



# 2026 Strategic Plan



WCNX

Waste Connections Inc.



## Waste Connections of California, Inc, DBA 'El Dorado Disposal'

According to the agreement between El Dorado County and Waste Connections of California, Inc, dba El Dorado Disposal, Section 19 A (5), *“Contractor will provide the County with a strategic plan with specific program goals and objectives to increase Diversion rates consistent with the El Dorado County Solid Waste Management Plan. The plan should be based on the results of the prior year’s activities and include a discussion of that year’s programs, including strengths and weaknesses.”*

This diversion plan outlines programs that El Dorado Disposal implemented, and overall progress made in the 2025 calendar year. Additionally, the plan identifies both ongoing programs as well as new programs to be instituted in 2026 that represent a continued emphasis on programs that maximize efforts to increase diversion metrics and educate our customers on how their participation is integral to overall success.

**GOAL** – *Our overall goal is to continue to focus on new and existing recycling programs, to comply with the Solid Waste Management Plan and CalRecycle mandates and to explore new opportunities to divert more tons away from the landfill in partnership with El Dorado County. As we review this plan each year we will need to explore and research new state legislation that can impact diversion efforts, current solid waste trends specifically related to new material types, and programs that will help aid us in continuing to fulfill this goal year after year.*

*Key updates include:*

- **Compost Program Expansion:** Collaboration with municipalities and agriculture groups aim to provide unique opportunities for increased and ongoing dispersion of organic compost.
- **Solutions for Hazardous Materials:** Previously unacceptable materials such as solar panels and vape pens can now be accepted, solving an ongoing disposal problem.
- **Advanced In-Cab Technology:** New AI-driven cameras in collection trucks present the ability to improve contamination identification and provide more direct education & customer feedback.
- **Community Outreach & Education:** A focus on diversifying outreach efforts to include hosting workshops, engaging in community presentations, and creating digital content to inform the public on various ‘best practices’ regarding proper recycling and waste reduction.

## **PROCESSING & DIVERSION – MRF (Material Recovery Facility)**

The following describes the current processes in place to sort and divert different solid waste material types from self-haul customers, the various options customers have at our facility and initiatives we intend to focus on in 2026:

- A. **Self-Haul Operations** – Our Material Recovery Facility offers a host of free options for self-haulers to divert materials from the landfill. Residents of El Dorado County can dispose of varying types of Electronic Waste varying from TVs and computers to everyday household electronics such as vacuums, radios, cordless phones, and more. Additionally, we operate the only Household Hazardous Waste facility on the Western Slope of El Dorado County and offer the ability for all residents to dispose of such materials for free. Our facility also accepts and diverts numerous other material types including mixed organics (green waste), assorted recycling materials, Construction & Demolition (C&D), and various types of metals. Depending on customer needs, our staff assists customers in ensuring proper disposal of their items with the intention of diverting the most amount of material possible. The facility is open 7-days a week and 363 days a year, ultimately offering convenience and “one-stop shop” option for residents of El Dorado County when it comes to disposing of solid waste materials.
  
- B. **Diversion Program Updates** – The Material Recovery Facility continues to explore opportunities to support and increase diversion efforts, ultimately trying to find solutions for consumer trends.
  1. **Comingled Recycling** – Comingled recyclables collected from residential and commercial customers are baled along with aluminum and plastics from our three Buy Back Centers. The baled material is transferred to a recycling facility where it goes through a more refined sorting process to remove non-recyclable items.
  2. **Construction and Demolition (C&D)** – Prior to shredding and preparing for transport, material is sorted to remove prohibited items as well as recyclable items from the C&D waste. The shredding operation is conducted at the MRF, and the processed material is transported to Potrero Hills Landfill to serve as alternative daily cover.
  3. **Mixed Organics** – The MRF has a bunker for commercial and self-hauled organics (green waste/food-waste/livestock manure) and has established partnerships with Ukiah’s C&S Waste Solutions and Napa Recycling’s Yolo County composting facility for AB 1826 and SB 1383 organics-greenhouse reduction compliance. All organics collected from residential and commercial customers are being composted in compliance with SLCP requirements. Green waste is also collected from our Buy Back Centers in El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park and transferred accordingly.
  4. **Recycling/Buy Back Centers** – El Dorado Disposal operates Buy Back Centers for the California Redemption Program in El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park, and Placerville. These

centers provide convenience while also promoting recycling initiatives by streamlining the redemption process for California Refund Value (CRV) materials such as plastic bottles and aluminum cans. Additionally, each location serves as a recycling center, offering the ability to recycle various material types such as textiles, bulk cardboard, batteries and electronic waste and at specified locations. The Buy Back Centers in Cameron Park and El Dorado Hills further enhance their offerings by accepting excess green waste material from residents as well. El Dorado Disposal strives to continuously seek convenient recycling options, reduce landfill waste, and promote sustainable practices at these facilities.

