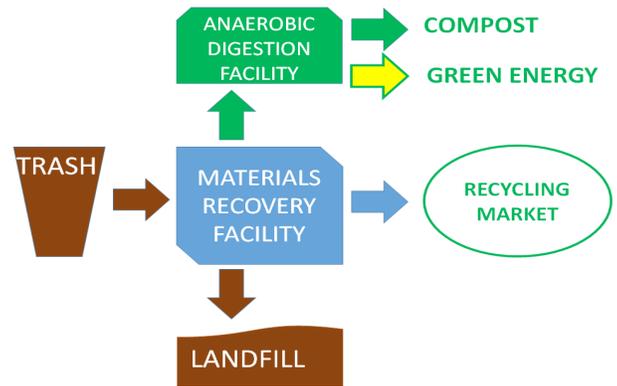


The Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project: Addressing Climate Change in Our Community

The State of California is the national leader in addressing Climate Change. Landfills have been identified as the third largest source of human produced methane emissions in the state. A top priority of our state is to remove recyclables and organics from our waste stream to be reused as valuable commodities. Locally, our community has actively participated in highly successful recycling programs such as backyard composting and the use of commingled recycling, green waste, and food waste containers both at home and at work. Despite the success of these programs, last year, approximately 200,000 tons of our community's waste was disposed at the Tajiguas Landfill. Approximately 30% of that material is recyclable and another 30% is compostable. At this time, our community lacks the infrastructure necessary to further process our waste material, including source separated materials, and to provide an integrated waste management system that will allow us to manage our waste more responsibly and to be in compliance with the continually more stringent state solid waste management mandates.

The County, working in conjunction with the cities of Buellton, Goleta, Santa Barbara and Solvang, has proposed the construction and operation of the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project, which consists of a material recovery facility to sort waste including commingled recyclables, and an anaerobic digester to process our region's organic material. The anaerobic digester will produce biogas and digestate that will be further composted into a compost product for beneficial use. The advantage of using anaerobic digestion over aerobic windrow composting in our community is that it is a net energy producer as opposed to a net energy user, and it uses less water, requires less space, and has greater control over facility odors. The state considers anaerobic digestion a preferred method of composting that is especially suitable in urban locations. Additionally, the proposed facility will be entirely run on renewable energy sources generated on-site and will generate revenue from the sale of its commodities to significantly offset operational costs.

Both the County and the City of Santa Barbara have developed their own climate action plans which identify the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project as potentially the largest single reducer of our community's greenhouse gas emissions through the removal and processing of recyclables and organic waste from the Tajiguas Landfill. Using the WARM model prepared by the US EPA, it is estimated that by diverting material from burial to reuse through the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 117,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂E) which is the same as taking over 24,000 automobiles off of the road each year.



- **Energy Self-Sufficient** – This project will generate all of its energy needs on site entirely through renewable sources; landfill gas, biogas, and solar power.
- **Increases region's recycling rate** from over 70% to over 85% (meets AB 341 goal of 75% diversion from landfilling in 2020 and AB 1826 and SB 1383 requirements for organics recovery and processing).
- **Long Term Solution** 20-year waste management plan (meets CalRecycle's 15-year disposal and newly adopted organics processing capacity requirement)
- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction** - calculated reduction of over 117,000 Metric Tons Carbon Dioxide Equivalent a year, which is equivalent to taking more than 24,000 passenger vehicles off of local roads annually. Regionally, **this project is potentially the single largest reducer of GHG emissions** and assists local communities to comply with SB 32 requirements (State mandated GHG reductions to pre-1990 levels by 2020) and each jurisdiction's local Climate Action Plan.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

**Resource Recovery &
Waste Management Division**

Innovative Environmental Solutions

