

Demonstrating the Climate, Financial, and Diversion Benefits of Zero Waste

A New Calculator for California Businesses

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California's Commercial Climate Calculator

Motivation & Goals

- AB32 requires commercial and multi-family sector recycling
- CalRecycle provides an easy-to-use calculator to show benefits of waste reduction and diversion:



Dollars saved

Tons of resources returned
to the economy



Greenhouse gas emissions reduced



Developing the Calculator

Process & Considerations

- Existing calculator research
- Stakeholder engagement
 - 20 initial phone interviews
 - 12 first-round beta tests
 - 9 second-round beta tests
 - 30 additional feedback reports
- Inter-agency collaboration
 - ARB and UC Berkeley: COOLCalifornia





Calculator Basics

Features & Data

- Unique features

- Flexibility
 - Users
 - Data inputs
- Transparency
- One-stop calculator
 - Tons, cost, GHG
 - Resources, case studies
- CA and regionally specific

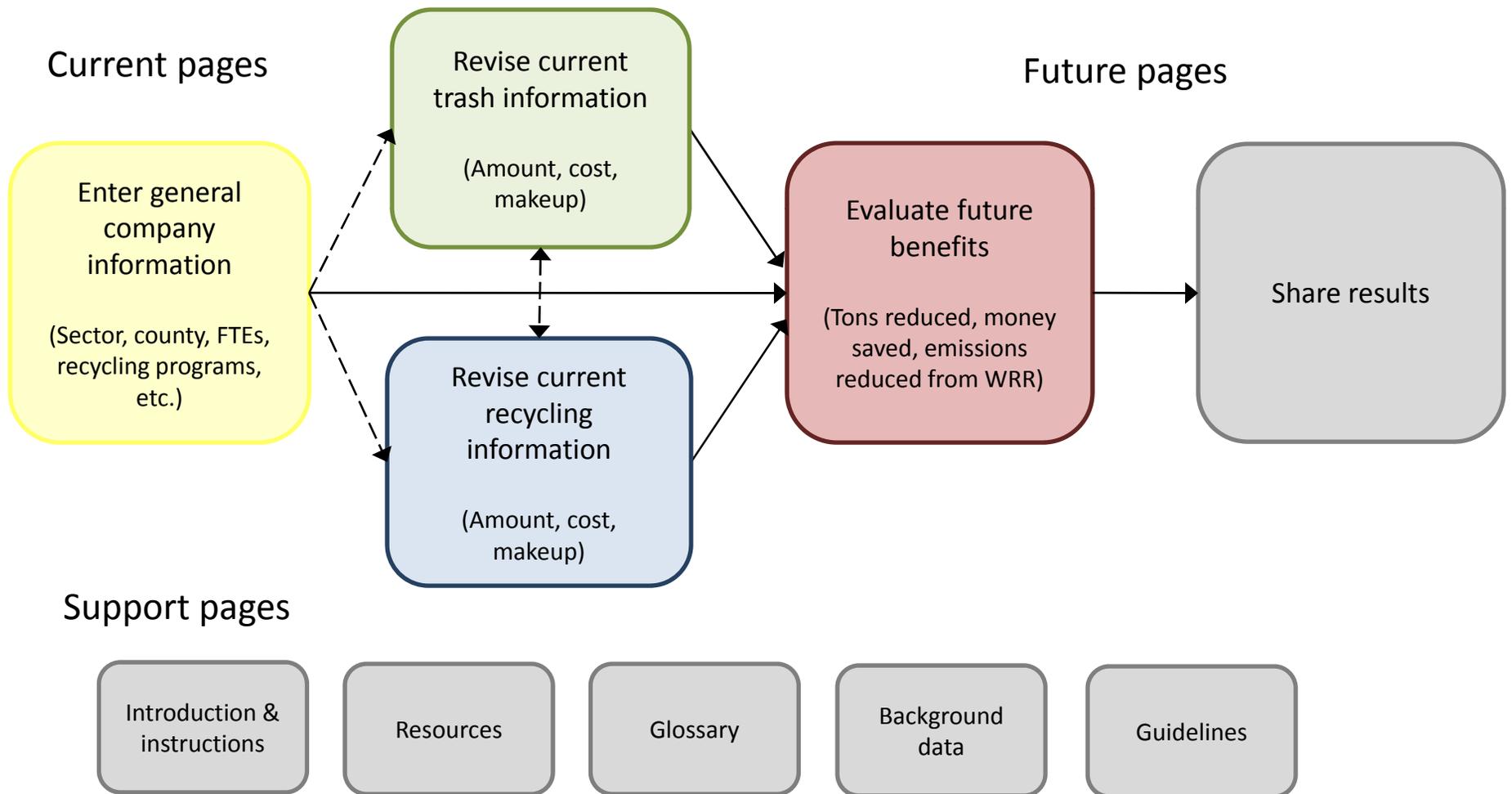
- Default data sources

- CA waste studies
 - Sector-specific
 - Quantity and composition
- Statewide cost study
- WARM+CARB research



