



AGENDA

PATHWAYS TO PLASTIC REDUCTION – JANUARY 11, 2024

8:00AM Registration and Refreshments

Welcome & Introduction

9:00AM Keynote Address

Deputy Mayor Nancy Sutley, City of Los Angeles

9:20AM Los Angeles' Path to Plastic Source Reduction

Paul Cobian, City of Los Angeles

Christine Batikian, City of Los Angeles

Current State of Recycling & Recycling Market

9:40AM Discussion Panel

Moderator: Councilmember Tim McOsker, City of Los Angeles

Dr. Dan Domonoske, Potential Industries

Neil Edgar, California Compost Coalition

Anne Germain, National Waste & Recycling Association

Cody Marshall, The Recycling Partnership

Current State of Compostable Products

10:05AM How Compostable Products Drive Waste Reduction

Alex Truelove, BPI

10:20AM Compostable Servingware: The Waste Hauler's Perspective

Jessica Aldridge, Athens Services

10:35AM Panel Q/A

Facilitator: James Roska, City of Los Angeles

10:50AM Break

11:00AM Plenary Address

Council President Paul Krekorian, City of Los Angeles

Responding to Plastic Pollution

11:15AM From Plastics You See to Those You Don't: Understanding the Scale of the Environmental Problem

Alison Waliszewski, 5 Gyres Institute

11:30AM U.S. EPA Plastics and Environmental Justice Policy, Funding and Research

André Villaseñor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

11:45AM UCLA Zero Waste Program

Bonny Bentzin, UCLA

12:00PM Panel Q/A

Facilitator: Michelle Barton, City of Los Angeles

12:15PM Lunch Break

Innovations in Waste Management

1:30PM The Path to More Recycled Plastic Content

Craig Cookson, American Chemistry Council

1:50PM Enabling Greater Plastics Circularity Through Innovation

Pete Keller, Republic Services

2:10PM Panel Q/A

Facilitator: Dr. Rowena Romano, City of Los Angeles

2:30PM Break

Future of Circular Economy

2:45PM California's Shifting Producer Responsibility Framework

Nick Lapis, Californians Against Waste

3:00PM Building the Infrastructure, Platform, and Movement for the Reuse Economy

Maor Peer, r.World

3:15PM You Matter: How We Lead Our Lives Makes a Difference

Sheila Morovati, HabitsOfWaste.org

3:30PM Panel Q/A

Facilitator: Christine Batikian, City of Los Angeles

Closing

3:45PM Closing Remarks

Barbara Romero, City of Los Angeles

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

NANCY SUTLEY

**Deputy Mayor of Energy & Sustainability,
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass**

Nancy Sutley leads Mayor Bass's environmental, energy and sustainability policy and programs. Sutley was previously the Senior Assistant General Manager of External and Regulatory Affairs and Chief Sustainability Officer for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, where she oversaw all external relations activities for the nation's largest municipally owned utility. Prior to that, Sutley led the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) for five years during the administration of President Barack Obama, a position for which she was unanimously confirmed for by the United States Senate. Sutley previously served as Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's Deputy Mayor for Energy and Environment and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.



PAUL KREKORIAN

**Council President, Council District 2,
City of Los Angeles**

In 2022, Paul Krekorian was elected unanimously by his fellow Councilmembers to serve as President of the City Council. As Chair of the City Council's powerful Budget and Finance Committee for the previous ten years, he led the City to recovery from two fiscal calamities: the Great Recession and the COVID-related economic collapse, completing 11 balanced budgets and building the strongest reserves in the City's history. He took the lead in ending oil and gas drilling in Los Angeles and initiated the City's LA100 drive to achieve 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2035.

He has been a leader in the drive to reduce plastic waste by eliminating single-use plastics from City facilities and events and from takeout food service. In the last three years he has shepherded ordinances through the Council expanding the City's plastic bag ban, allowing food and beverage establishments to offer plastic straws and utensils only upon request, removing plastic bags and water bottles from City events and facilities, and initiating a Citywide ban on styrofoam, the most environmentally harmful single-use plastic.

Paul Krekorian was first elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 2009, after serving as a Member of the California State Assembly. Before entering politics, he enjoyed a successful 20-year career as an attorney in the private sector.