5. Appliances & Metals – All appliances are evaluated to facilitate refrigerant evacuation and the removal of mercury switches. Once the process is complete, the appliances are stored in the metal recycling area before being transferred. El Dorado Disposal continues to prioritize metal recovery efforts and continues to see an increase in scrap metal disposal.
6. Glass – El Dorado Disposal collects glass separately at our Buy Back Centers and transports the material to Ming’s Recycling for further processing and diversion. With the introduction of a new glass collection initiative in 2025, the state has expanded its acceptable glass items to include empty wine and liquor bottles. Year over year, we collected 294 tons of glass in 2025 compared to 259 tons in 2024. We would expect to see similar trends in 2026.
7. Carpet – El Dorado Disposal partners with CARE Carpet Recycling to execute a carpet recycling program in which residents are offered a discounted rate for carpet and carpet pad disposal while keeping the material out of the landfill.
8. Mattresses – El Dorado Disposal partners with the California Mattress Stewardship Council to provide free mattress collection and recycling for residential customers. All mattresses that have the ability to be recycled are handled in a specific manner and kept out of the general trash.
9. Tires – El Dorado Disposal identified a new tire vendor in 2025 and continued to provide an option for recycling tires to residents in the community. In addition, El Dorado Disposal had partnered with El Dorado County to offer a tire amnesty program in 2026, which offers a discounted tire disposal rate to El Dorado County residents and driving increased diversion efforts specifically related to tires.
10. Pressure Treated Wood (PTW) – In 2021, California mandated that Pressure Treated Wood be separated from the MSW, Organics, and C&D waste streams. El Dorado Disposal continues to focus on our efforts to collect and handle Pressure Treated Wood in a specific manner.
11. Textiles – The 2025 year demonstrated continued success with our textile recovery and diversion efforts, allowing for residents to dispose of clothing, fabric, shoes, bedding, and accessories at our three recycling center locations, as well as our MRF. In 2025, we collected and diverted 18,433 pounds of material versus 4,908 pounds in 2024. In 2026, El Dorado Disposal intends to explore additional opportunities to collect Textiles from customers outside of our current “drop-box” options. Textiles continue to be a focus of

our diversion efforts, as these types of materials are often found in the trash and we believe there are diversion opportunities within this category.

12. Electronic Waste (E-Waste) – Electronic Waste recycling continues to be a priority for El Dorado Disposal as consumer trends and technology continue to change. As we recognize varying needs that have long been a challenge, we remain in frequent communication with electronic waste vendors to understand options for disposal of unique items that can be considered new to the waste stream. Residents have the opportunity to dispose of a wide range of electronics for free at our facility.
13. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) – El Dorado Disposal’s updated HHW facility serving as the sole HHW recovery facility on the western slope, allows for an efficient and safe recovery process. In quarter four of 2025 we were able to expand the HHW program to accept hard-to-handle items such as vapes, CO2 cannisters and residential solar panels which had previously been problematic items that were normally disposed of in the trash.

C. 2026 Initiatives

1. Community Education Center – Our community education center will host school and community groups for recycling and waste reduction education sessions. With targeted educational materials and lesson plans, we aim to help people of all age ranges understand the full-circle process of solid waste disposal while also teaching best practices and educating the public on their numerous options for proper disposal. During an instructed lesson or field trip, groups will tour the facility to understand how all of the varying materials are processed and also work through different interactive stations to demonstrate the process from collection to post-collection and beyond.
2. Commercial E-Waste – We understand the continued need for the handling and processing of electronic waste in both small and large quantities. Historically we have faced challenges with accepting commercial electronic waste due to storage constraints and issues handling excessive quantities. We are continuing to have conversations with our electronic waste recycling vendor to determine viable options for expanding our program.
3. Solar Panel Recycling – We now have the ability to accept solar panels, which we believe will continue to be a pressing issue in the coming years. The solar panels will be either repaired or refurbished, but most importantly they will be kept out of the landfill. Residents can now recycle their solar panels at our facility 7 days a week and will be charged accordingly.
4. C&D – Proper recycling and disposal of construct and demolition materials will continue to be a focus point in 2026. Proactive and frequent communication with housing developers and contractors will be a point of emphasis as we collaborate with El Dorado County to increase diversion efforts in this category. When we sort and process C&D material properly, it can serve as alternative daily cover for landfills which is considered diversion.

