan – Mission, Vision, Values**
 - The draft Strategic Plan reinforces IWMA’s role in supporting member agencies through coordinated, practical, and cost-effective programs.
 - **Mission:** To make continuous progress towards reducing waste in San Luis Obispo County, ensuring member agencies remain in compliance with state waste and recycling regulations through education, technical support, and collaborative efforts
 - **Vision:** Reduce waste and preserve a safe and healthy environment for the San Luis Obispo County community.
 - **Values:** Strategic Plan emphasizes core values including community education, stewardship, fiscal responsibility, transparency, collaboration, and innovation.

4. **Purpose & Role of Partners:** Our primary focus is to share information and facilitate recovery of materials to reduce disposal. IWMA relies on strong partnerships and community collaboration to support this work throughout San Luis Obispo County.
 - Collaboration with schools, nonprofits, businesses, waste haulers, and community organizations is essential to program success
 - Partners help expand outreach, support recovery efforts, and improve access to resources and information
 - Continued coordination will help strengthen compliance efforts and support long-term regional waste reduction goals

5. **Presentation by Sarah Frimtzis from SLO Food Bank:** The SLO Food Bank presentation provided insight into regional food insecurity and the role of edible food recovery as part of SB 1383 implementation. The presentation emphasized the importance of food recovery programs in reducing waste, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting vulnerable populations, aligning closely with IWMA’s strategic priorities.



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- 31% of SLO County households don't earn enough to meet basic living costs
- 49% of children qualify for free or reduced lunch
- 12% of seniors experience food insecurity
- The Food Bank serves over 45,000 individuals monthly and distributed more than 4 million meals last year through a network of community partners.

6. **Comments and Questions-**

Written Feedback Forms:

- "We really value the education/outreach and technical support objectives."
- "Is there a way to have more direct messaging about what kind of plastic can be recycled? Is there a way to make all smaller bins (not curbside, but what is used in classrooms/lunch areas) to have a hinged lid so those using them have to take an extra step to check that they're doing the right thing."
- "Love the updates to the mission statement, vision, values and objectives."

Verbal In-Person Feedback:

- Verbal Feedback #1 (summarized): A representative from the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Airports shared appreciation for IWMA's focus on technical support, outreach, and education. They noted that IWMA resources, including Science Discovery and hazardous waste guidance, have been valuable in helping educate staff and passengers, support day-to-day operations, and provide tools their organization would not otherwise have the capacity to offer. They also expressed interest in continuing and expanding this partnership in the future.
- Verbal Feedback #2 (summarized): A local elementary school teacher and Wellness Committee member shared that there is still a lot of community confusion around what can and cannot be recycled, especially when it comes to plastics. They emphasized the importance of working closely with schools, noting that students can play a big role in building lifelong recycling habits and bringing that knowledge home to their families. They also highlighted the value of clear, repeated messaging, and more intuitive bin design to help people sort materials correctly.

7. **Closing & Next Steps-**

Overall, the stakeholder meeting provided an opportunity to share updates on IWMA's Strategic Plan and gather input from community partners. Feedback gathered during this meeting will help inform the final Strategic Plan update, ensuring it reflects both regulatory requirements and the needs of local jurisdictions and community partners.