BARBARA ROMERO

**Director & General Manager,
Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment**

Born and raised in East Los Angeles and Boyle Heights, Barbara has spent her career serving the City's residents. She is the first Latina Director and General Manager of LASAN, appointed in July 2021. In her first year, she successfully expanded cleaning in the public rights-of-way; launched LA's curbside organics collection and led the recovery of Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant; secured funds to create new positions and replace inefficient equipment. She has since established alternate pathways to civil service employment for Angelenos from underserved communities, and is using her lived experience to prioritize infrastructure projects that enhance environmental justice for all Angelenos.

Previously, Barbara has served the City of Los Angeles in three different capacities; as Deputy Mayor for City Services, Board of Public Works Commissioner overseeing LASAN, and as a Citywide Planning Commissioner. She spent a decade working for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) as its Chief of Urban Projects and Watershed Planning.

In recognition of her work, Barbara received the "Outstanding Young Californian Award" from the California Junior Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the "Aztec Award" from the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation, the "Environmental Justice Civic Leadership Award" from Pacoima Beautiful, "Las Mujeres Award" from From Lot to Spot, the "La Adelita" Award from Mujeres de la Tierra, the "Muxer of the Year Award" from Las Fotos Project and the "Nuevo Amanecer Mujer Integral Dia Internacional de la Mujer Award" from Avanca.

Early in her career, she worked as a community organizer for Roosevelt High School's Healthy Start Program. She also worked for the Los Angeles Conservation Corps running a federal AmeriCorps jobs program in East Los Angeles. She founded the Girls Today, Women Tomorrow Leadership Mentoring Program, and has served on the boards of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Corporation (now River LA), the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, Los Amigos Council for Para Los Niños, Valley Presbyterian Hospital, Community Nature Connection, Hollywood Sign Trust, and Los Angeles Conservation Corps. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

Barbara is a proud graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles.



MODERATOR & PANELISTS

TIM McOSKER

**Councilmember, Council District 15,
City of Los Angeles**

Councilmember Tim McOsker represents the Fifteenth Council District, or the “One Five,” which includes the communities of Harbor City, Harbor Gateway, San Pedro, Watts, and Wilmington.

Elected to the City Council in 2022, Tim is a lifelong San Pedro community member. He has a long history of serving the Harbor Area, and all of Los Angeles, in critical leadership roles over his three decades of experience in government. Previously, he served as Chief of Staff and Chief Deputy City Attorney for former Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn.

Recently, Tim served as Chief Executive Officer of AltaSea, a non-profit advancing scientific discovery and collaboration in ocean sustainability and the blue economy, augmenting job creation at the Port of Los Angeles.

Tim is dedicated to fighting for his community to deliver good jobs, better wages, clean air and water, more affordable housing, effective solutions for homelessness, safe neighborhoods, transparency in local government, and a voice in City Hall.

He serves as Chair of the Personnel, Audits & Hiring Committee, Vice Chair of the Energy & Environment Committee, Vice Chair of the Trade, Travel & Tourism Committee, and as a member of the Budget & Finance and Public Safety Committees.



DANIEL J. DOMONOSKE

Executive Vice President, Potential Industries Inc.

Daniel J. Domonoske has more than 30 years of experience in recycling. With Potential Industries, Dan has been in the business of closing the loop through all aspects of recycling including sorting-processing at their regional Material Recovery Facility (MRF), municipal operating and marketing contracts, trans-loading, exporting, transfer station, and traditional recycling. Dan has a BS in Economics, a Master’s in International Business Management and a PhD in Environmental Policy. Dan is recognized in the industry as having technical expertise in MRF processing and marketing of post-consumer MRF-sorted materials, including plastics.



NEIL EDGAR

Senior Project Manager, Edgar & Associates Inc.

Neil Edgar has been a Senior Project Manager with Edgar & Associates in Sacramento, California since 2001. Edgar & Associates, Inc. is a governmental affairs and environmental engineering firm specializing in solid waste management, recycling, composting and climate change issues.

Mr. Edgar co-founded and has acted as Executive Director of the California Compost Coalition since 2002, a statewide lobbying coalition that focuses on legislative and regulatory development regarding composting and other organics management options. Mr. Edgar is Chair of the United States Composting Council’s Legislative and Environmental Affairs Committee, where he is also a Board member, and serves as a co-chair and policy liaison for the CORC Technical Council of the California Resource Recovery Association.



ANNE GERMAIN

**COO & Senior VP of Regulatory Affairs,
National Waste & Recycling Association**

Anne Germain is the Chief Operating Officer & Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for the National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) responsible for establishing and implementing strategies for recycling, landfilling, and sustainability. She has over 30 years in the industry that includes extensive background in analysis of industry trends, contracting, engineering, operations and compliance.

