



EcologyAction

Innovation • Partnership • Community

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: 916-445-4633

RE: AB 548 (Levine) Multifamily Dwelling Recycling -- Support

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

We would greatly appreciate your support of Assembly Bill 548 (Levine), which requires owners of multi-family dwellings to arrange for recycling services for their buildings.

Ecology Action is a nonprofit environmental consultancy delivering cutting edge education services, technical assistance, and program implementation for initiatives that assist individuals, business and government to maximize environmental quality and community well being. Since 1970 Ecology Action has worked to reduce waste and increase recycling throughout our community. Our local challenges with multifamily recycling are mirrored at the state level.

While California overall is diverting more than 50 percent of generated waste, it's estimated that just 15% of waste generated at multi-family dwelling is currently diverted. While just 19.1 % of Californians live in multi-family dwellings, these housing units account for 26 percent of the residential waste stream. AB 548 is aimed increasing recycling in California by closing the curbside recycling gap for multifamily dwellings.

AB 548 will require that an owner of a multifamily dwelling provide appropriate recycling services for the dwelling in accordance with the local jurisdiction's recycling plan.

A 2004 waste stream analysis by the California Integrated Waste Management Board found that 26.4% percent of the multi-family waste stream is recyclable and that more than 894,687 tons of recyclable materials are currently being landfilled by multi-dwelling residents.

While nearly 70 percent of Californians living in single family homes have access to curbside recycling, no more than 40 percent of those living in multi-family dwellings have access to a residential recycling opportunity—and many of those are unaware of it. Expanding curbside recycling to multifamily dwellings could divert an additional 329,000 tons of recyclable materials. Additionally this increased recycling will help in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by nearly one million tons.

All Californian's deserve the opportunity to recycle, regardless of whether they live in a single family home or a multifamily dwelling. Ecology Action urges your signature of this measure into law.

Sincerely,


Virginia Johnson, Executive Director/CEO

cc: John Moffatt, Deputy Legislative Secretary
Assemblymember Lloyd Levine
Assemblymember John Laird
Assemblymember Anna Caballero

Ecology Action is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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