



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tracy Saville 916.853.0362

cell: 916-717-3250

[tracy.saville@cleanworld.com](mailto:tracy.saville@cleanworld.com)

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**AB 1826 PASSES SENATE  
CALIFORNIA POISED TO BECOME FIRST IN U.S.  
TO TRANSITION TO A SUSTAINABLE, LOW-CARBON ECONOMY**

SACRAMENTO - Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro (D-Arcata) will co-host a press briefing at the State Capitol Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm, a day after his landmark organic waste recycling bill AB 1826 has passed the Senate. The event will also be recognizing thirteen public and private businesses and organizations that have demonstrated achievement in organic waste recycling, a significant tool in California's low-carbon, climate adaptation strategy. Others expected to speak include: Assemblymember Das Williams (D-Carpenteria), CalRecycle Director Carol Mortensen, and Sacramento City Vice Mayor Jay Schenirer. *Both Chesbro and Williams are expected to speak to their organic waste bills, AB 1826 and AB 1594, at the briefing.*

By diverting methane-gas-producing organic waste away from landfills, through conversion into renewable biofuels, electricity, and nutrient-rich compost for agriculture, AB 1826 will help implement AB 341 by establishing a program under which nearly all commercially generated organic waste will be diverted from landfills.

AB 341 is the landmark recycling legislation Chesbro authored in 2011 that established the goal of diverting at least 75 percent of California's solid waste away from landfills by 2020, and which joined California's AB 32 as guiding policy fueling California's aggressive pursuit of climate impact reductions.

AB 1594, authored by Williams (also this year), will no longer provide diversion credit for using green waste as alternative daily cover at landfills, increasing the amount that could be made available for use in the production of renewable natural gas, electricity, or commercial composting.

*"Although California now leads the nation in waste reduction and recycling, the state continues to dispose of nearly 13 million tons of food and yard waste each year in landfills, which is one-third of the waste stream; food waste alone makes up 15 percent of the waste stream."*

– Asm. Wesley Chesbro

Just this week, additional federal policy and financial incentives were introduced supporting organic waste diversion and recycling, which could bolster California's low carbon organic waste diversion and recycling strategies and further boost the organics-to-energy sector in California.

U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) introduced the Biogas Investment Tax Credit Act of 2014 (S. 2739), which calls for a 30 percent investment tax credit for qualifying biogas technologies, providing further incentive for the production and use of biogas.

On August 4<sup>th</sup> the U.S. Department of Agriculture published the voluntary "Biogas Opportunities Roadmap" which is a significant part of the White House climate action plan strategy to cut methane emissions. The roadmap details how an additional 11,000 anaerobic digestion plants could create significant emissions savings by using biogas to either produce energy from waste, or as transport fuel. While it is a voluntary roadmap, it is a significant step toward recognizing the value of organic waste as a fuel security, climate impact reduction resource.



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Energy Vision, a national research and education nonprofit, focusing on the effects of organic waste recycling as a climate impact reduction strategy, publishes a comprehensive guide to help communities achieve the benefits of recycling organic waste to renewable natural gas, an example of the tools that are helping accelerate organics-to-energy projects in the U.S.. PDF version here: "[TURNING WASTE INTO VEHICLE FUEL: RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS \(RNG\), A Step-By-Step Guide For Communities.](#)"

A co-host to Tuesday's press briefing, Executive Director Joanna Underwood of Energy Vision reports they expect to release a new report, "The State of Organics in California," in fall of 2014, which will document the current ways in which organic wastes are managed in California, explore the benefits and challenges of commercially-available recycling strategies, and explore best-use scenarios for organic waste with climate impact reduction as a primary goal.

*"We congratulate the policymakers and companies being celebrated here today for taking action that is contributing so much to California's environmental and economic future and to the global efforts to meet the awesome threats posed by climate change. We are proud to be a co-host of this event and to offer a resource that can help California Communities become real "game changers" in carving the path to the future."*

– Joanna Underwood, Energy Vision

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#### **EVENT CONTACT**

Cory Bullis: [cory.bullis@cleanworld.com](mailto:cory.bullis@cleanworld.com) and @ 916.853.0384 PH

#### **AGENDA**

- 4:30 PM – Opening Remarks, Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro, 2nd District
- 4:40 PM – Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th District
- 4:45 PM – Vice Mayor Jay Schenirer, City of Sacramento (Presenting Champion Recognition)
- 4:55 PM – Caroll Mortensen, Director, CalRecycle
- 5:00 PM – Q&A Recognized Champions, Fleet Operators, Officials Present (schedules permitting)

#### **RECOGNITION**

In recognition of their valued leadership in championing organic waste diversion and recycling, and for their commitment to environmental sustainability, climate resiliency, and the health and safety of all Californians, these public and private organizations are being honored.

- Atlas Disposal & Atlas ReFuel
- Bioenergy Association of California
- Californians Against Waste
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- California Public Employees' Retirement System
- California State Teacher's Retirement System
- Castro Valley Sanitary District
- HP Hood
- Hyatt Regency Sacramento
- Mulvaney's B&L Restaurant
- Republic Services
- Straw Hat Pizza, Rancho Cordova
- Waste Management, Inc.

\*CleanWorld is a co-host of this event. For more details, please visit the [event webpage](#).