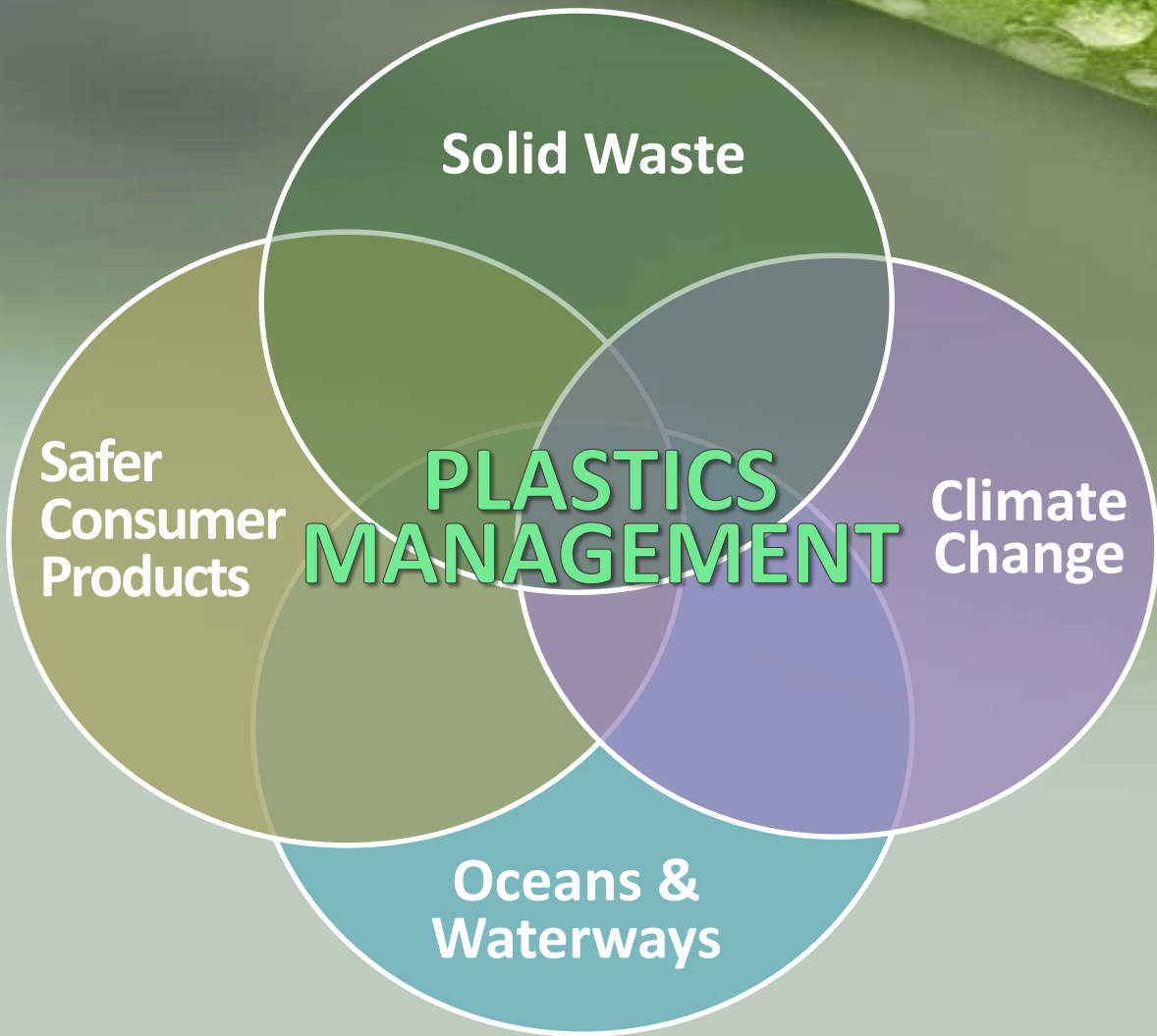




***The California
Plastics Loop:
Policy, Programs and Perspectives***

Plasticity California
Anaheim – May 9, 2017
Jim Hill, Senior Specialist

Cal Recycle 



The California plastics/policy nexus



Policy drivers

Climate change

- Reduce GHGs to 1990 levels by 2020 (AB 32, 2006)
- 40% below 1990 levels by 2030
(SB 32, *just signed* by Gov.)