## **COLLECTION AND HAULING**

The following describes current recycling program updates and proposed projects in 2026 for El Dorado County residents and businesses:

### **A. Current Collection Diversion Programs:**

1. **Commercial Food Waste Program (AB 1826 & SB 1383)** – In 2025, the expansion of commercial food waste recycling continued to align with the requirements of SB 1383, transitioning from the thresholds set by AB 1826. New educational materials have been created to assist in onboarding these businesses, focusing on promoting proper recycling and organic waste sorting while also providing best practices based on consumer type. EDD conducts hands-on training and outreach for business owners, restaurant operators, and property managers to guide them in effectively diverting organic waste from the trash waste stream. The food waste initiative has expanded to include two routes, servicing commercial food waste five days a week, enabling the inclusion of food-generating businesses across broader areas of the county. In total, we collected 1,195 tons of commercial organics versus 1,037 tons in 2024. SB-1383 program compliance for commercial customers sits above 95% with only a small number of businesses yet to adopt the program. EDD’s commercial food waste drivers also provide valuable feedback on contamination levels, allowing the Outreach Team to communicate with commercial customers and provide educational resources to eliminate contamination and encourage proper disposal habits.
2. **Curbside Mixed Organics Program (Senate Bill 1383)** – In 2025, we developed new residential and multifamily education to assist in customers with understanding the changes and providing proper guidelines for the disposal of organic materials. Route reviews, assessing the performance and contamination of residents on identified routes, continue to be done quarterly for all jurisdictions. This provides the Outreach Team with information to identify common trends or contaminants and tailor our educational materials. Through many conversations with residents, we understand there is still confusion on what items are considered organic materials as well as the hurdles of the “ick” factor and plan to steer our educational efforts accordingly. In addition, customers have also noted that a limiting factor in participating in the recycling of organic material is the issue of wildlife. In 2025, we introduced a Bear-resistant mixed organics container that is available for our more rural populations where wildlife is a factor.

3. Commercial Recycling Outreach (Assembly Bill AB 341) – Efforts continue in 2026 to increase commercial recycling volumes as well as encourage proper recycling habits that will drive better end results. While commercial recycling participation remains steady, there are varying results when it comes to the proper items being recycled. Contaminants in the commercial recycling waste stream continue to pose problems, with plastic films, wood material, and general restaurant waste being the most common contaminants. The Education/Outreach Team will continue to focus efforts on in-person education with commercial businesses to share best practices and share information on common recycling myths. Updated educational information that is applied to the dumpsters will continue to be dispersed, as well as specific recycling information for multi-family dwellings which have proven to be largely challenging.

# RECYCLING

## RECICLAJE MESCLADO



**Paper**  
Junk Mail, Newspaper, Magazines,  
Cardboard, Paper Bags  
Papeles  
Correspondencia Publicitaria, Periodicos,  
Revistas, Cartón y Bolsas de papel



**Metal Cans & Foil**  
Latas de metal y aluminio



**Glass Jars & Bottles**  
Frascos y Botellas de Vidrio



**Plastic Bottles  
(Lids Removed)**  
Botellas de plástico  
(tapas quitadas)

(530) 626-4141  
(916) 985-1162

**NO**

PLASTIC BAGS • LIQUIDS • SCRAP METAL • FABRIC  
CARTONS • STYROFOAM • SHREDDED PAPER  
BOLSAS DE PLASTICO • LIQUIDOS • CHATARRA • ROPA  
ENBAZE DE CARTON • POLIESTIREÑO • PAPEL MOLIDO • COMIDA

**NO**



4. School Recycling Outreach – The Education/Outreach Team plans to develop updated educational resources and presentations aimed at enhancing recycling efforts within schools. Furthermore, the team will continue its collaboration with EDC Environmental Management and 'Breathe California' to establish organic and recycling strategies for the upcoming 2026-227 school year, with the intention of being able to facilitate educational seminars or assist in setting up programs at schools within El Dorado County. With this collaborative effort, El Dorado Disposal plans to expand mixed organics recycling at schools across El Dorado County and continue our efforts to educate the youth on solid waste disposal processes.
5. Residential Recycling Outreach – In addition to our “Oops Tag” program which provides direct feedback to residents on contamination or prohibited items in their containers, El Dorado Disposal has implemented AI technology that assists in identifying contaminants in curbside containers. The “Oops Tag” program allows for 1:1 customer communication regarding contaminants that were identified in their recycling or mixed organics containers, while the AI technology allows us to capture items or materials that the route driver may have missed or unable to see. Route reviews, assessing the waste

contents of residential curbside materials on an identified route(s), continue to be done quarterly for organic waste and monthly for recycling waste, for all jurisdictions. Additionally, when a driver identifies contamination and leaves a tag on a customer's cart, our outreach team is provided with specific information that can be shared with individual customers, via phone calls and/ or emails. The "Oops Tag" program continues to provide education and reduce contamination with increasing enforcement efforts on residential customers.

