

Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)  
COVID-19 Resources

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the solid waste management industry that collects, processes, and/or disposes waste and recyclables from homes, business and institutions. CalRecycle has gathered resources and provides updates to ensure the safe and proper management of California's nonhazardous solid waste. These resources provide guidance to the public, jurisdictions and businesses.

On June 16, 2020, CalRecycle distributed the Guidance for Tracking Disposed Recyclables due to COVID-19 which provides direction on reporting recyclables that were not diverted due to the COVID-19 state of emergency and processing facilities being closed. The guidance letter states that impacted jurisdictions must submit a disposal modification request in their 2020 electronic annual report no later than August 1, 2021, to claim a disaster waste disposal deduction and indicate why recyclables were disposed of instead of being diverted.

The COVID-19 Guidance for Local Enforcement Agency and Tire Enforcement Agency Q&A Regarding Permitting and Inspections provides details on processing and submitting solid waste facility permits remotely. Virtual and drive-through solid waste facility inspection guidance is included, as well as recommended protocols for inspectors.

On April 22, 2020, Governor Newsom released Executive Order N-54-20 which included a suspension of certain beverage container recycling requirements for 60 days. The COVID-19 Guidance for Recycling Centers and Beverage Retailers Related to Executive Order N-54-20 explains that retailers who are required to redeem empty beverage containers or pay the \$100 per day fee to CalRecycle were temporarily relieved of the obligation until June 21, 2020. Recycling centers were allowed to reduce their hours or close temporarily until June 21, 2020. The executive order, which expired on June 21, 2020, also exempted retail establishments from assessing fees for grocery bags or recycled paper bags provided to customers at point-of-sale for a period of 60 days.

On April 21, 2020, CalRecycle provided the COVID-19 Recycling Related Guidance for Jurisdictions which explained that CalRecycle has existing statutory authority and policies that will take into consideration the impacts of COVID-19 when determining whether a jurisdiction is compliant with diversion and recycling laws and current regulations.

On July 22, 2020, Cal/OSHA provided guidance for the grocery and retail industry on the use of reusable bags. The guidance included instructions for employees to avoid contact with customer-brought bags and to not handle containers or recycling returned for reuse or redemption without personal protective equipment (PPE).

For more information on the above resources and other useful information please visit <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/markets/covid-19>. CalRecycle will continue to gather and provide updates on these and other topics relating to COVID-19 as they become available.



COVID-19 Information and Resources