Oceans, waterways – pollution prevention

- 80% of marine debris originates on land



Policy drivers

Safer Consumer Products (AB 1876)

- Reduce toxics & waste at design phase

Solid waste – 75% recycling, etc. by 2020 (AB 341)

- Old law: 50% “diversion”



CalRecycle: What we do

AB 341 –

75% source-reduced, recycled, composted by 2020

- Landfill diversion, organics
- Bottles & cans
- E-waste
- Residential & business recycling
- Local assistance, education, enforcement

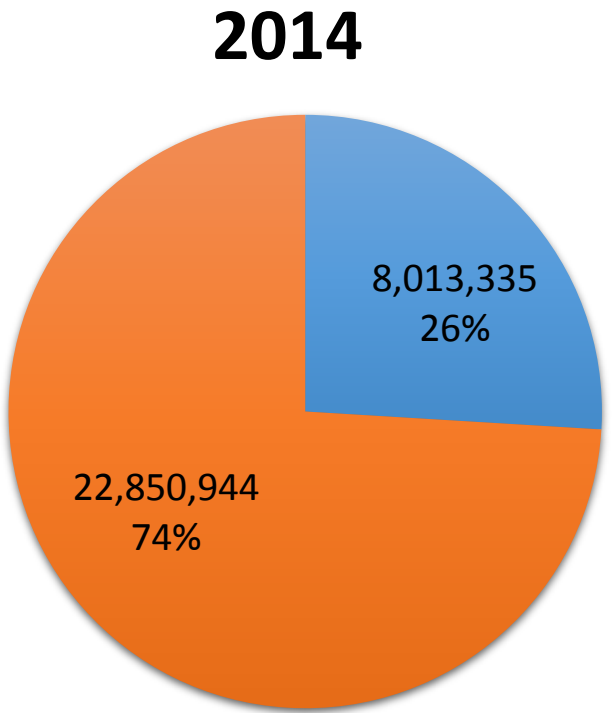
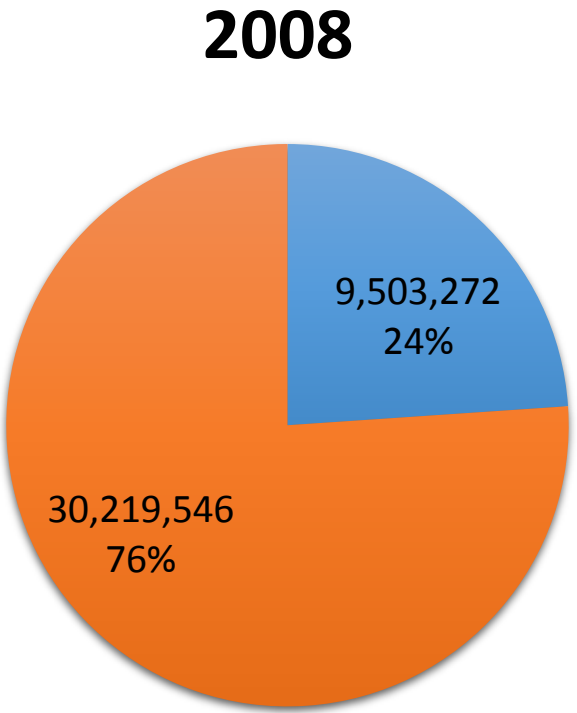
Multiple plastic & packaging programs

(and much more... 39 mil. people in world's 6th largest economy!)



