



SF Environment

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Mayor

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Director

December 12, 2007

Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D., Chair
Economic and Technology Advancement Advisory Committee
California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street,
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Draft ETAAC report's approach to waste

Dear Chair Lloyd,

We applaud the tremendous effort that you and the Committee are making to move the State of California towards achieving our greenhouse gas reduction goals and providing a model for other States to follow. With regard to your work on identifying the best measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from the waste sector we are however disappointed to see that waste reduction, recycling and composting continue to play secondary roles to questionable "conversion technologies" in much of this work.

Recycling and composting are proven technologies that hold an incredible potential to reduce GHG emissions in multiple areas including those associated with upstream energy use and methane released at the landfill. In addition composting plays a critical role in fostering local sustainable agriculture efforts, which further address greenhouse gases associated with transportation related to agriculture and soil sequestration. Furthermore, recycling and composting efforts are already reaching vast numbers of households and businesses and this existing infrastructure combined with the move toward Zero Waste holds tremendous potential to spur the type of awareness and behavior change that will be necessary to meet our climate goals.

With the above in mind, we urge you to consider GHG reductions related to waste as a hierarchy of waste reduction, then recycling and composting. We realize that compilation of a report such as this doesn't always lend itself to taking this type of whole systems approach, however, recommending recycling and composting measures such as those submitted by Californian's Against Waste in their comments to CARB on the AB32 scoping plan is a good start (see: www.cawrecycles.org/files/CAW_Scoping_Plan_Submittal.pdf).

Thank you for your consideration.

Jared Blumenfeld, Director

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