6. C&D Recycling – Construction and Demolition material is collected primarily through large home development projects or housing remodel projects. We offer rolloff services ranging from 6YD – 40YD debris boxes for proper disposal of construction and demolition materials. In 2026, we intend to increase efforts to educate contractors and home developers alike on proper disposal and diversion efforts. We will work in collaboration with El Dorado County to be proactive in identifying projects and aiming to minimize contamination and ensure compliance with Green Code. Furthermore, we have revamped our educational materials that will be distributed to project managers, contractors, and homeowners conducting projects.
7. Compost Procurement Program – El Dorado Disposal initiated compost procurement contracts in 2023 with the City of Placerville, and with El Dorado County in 2024, to meet their procurement requirement, set by California's SB-1383. In 2025, the program saw continued success and additional progress in delivering certified organic compost to the community. El Dorado Disposal brought back 3,293 tons in total to the community compost facility located at our Placerville Buy Back Center and delivered 2,130 tons directly to residents and businesses within the community. Further expansion of the program will be a priority in 2026, while we will also be exploring additional opportunities to distribute compost in alternative ways.



8. Curbside Battery & Oil Service – El Dorado Disposal offers residential customers the ability to dispose of batteries and used motor oil/oil filters for free via curbside pick-up. We continue to promote our updated battery disposal program, which includes distributing a “battery bag” to customers upon request and picking it up at their convenience. The bag allows for various types of batteries, some of which were difficult to dispose of in the past, as we aim to remove all batteries from curbside containers. Improper disposal of batteries and electronic waste pose potentially the greatest to our driver and community with the risk of fire. Residential customers may also request a motor oil jug for used motor oil, bag their oil filters if they are disposing of them and additionally schedule a pickup date. Oil pick-up/removal can be easily requested through our mobile phone app providing convenience and timely service.



9. Free Disposal Vouchers – El Dorado Disposal’s robust voucher programs, continue to drive recycling efforts at the customer’s convenience. Vouchers that allow free disposal include bulky item removal, pickup of items such as E-Waste, and specified HHW, as well as additional green waste pick-ups as well and MRF drop off vouchers for general waste and green waste.

**B. 2026 Proposed Projects:**

1. Expanding E-Waste Recycling – El Dorado Disposal has partnered with an Electronic Waste vendor that allows for additional materials to be recycled. Small electronics and household appliances can now be sent to recyclers along with cords and holiday lights. They are also participating in the new state mandated BEP program beginning early 2026. Our MRF staff will be identifying these materials and recovering any electronics that could be sent to recyclers. This recycler can also accept solar panels, a commodity that has long been problematic in regard to disposal solutions. This will allow residents to properly dispose of solar panels for a fee, providing a solution to a burgeoning problem.
2. Compost Program Expansion – Our Outreach Team is creating partnerships with local farmers and businesses to further advance the dispersion of organic compost within the agriculture community. We intend to increase our ability to deliver compost directly to customers’ residences across El Dorado County and explore opportunities to help identify community locations that can host large quantities of material in strategic

locations. Furthermore, we intend to pilot distributing bagged compost at two of our recycling/buy back centers to offer smaller quantities for residents who don't have the ability to take large amounts.

3. Expanding Hazardous Waste – Through working with our current vendors and partnering with an additional specialized waste handler, we have been able to expand the types of materials we are able to accept out our facility. Previously unaccepted and hard-to-handle hazardous items such as vape pens and CO2 cannisters can now be brought to our facility for proper disposal.
4. Curbside Mixed Organics (Green Waste) Service Expansion – El Dorado Disposal is working with jurisdictions, fire safe councils, and community members, to understand consumer needs, find ways to reduce green waste and assist with defensible space initiatives. As part of our efforts, we intend to survey unincorporated parts of the county that currently do not have curbside mixed organic (green waste) services and provide feedback to the Board of Supervisors based on our findings to determine if establishing curbside collection is necessary.
5. Residential Recycling Outreach – We will focus on recycling education with community and local municipalities to bring awareness to the changes in recycling markets and accepted materials. The Outreach Team will seek opportunities to present to community groups, HOAs, multi-family dwellings, and other small or large groups to communicate not only the common recycling misconceptions but also inform them of the options we offer. These efforts will be supported through digital content shared on our social media platforms as well as printed outreach materials shared at community events.
6. Technology Improvements – Continued advancements in AI technology and software on our collection vehicles, will provide further opportunities for more timely and accurate identification of contamination that will assist in customer education.