Why packaging? Large part of CA disposal tonnage

- Packaging disposal
- All other materials



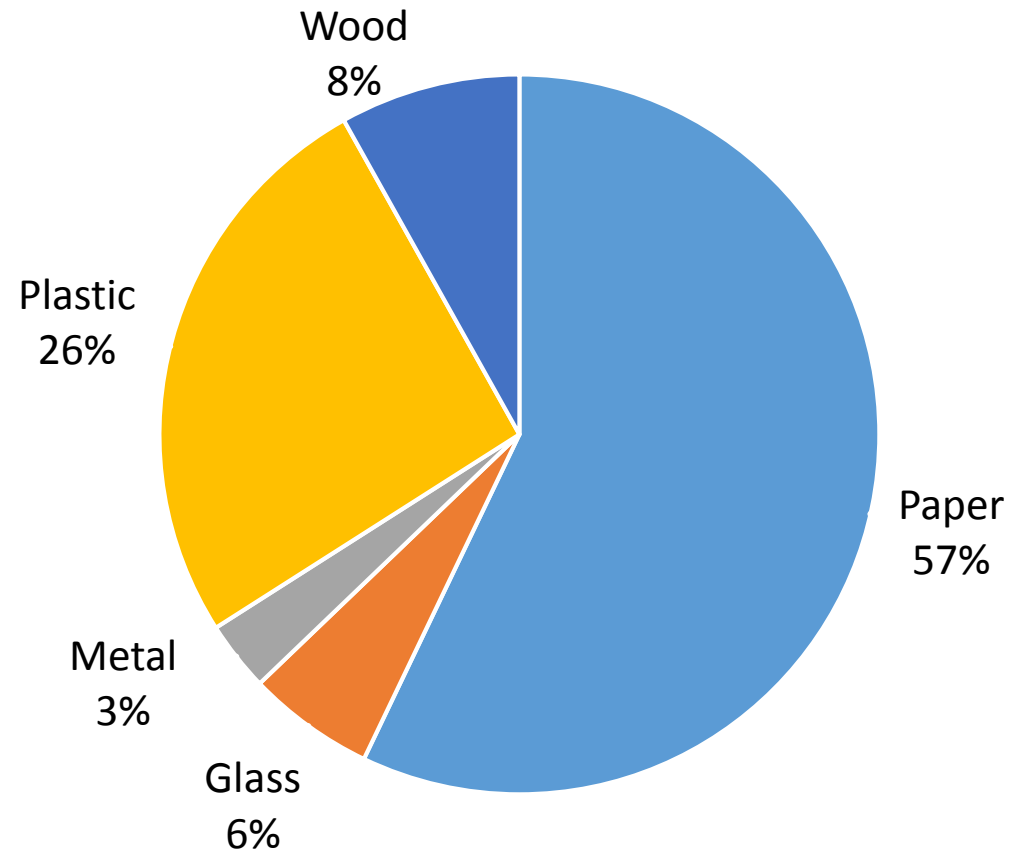
Based on data from CalRecycle's 2008 & 2014 waste characterization studies

Packaging material types disposed

Most prominent packaging material types (tons):

Paper – 4.5 million

Plastic – 2 million



Based on data from CalRecycle
2014 waste characterization study



Voluntary
**packaging-related
programs in CA**

Plastic Market Development Payments

Grants, loans (2016-17 GHG-reduction grants now open)

Recycling Mkt Dev Zones (RMDZs)

