

**Introduced by Senator Leyva**February 8, 2016

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An act to add Section 42649.88 to the Public Resources Code, relating to solid waste.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 970, as introduced, Leyva. Organic food waste diversion.

Existing law requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to identify and recommend actions to address permitting and siting challenges and to encourage the continued viability of the state's organic waste processing and recycling infrastructure, in partnership with the California Environmental Protection Agency and other specified state and regional agencies. Existing law requires the department to cooperate with local jurisdictions and industry to provide assistance for increasing the feasibility of organic waste recycling and to identify certain state financing mechanisms and state funding incentives and post this information on its Internet Web site.

This bill would require, by June 1, 2017, the department, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board and the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, to develop a pilot program that encourages cost-effective and efficient integrated organic food waste diversion projects.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the  
2 Regional Integrated Organics Diversion and Beneficial Utilization  
3 Act.

4 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

5 (a) The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006  
6 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health  
7 and Safety Code) establishes a policy to reduce emissions of  
8 greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2020 and to continue those  
9 reductions of greenhouse gases beyond 2020.

10 (b) The critical role that short lived climate pollutants (SLCPs)  
11 must play in the state's climate efforts is recognized in Chapter  
12 4.2 (commencing with Section 39730) of Part 2 of Division 26 of  
13 the Health and Safety Code, which requires the State Air Resources  
14 Board to develop a strategy to reduce the emissions of SLCPs.

15 (c) California must achieve deep reductions in the emissions of  
16 SLCPs by 2030 to meet potential or actual future greenhouse gas  
17 emissions targets and air quality goals.

18 (d) Intensified state and global action to reduce the emissions  
19 of SLCPs is the only way to immediately slow global warming  
20 and manage the damaging effects of climate change.

21 (e) California has clear goals to reduce waste and to divert  
22 organic materials from landfills and put them to beneficial use.  
23 The state has a target to reduce landfilling of solid waste by 75  
24 percent by 2020.

25 (f) Organic waste constitutes more than one-third of California's  
26 waste stream. Food waste alone accounts for about five million  
27 tons of landfilled organics each year.

28 (g) Efforts to divert organics from landfills and develop  
29 infrastructure that makes best use of the material are key elements  
30 of an integrated strategy.

31 (h) Significant efforts to divert organic materials from landfills  
32 and reduce methane emissions and develop low or negative carbon  
33 transportation fuels should be encouraged by state policies.

34 (i) As future clean energy investments are planned and  
35 implemented, state officials should ensure targeted investment,  
36 regional cooperation, and public-private partnerships are utilized  
37 to maximize the state's organics diversion efforts and achieve

1 cost-effective and environmentally beneficial reductions in the  
2 emissions of greenhouse gases.

3 SEC. 3. Section 42649.88 is added to the Public Resources  
4 Code, to read:

5 42649.88. By June 1, 2017, the department, in consultation  
6 with the State Air Resources Board and the State Energy Resources  
7 Conservation and Development Commission, shall develop a pilot  
8 program that encourages cost-effective and efficient integrated  
9 organic food waste diversion projects. The pilot program shall  
10 give priority to projects that are based on regional cooperation and  
11 provide the following benefits:

12 (a) Cost-effective utilization of existing anaerobic digestion  
13 capacity at public wastewater agencies.

14 (b) Making the best use of diverted organics, including the  
15 production of low or negative carbon transportation fuels.

16 (c) Direct or indirect reduction in the emissions of criteria air  
17 pollutants.

18 (d) Effective use of public-private partnerships.

19 (e) Environmental benefits for disadvantaged communities, as  
20 identified pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code.

21 (f) Local job creation.