

March 2024

# California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)

**ZEV Role:** CalEPA oversees a variety of boards, departments, and offices, including the California Air Resources Board (CARB), which work to restore, protect, and enhance California's environment. This plan focuses on non-CARB related work, as CARB has their own Agency Action Plan.

**Equity Focus:** Leverage analysis tools and outreach to strategically focus agency actions on high-impact projects and policies.

## 2023 Highlights and Lessons Learned

- CalEnviroScreen is often used to determine the state's disadvantaged communities when selecting equity-focused projects for a variety of climate topics, including clean transportation and ZEVs. The success of CalEnviroScreen over the past ten years can be attributed to some key actions, including:
  - Working with community-based organizations, scientists, academia, government, industry, tribal representatives, and community members to inform the development of CalEnviroScreen.
  - Using multiple approaches to foster a sense of partnership and get feedback on approaches to evaluating cumulative impacts.
  - Establishing a public feedback loop that enables the public to have their comments heard led to the development of new indicators like housing cost burden.

## ZEV Market Development Objectives

1. **Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle):** Promote and enable systems for battery and fuel cell reuse, repurposing, and recycling.

### Key Collaborators:

CalEPA, DTSC, CEC, Governor's Office

### Key Results & Actions:

- A. **Recycling:** CalEPA, CalRecycle, and DTSC were part of the Lithium-ion Car Battery Recycling Advisory Group, which was created in 2018 following a mandate from AB 2832 and convened its work in 2022. (Complete)

**2023 Targeted Key Results:** DTSC and CalRecycle continued to answer industry and regulatory questions about used battery management.

**Outcomes:** There were no specific outcomes in 2023 because the process is continuous.

B. **Second Life of Batteries:** Classification, transportation, disposal of used batteries. (Ongoing)

1. **2023 Targeted Key Results:** The [Responsible Battery Recycle Act of 2022](#) requires producers of common household batteries to create a program for producers to collect and recycle their products once consumers are done using them. The focus in 2023 was on public engagement.

**Outcomes:** CalRecycle began the public engagement process in fall of 2023 with an information session.

**2024 Targeted Key Results:** CalRecycle will continue engagement through 2024 through Battery Stewardship Public Workshops. Regulations are to be effective no earlier than April 1, 2025.

2. **2023 Targeted Key Results:** [Senate Bill 1215](#) amends the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 by adding battery-embedded products to California's Covered Electronic Waste Recycling Program.

**Outcomes:** CalRecycle is developing regulatory concepts to add battery embedded products to California's Covered Electronic Waste Recycling Program. Regulations are to be effective by January 1, 2025.

**2024 Targeted Key Results:** CalRecycle will engage with the public and other interested parties to develop regulations to add battery-embedded products to California's Covered Electronic Waste Recycling Program, and to establish a covered electronic waste recycling fee for covered battery-embedded products.

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## 2. Disadvantaged Communities Identification (OEHHA):

**Key Collaborators:** CalEPA, CARB, CPUC

### **Key Results & Actions:**

A. Determine the state's disadvantaged communities using the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen). (Ongoing)

**2023 Targeted Key Results:** 2023 is the ten-year anniversary for CalEnviroScreen. In 2023 OEHHA focused on amplifying this tool and reflecting on its evolution over the years and the benefits it has provided.

**Outcomes:**

- OEHHA released [CalEnviroScreen's Anniversary StoryMap](#) in May 2023.
- A [press release](#) from the Governor's Office discussing CalEnviroScreen was published in May 2023.
- To date, CalEnviroScreen has helped to direct \$6.7 billion of the state's \$9.3 billion in [California Climate Investments](#) to projects benefiting priority populations. With an additional \$13.2 billion currently appropriated to fund more California Climate Investments projects, CalEnviroScreen will continue to play a significant role in directing climate funding to priority populations for years to come.

**2024 Targeted Key Results:** Prepare for a draft update to CalEnviroScreen. Continue amplifying and evolving CalEnviroScreen.

- B. **Biomass and Organics to Hydrogen or Electricity:** Develop systems to promote and enable the connection of waste resources to California's energy system, including in alignment with the State's Low Carbon Fuel Standard regulation. (Ongoing)

**2023 Targeted Key Results:** OEHHA works with CARB and CPUC to develop biomethane pipeline standards. OEHHA's role is to identify contaminants of concern and determine the risk to end users.

**Outcomes:** On April 24, 2023, CARB finalized the report, "Biogas Constituents of Concern and Health Protective Levels for Biomethane: Supplement Report to OEHHA AB 1900 Biogas Recommendations."

**2024 Targeted Key Results:** OEHHA, CARB, and CPUC are on a 5-year schedule to update biomethane standards. Assembly Bill 1900 requires the CPUC to develop standards for certain constituents found in biogas in collaboration with OEHHA and CARB. In 2024, OEHHA will continue this work by exploring the possible contaminants of biomethane made from forest waste and other woody biowaste called biosynthetic natural gas. The results will be used in the next update to the AB1900 report due by 2028.

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3. **Second Life of Batteries (DTSC):** Classification, transportation, disposal of used batteries. (Ongoing)

**Key Collaborators:** CalRecycle

**Key Results & Actions:**

**2023 Targeted Key Results:** DTSC continues to provide resources to help waste handlers and the public understand how to dispose of used batteries. DTSC's Permitting Division has spoken with industry about prospective battery recycling facilities and the required authorizations and timeframes.

**Outcomes:** The DTSC Batteries webpage was updated in April 2023.

**2024 Targeted Key Results:** Ensure webpage remains up to date through 2024. DTSC is also planning to address alternative energy waste (including used lithium-ion batteries) under its upcoming Hazardous Waste Management Plan.