Prior to joining NWRA, Anne was Chief Engineer with the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA). Anne is a Past President of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) and is a trustee-at-large for the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (AAEES). She is a professional engineer and a Board Certified Environmental Engineer with a Master’s in Civil Engineering from the University of Delaware and a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech. In 2020, she was recognized by MSW Management with their legacy award, and in 2023, she was named to the inaugural class of Waste360’s 2023 Women Who Inspire.



CODY MARSHALL

**Chief System Optimization Officer,
The Recycling Partnership**

With more than 15 years of industry experience, Cody Marshall has led projects across the recycling supply chain starting with his time managing city and county recycling operations in Orange County, North Carolina, where he saw firsthand how to make a lasting difference in waste diversion at the local level. From there, Cody became a Senior Consultant for the sustainability and recycling consulting firm RRS, where he helped build The Recycling Partnership model. At The Partnership, Cody leads a team of experienced problem solvers to provide grants, assistance, and proven technical resources to local and state recycling programs as well as processing facilities throughout the U.S.



PRESENTERS

JESSICA ALDRIDGE

Director of Sustainability & Zero Waste Programs, Athens Services

Jessica Aldridge is a long-time environmental steward and over 16-year waste industry leader. She is an award recipient of the International 2021 Women in Sustainability Leadership and the 2016 inaugural Waste360, 40 Under 40. As the Director of Sustainability and Zero Waste Programs for Athens Services, she designs programs for the most challenging waste scenarios, consults with corporate brands, and advances Athens' environmental goals. She leads on Athens' organics and Zero Waste outreach and education programs. Jessica hosts/produces EcoJustice Radio, an award-winning podcast and radio show (on KPFK Los Angeles and KPFT Houston), presenting environmental and climate stories from a social justice frame.



BONNY BENTZIN

Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer, UCLA

Bonny Bentzin is an experienced sustainability expert with a focus on developing and executing sustainability programs in the field of higher education and complex organizations. She has almost 20 years of leadership, management, and consulting experience.

Bonny works across UCLA to foster partnerships among academic, research, and operational departments to create a world class living laboratory for sustainability. Bonny began her career in higher education at Arizona State University where she designed the overarching vision for the campus sustainability strategy and served as the founding Director of University Sustainability Practices which included an expansive project portfolio spanning all areas of operations for the university's four campuses and the academic and research missions for the institution. She then served as the Director of Sustainability for GreenerU, a greater Boston area consulting firm focusing on the higher-ed sector in New England.

Bonny holds a BS in Environmental Studies, self-designed major "Environmental Problem Solving using Planning" from Mount Holyoke College, a LEED AP and an Apprentice Beekeeper.



PAUL COBIAN

Assistant Division Manager, Solid Resources Citywide Recycling, LA Sanitation & Environment

Paul Cobian is an Environmental Affairs Officer with a profound commitment to environmental leadership and sustainability within the City of Los Angeles. Since 2008, he has been an integral part of LA Sanitation & Environment, where he has contributed his expertise in regulatory compliance, legislative advocacy, and policy formulation across LASAN's Clean Water, Climate Action, and Solid Resources Programs.

His leadership as Assistant Division Manager for LASAN's Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division involves spearheading the Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Program. This program is pivotal in reshaping Los Angeles by substantially curtailing single-use and disposable plastics.

With a Master's in Engineering Management and a Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering from Cal Poly Pomona, Paul drives impactful sustainability efforts. His work spans managing programs enhancing urban greenery, combating climate change, and championing initiatives aimed at fostering a greener, more resilient, zero waste Los Angeles.



CRAIG COOKSON

Senior Director, Plastics Sustainability, American Chemistry Council

Craig Cookson is senior director of plastics sustainability for the American Chemistry Council (ACC), a trade association representing more than 40 of America's leading plastics makers.

Cookson directs ACC's strategic initiatives to increase the sustainability, stewardship and recycling of plastics from manufacturing to post-use. He leads efforts to promote the awareness of plastics' role in providing sustainable solutions to society's greatest challenges as well as around the development and implementation of state and federal policies.

Cookson has been featured in Politico, GreenBiz, broadcast news in New York and Mississippi, and he frequently writes about advanced recycling and the importance of national recycling standards.

Craig holds a B.A. in Political Science from The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, and an MBA from Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. Craig is a long-time New England Patriots season ticket holder and Boston sports fan and currently lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife Elizabeth and their twin boys.



