

# Compost Is the Solution:

*Improve your local environment and economy, while meeting regulatory mandates using your locally produced, ever higher quality, compost.*

**Problem:** Communities throughout California face multiple environmental, social and economic challenges. To name a few:

- Water pollution
- Water Shortages
- Fires on natural lands and adjacent communities
- Air pollution, like NOx and greenhouse gases

Multiple state regulations are being implemented, and their respective agencies are collaborating to address a multiplicity of interrelated local watershed-based environmental, social and economic issues,

**Solution:** By expanding your local compost production and market capacity, you will solve your local water, waste, air, climate, jobs and justice problems. You will enhance your local community's environment by feeding your soils – your community's living foundation – with compost produced in, by and for your community.

**Local Production:** There are already over 200 compost production facilities growing to serve communities throughout California. Each community can support expansion of existing capacity to sustainably produce more and higher quality compost products that will serve its growing community needs for years.



**Using Compost Locally:** By getting to know your local compost producer ([Compost Locator Map](#)) you can support expanding the “compost solution” to a long list of resource and environmental enhancement programs that are specific to your community. *Use compost and compost containing products to achieve specific objectives of your local water resource management; repair and protect fire damaged lands; reverse global warming; reduce waste and grow a more just and greener economy as outlined here:*

## Water Resource Management Objectives:<sup>1</sup>

- **Reduce Water Demand:**
  - Increase agriculture water use efficiency
  - Increase urban landscape water use efficiency
- **Improve Flood Management:**
  - Enhance riparian vegetation management to slow, sink, store and manage water in soil
- **Increase Water Supply:**
  - Engage in conjunctive vegetation and groundwater management via healthy soil
  - Increase ecosystem health by enhancing soil health with compost
  - Beneficially use biosolids from recycled water facilities to generate your region's soils
- **Improve Water Quality:**
  - Prevent pollution by filtering surface water and infiltration into groundwater while replenishing water supply
  - Manage urban stormwater runoff and protect against erosion (MS4 plans & permit compliance)
  - Industrial stormwater management compliance of all your industrial facilities.
- **Practice Resource Stewardship:**
  - Cultivated land and rangeland soil enhancement
  - Ecosystem restoration of deforested, cultivated and damaged rangelands
  - Forest lands soils management that is at once regenerative and sustainable
  - Recharge area soil protection and healthy vegetation surrounding your infiltration basins.
  - Sediment management and erosion control of exposed and disturbed soils



<sup>1</sup> <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/California-Water-Plan/Water-Resource-Management-Strategies>

**Fire Damaged Lands:<sup>2</sup>**

- Repair fire damaged lands, protect water quality and increase water quantity
- Increase compost use for slope stabilization & establishing vegetation during wildfire debris cleanup efforts.

**Climate Change:<sup>3</sup>**

- Reduce Short Live Climate Pollution (SLCP) via organics diversion and compost production & use (SB 1383 compliance in your jurisdiction)
- Increase carbon sequestration by supporting carbon ranching and farming.

**Waste Reduction:<sup>4</sup>**

- Food scrap recycling system expansion (complying with AB 1826)
- Organics management infrastructure planning and development (complying with AB 875)
- Organics materials management and reporting within local communities (comply with AB 901)
- Diverting organic waste from landfills and producing a valuable product (comply with SB 1383)

**Environmental Justice:<sup>5</sup>**

- Grow green jobs, improve environmental health and economics of disadvantaged communities

**What Californians & their Elected Leaders CAN DO!**

Improving local water quality, water reliability, clean air, while reducing waste and developing your local economy can seem both confusing and overwhelming! Fortunately, all California communities have an ally for their sustainable economic development *while regenerating your environment*. **Your local compost producer!** By working with your local compost producer, you can beneficially use the compostable materials that you generate from landscape clippings and food scraps to address many of your community's environmental, resource and economic needs. Take the following steps:



1. **KNOW: Familiarize** yourself and the appropriate team leaders in your community with how compost solves specific problems in your local watershed by going to the following references:
  - a. Watershed: [www.healthsoil.org/soil&waterconnection](http://www.healthsoil.org/soil&waterconnection)
  - b. Fire damaged lands: [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/erosion/firedamage](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/erosion/firedamage)
  - c. Airshed and climate change adaptation: [www.healthsoil.org/compost&climateconnection](http://www.healthsoil.org/compost&climateconnection)
  - d. Solid waste system: [www.healthsoil.org/Compost-Centers-of-Excellence](http://www.healthsoil.org/Compost-Centers-of-Excellence)
  - e. Environmental justice stakeholders: [www.healthsoil.org/CompostEJToolkit](http://www.healthsoil.org/CompostEJToolkit)
2. **MEET: Contact** and get to know, and work directly with your local compost producer.
  - a. Collaborate to address the above environmental and community enhancements with their compost that is produced for you - [www.healthsoil.org/Compost-Centers-of-Excellence](http://www.healthsoil.org/Compost-Centers-of-Excellence)
  - b. Participate in the annual International Compost Awareness week with your local composters- [www.healthsoil.org/International-Compost-Awareness-Week](http://www.healthsoil.org/International-Compost-Awareness-Week)
3. **USE: Ensure** that your community's County and city jurisdictions are procuring enough compost, made from your community's organic residuals, to meet all your community's growing healthy soil needs.

<sup>2</sup> [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/erosion/firedamage](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/erosion/firedamage); AB 2411  
[http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07\\_01\\_bill\\_20170101\\_bill\\_0001.html#bill\\_id=201720180AB2411](http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07_01_bill_20170101_bill_0001.html#bill_id=201720180AB2411)

<sup>3</sup> SB 1383 [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/laws/rulemaking/slcp](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/laws/rulemaking/slcp) and [www.carboncycle.org/carbon-farming/](http://www.carboncycle.org/carbon-farming/)

<sup>4</sup> AB 1826 - [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics); AB 876, AB 901,

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/envjustice>