Calculator Overview

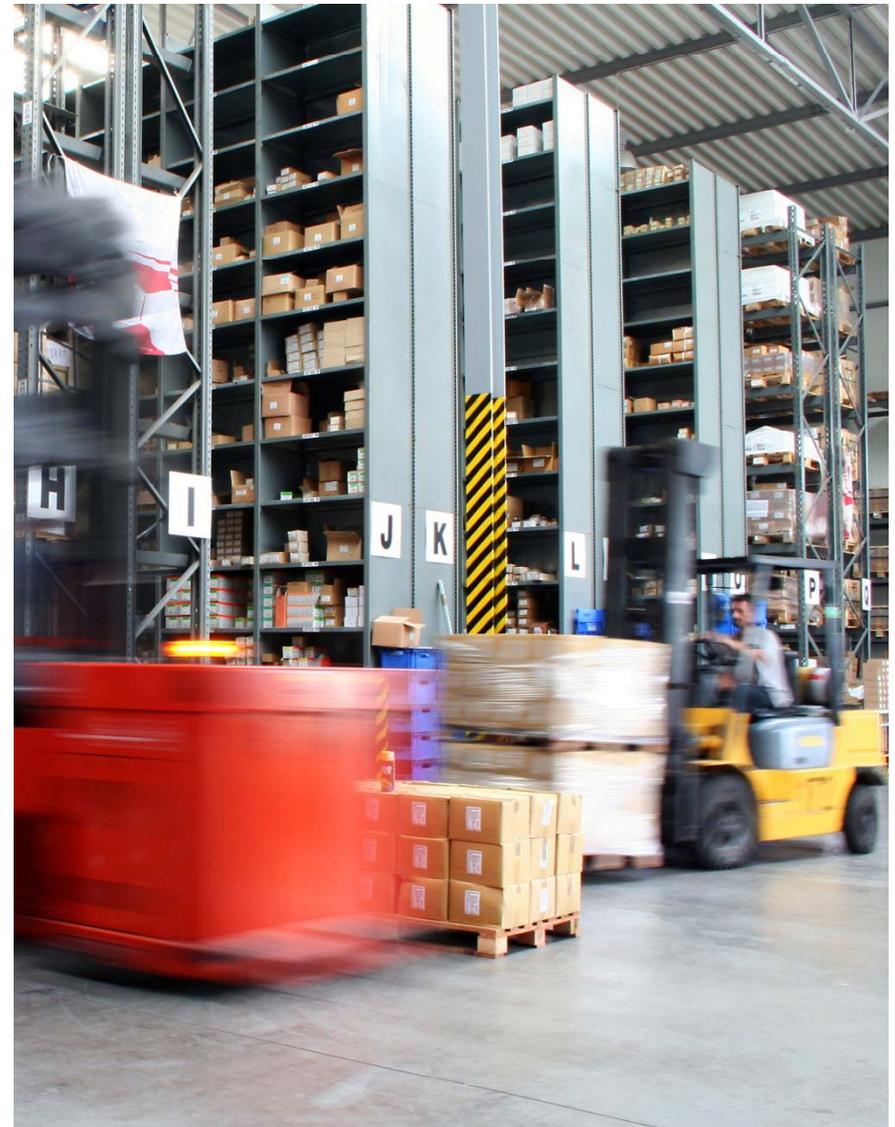
User Steps



Case Studies

Real-world Examples

- Sector: Distribution Center
- Location: Irvine (Orange County)
- Employees: 64 FTEs
- Recycling Program: Cardboard only
- Access to information: None
- Results (annual):
 - Trash: 141 tons and \$22,000
 - Recycling: 10 tons and \$429
 - Benefits:
 - \$700 avoided disposal
 - 33MT CO₂e
 - 6% recycling rate



Case Studies

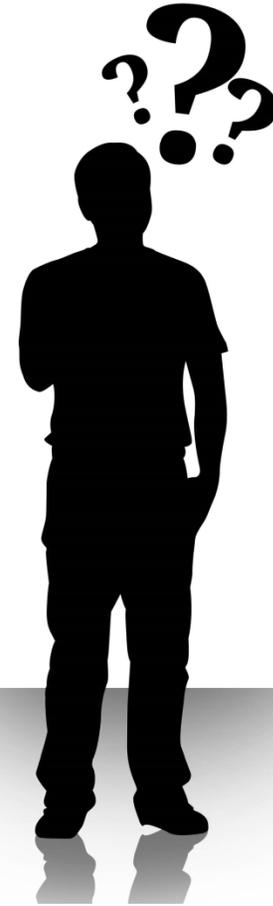
Real-world Examples



- Sector: Multi-family
- Location: Walnut Creek (Contra Costa County)
- Units: 12 MF Units
- Recycling Program: None
- Access to information:
 - Has trash information only
 - 1, 2 cubic yard container, 100% full, 2 pickups/week
- Results (annual):
 - Trash: 18 tons and \$7,000

Lessons Learned

- Upfront research pays off
- Calculator meets needs of a wide range of users
- Future opportunities exist for integrating new source data
- Collaboration with other agencies is essential



Thanks!

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