PETE KELLER

Vice President of Recycling & Sustainability, Republic Services

Pete Keller is Vice President of Recycling and Sustainability at Republic Services, a leader in the environmental services industry. Pete leads the company's circularity strategy, which includes development of Republic Services' Polymer Centers and the company's Blue Polymers joint venture with Ravago. During Pete's tenure, Republic Services has been consistently recognized on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index and listed among Barron's Most Sustainable Companies. Pete has worked for Republic Services for 26 years and holds a degree in civil engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.



NICK LAPIS

Director of Advocacy, Californians Against Waste

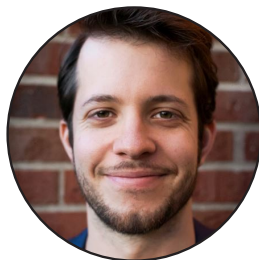
Nick is the Director of Advocacy at Californians Against Waste (CAW) and has been with the organization since 2007. In that time, Nick has led CAW's team of advocates in campaigns to pass groundbreaking laws that have positioned California as a global leader in reducing and recovering waste. By building strong coalitions, he has helped enact policies to reduce the impacts of climate change, recover organic wastes, reduce plastic pollution, and develop sustainable markets for recyclable materials. Nick also engages in policy development and research, representing CAW on a variety of boards, commissions, taskforces, and coalitions.



ALEX TRUELOVE

Legislation & Advocacy Manager, Biodegradable Products Institute

Alex joined BPI in early 2022 to help develop and advocate for policies to increase organic waste diversion, reduce pollution, and help consumers navigate a dizzying product marketplace. He previously directed a zero-waste program for a national nonprofit and remains passionate about waste reduction, climate change, public policy, and working with others to incrementally solve messy environmental problems.



SHEILA MICHAIL MOROVATI

President, HabitsofWaste.org

Sheila Michail Morovati is the President and Founder of the non-profit organization HabitsofWaste.org (H.o.W). Habits of Waste focuses on finding solutions to shift habits of waste among mass society. Known for many innovative campaigns such as the #CutOutCutlery campaign, Sheila spearheaded the ban of plastic straws and cutlery in the city of Malibu and then convinced UberEats, Postmates, Doordash, and Grubhub to globally change the default setting in their applications so that no one receives plastic cutlery unless requested – which led to the passing of California State Bill AB 1276. Habits of Waste runs numerous campaigns such as #LightsCameraPlastic? to drive change by shifting societal norms. Sheila is focused on protecting the planet through a collective societal effort of individuals making slight changes to their lifestyles while pressuring lawmakers and large corporations simultaneously. Sheila believes that environmentalism is not an all-or-nothing effort rather, she believes that each time a “habit of waste” is broken, we become imperfect environmentalists. Sheila is also the founder of another non-profit called CrayonCollection.org, which has already expanded to 50 states and 9 countries since its launch in 2013.



MAOR PEER

Southern California Regional Director, r.World

Maor Peer is the Southern California Regional Director at r.World, the leading reuse company in the U.S. In the past year, Maor has been involved in and led the implementation of r.World's reuse solutions at hundreds of events, festivals, venues, conferences, and corporate settings in the region, resulting in the diversion of nearly 500,000 single-use items from landfills. The venues include prominent locations such as the LA Memorial Coliseum, Rose Bowl, Crypto.com Arena, Dodger Stadium, and Santa Barbara Bowl, as well as corporate partners like the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Sony Pictures Entertainment, and Warner Studios, to name a few. Before joining r.World, Maor founded a reusable cup company in Israel, bringing several years of experience and knowledge in the global circular economy movement. Previously, he served as the co-founder and CEO of an international entertainment company, overseeing teams and operations for over 1,500 events with a global reach in over 25 countries. He holds a B.A. in Laws, Governance, and Diplomacy from IDC University in Israel and currently lives in Los Angeles.



ANDRÉ VILLASEÑOR

Environmental Protection Specialist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

André Villaseñor serves in EPA's Zero Waste Section, coordinating projects on sustainable materials management (SMM) and circular economy. He is the SMM lead for EPA Region 9's Border 2025 program, which focuses on improving human health and environmental results along the U.S.-Mexico border. His work at EPA has also included WasteWise, Federal Green Challenge, Food Recovery Challenge, Superfund, and RCRA C hazardous waste grants. Before EPA, he served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Ecuador as a Habitat Conservation Specialist. He has coordinated environmental impact studies for airport development, mining remediation, and water supply in Chile. In L.A., he was an environmental compliance specialist for the L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Since 2000, he has been an active member of Toastmasters International, an organization devoted to public speaking and leadership. He holds an M.S. in Environmental Science and an M.A. in International Relations and is fluent in Spanish.