Environ. Preferable Purchasing / Buy Recycled

Business outreach, education



Mandatory packaging-related requirements

Recycling collection programs

- Local gov't – waste diversion
- Building owners – commercial & apts

Plastic product labeling

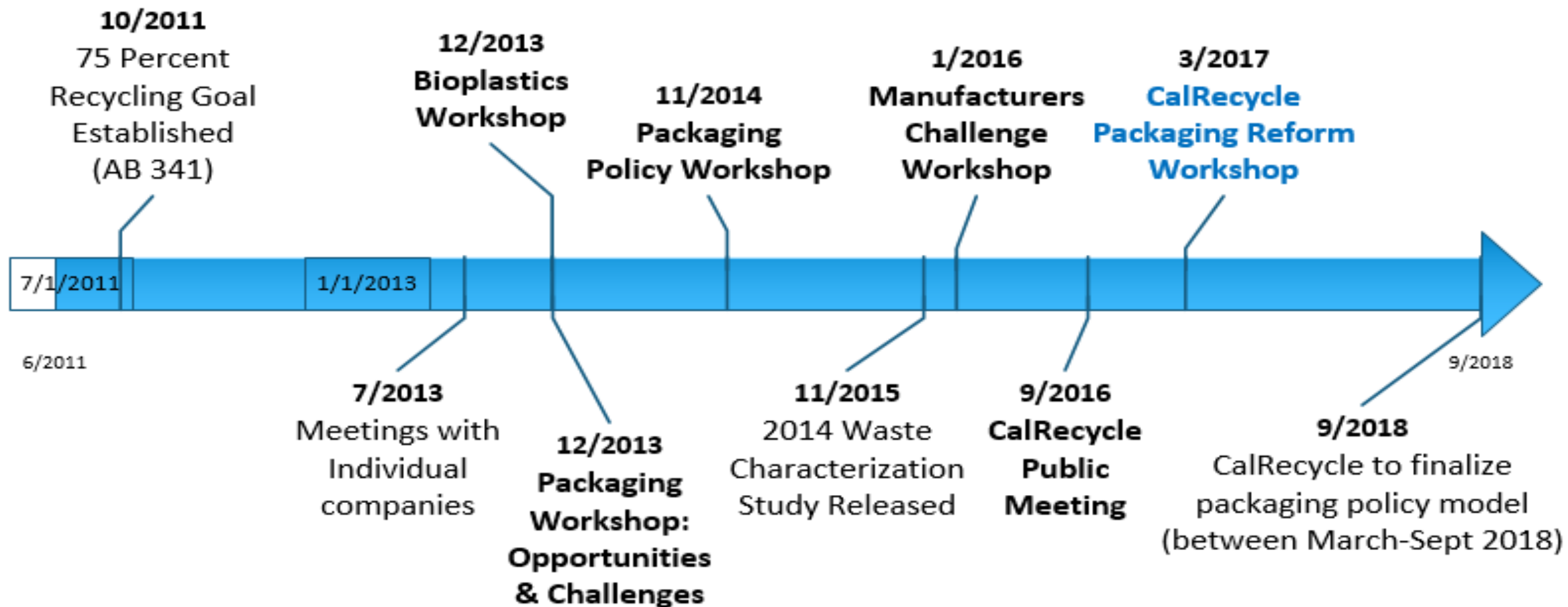
- Resin ID Codes – rigid containers
- Degradable/compostable – all products



Mandatory
limited producer
requirements for packaging

- Bev container (CRV) deposits
- Rigid Plastic Packaging Containers (RPPC)
- Minimum recycled content
 - Trash bags, glass containers (also newsprint, fiberglass)
- Single-use bag ban

CalRecycle's Packaging Activities





Packaging Reform Policy Model Development March 22, 2017 Workshop

- Kicked off process to inform development of model
- Stakeholder ideas on what to include
- Policy model \neq CalRecycle pursuing legislation!
- Packaging Reform and Beverage Container Reform are *separate* but parallel processes



Some workshop ideas offered...

Issues –

- Source reduction, product design, enforcement, funding, market impacts, contamination, verification, existing assets, comprehensive vs. discrete topical approach, etc.

Models –

- EPR, minimum content, bans (landfill vs. at collection), labeling, funding for improved sorting, “disruptor” fees, design incentives, recyclability specifications
- Most would need legislation



EPR: one possibility

Producers take primary physical & financial end-of-life management of products, with government oversight

- Shifts costs from taxpayers to producers & consumers
- Intended to internalize enviro costs, incentivize design
- **Many flavors & hybrids!**

EPR: Key elements

EPR checklist - calrecycle.ca.gov/EPR/Resources



- Critical elements for robust program –
 - Goals & performance standards
 - “Producer” definition & products covered
 - Funding, incentive structure, government oversight
 - Role of other actors, and more



Moving forward on packaging

Workshop summary (pending) and
discussion questions posted at

www.calrecycle.ca.gov/ReduceWaste/Packaging/Events/

Examples:

- What are the most important program elements to consider?
- How should program goals be set?
- How should we promote closed-loop recycling?
- How should source reduction be incentivized and measured?



Sustainable Materials Research Unit (SuMR)

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CalRecycle's plastics & packaging web pages

Calrecycle.ca.gov/plastics

Calrecycle.ca.gov/reducewaste/packaging