

# IMPLEMENTATION OF AB 1857 & A ZERO-WASTE FUTURE

On September 16, 2022, Governor Newsom signed into law AB 1857 (C. Garcia). AB 1857 removes the diversion credit for municipal solid waste incinerators and redefines incineration as disposal. AB 1857 strengthens California's waste law and helps California achieve its zero-waste goals.

AB 1857 will go into effect on January 1, 2023 – meaning that jurisdictions will no longer be able to receive a diversion credit for sending their trash to be burned at California's two remaining incinerators in Stanislaus County and Long Beach. To support jurisdictions as they move away from incineration and towards zero-waste, AB 1857 establishes the Zero-Waste Equity Grant Program that will fund programs for the reuse, repair, and sharing of goods and materials. The co-sponsors of the bill – East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, Valley Improvement Projects, Earthjustice, and Californians Against Waste – urge local leaders to support funding requests to Governor Newsom for the Zero-Waste Equity Grant Program.

Further, the co-sponsors urge local leaders to consider and implement the following strategies as they reduce their reliance on incineration and move towards zero-waste:

- Commit to moving away from incineration without expanding landfills.
- Do not renew incineration contracts.
- Conduct door-to-door zero-waste outreach in neighborhoods.
- Promote community composting.

## Calls to Action:

1. We call on local leaders to partner with us and request funding from Governor Newsom for the Zero-Waste Equity Grant Program – a competitive grant program to support targeted strategies and investments in communities transitioning to a zero-waste circular economy.
2. We call on local leaders to consider and implement strategies that reduce reliance on incineration and advance zero-waste.

*“AB 1857 pushes back on the legacy of environmental injustice in our communities by requiring local governments to take greater responsibility to meet their recycling goals.” Whitney Amaya, Zero Waste Community Organizer, EYCEJ*

*“By disincentivizing incineration, our communities will be given the opportunity to develop a more innovative, healthy, and sustainable local waste management system for the future.” Thomas Helme, Co-Founder, VIP*

## The Harms of Incineration

The last two remaining municipal waste incinerators are in environmental justice communities that shoulder the statewide burden of having trash burned in their communities. These incinerators each produce over a hundred thousand tons of toxic ash per year, spew massive and extremely harmful pollutants like ammonia and lead into the air, and bring hundreds of diesel trucks into already overburdened communities 24 hours a day. To learn more, read our report: [Vestiges of Environmental Racism](#).