ALISON WALISZEWSKI

Director of Policy & Programs, The 5 Gyres Institute

Alison is the director of policy and programs at The 5 Gyres Institute with extensive experience managing community-based programming for arts and environmental non-profits. She chairs multiple reuse and legislative coalitions in California and Texas. Alison specializes in leveraging community-science as a way to catalyze local movement-building efforts into successful, coalition-led campaigns and legislative efforts. Alison also spent over a decade in Baltimore City working with the community on both green infrastructure implementation for trees, trash and sewage issues and multi-generational museum and ceramics arts program development.



HOST & FACILITATORS

RYAN JACKSON

**Director of Public Works,
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass**

Ryan Jackson serves as the Director of Public Works in City of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass' Office of Infrastructure. In this capacity, Ryan liaises with the Board of Public Works and its Bureaus of Sanitation, Engineering, Street Services, Street Lighting and Contract Administration. Ryan previously supported the City & County of San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission and Department of the Environment, administering hazardous waste reduction and stormwater compliance programs. Ryan is a lifelong environmentalist committed to bettering Los Angeles through both public service and civic engagement.



MICHELLE BARTON

**Green Infrastructure Policy Manager,
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass**

Michelle Barton serves as the Green Infrastructure Policy Manager in the Office of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, bringing over 10 years of environmental leadership to the City. A seasoned advocate for nature-based solutions, Michelle played a pivotal role in developing the groundbreaking "LA Biodiversity Index Baseline report" and the "LA Biodiversity Guidelines," showcasing her commitment to biodiversity conservation. Michelle has elevated the City's biodiversity work via global venues, like Biodiversity COP-15, and has shared biodiversity best practices with cities and organizations across the world. Throughout her career, Michelle has championed common sense climate initiatives, like community composting and equitable growth of the urban forest, that make Los Angeles greener and more livable for all. As a collaborative force, she engages stakeholders and experts on policies, and programs, like the "Healthy Soils Strategy for the City of Los Angeles" to create a more sustainable, resilient Los Angeles.



CHRISTINE BATIKIAN

**Environmental Supervisor, Solid Resources Citywide
Recycling, LA Sanitation & Environment**

Christine Batikian is an Environmental Supervisor at LA Sanitation and Environment's Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division. Since 2018, she has managed environmental projects focused on improving air and water quality and reducing plastic waste within the City of Los Angeles. More recently, she has been instrumental in LASAN's Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Program and Reusable Foodware Program.

Prior to joining LASAN she was a member of the Port of Los Angeles' air quality team where she implemented strategies to reduce port-related emissions and managed various large projects. Christine has collaborated with environmental agencies and other stakeholders in policy development and implementation, sustainable development, and technology planning. Christine holds a Master of Public Health in Environmental Health and a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry. She is a registered Environmental Health Specialist with the state of California.



ROWENA ROMANO

**Division Manager, Solid Resources Citywide
Recycling, LA Sanitation & Environment**

Rowena Romano is the Division Manager of the Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division for LA Sanitation & Environment. She joined the City in 2008 as an Environmental Engineer Associate, promoting to a full Environmental Engineer, Senior Environmental Engineer, and to her current position as Division Manager in 2021. She has managed and led various solid resources programs including those for organics, recyclables, and refuse. The Citywide Recycling Division manages various programs including the Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Program; Zero Waste and City Facilities Recycling Programs; Food Rescue Program; Household Hazardous Waste Program; Waste Hauler Permit Program; C&D Certified Facilities Program; Green Business Program; Recycling Market Development Zone Program; Brownfield Program; manages the Education/ Outreach, Landfill Diversion, and Financials of the Commercial Franchise Program, recycLA; and provides for the annual AB939 State Reporting for the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Regional Agency. Rowena has a Ph.D. in Biological Systems Engineering from the University of California, Davis, and is a licensed Professional Chemical Engineer.



JAMES ROSKA

**Acting Environmental Engineer, Solid Resources
Support Services, LA Sanitation & Environment**

James is the Acting Environmental Engineer in LASAN's Solid Resources Support Services Division. He manages refuse, organics, and special waste collection, operations planning, and contracting for material collected from 750,000 single-family households. James oversaw the implementation of OrganicsLA, the curbside Organic Waste Recycling program for LASAN serviced households and is also an implementation lead for the City's SB1383 team.

