



Zero Waste Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR

April 27, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Zero Waste Commission

Submitted by: Christienne de Tournay, Chairperson, Zero Waste Commission

Subject: Zero Waste Commission Fiscal Year 2021-22 Work Plan

INTRODUCTION

The Zero Waste Commission is responsible for making recommendations on City solid waste policy and goals, including commercial and residential garbage, and recycling services, budgets, and other decisions relating to solid waste in the City of Berkeley.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Over the last year, the City of Berkeley, along with the rest of the world, has made its best efforts to survive during Covid-19, and operations/staff have been running as usual following the initial lock-down period. The City of Berkeley is enacting important changes and improvements to its Zero Waste services and long-term plans, including:

- Continuing the process to design the replacement of the Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station (SW&RTS), which is currently going through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process,
- Adapting to changes in the recycling export markets,
- Implementing the Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance, and
- Expanding collection services for hard to recycle materials.

The Zero Waste Commission (ZWC) is currently planning to support the development of a Zero Waste Division Strategic Plan, and the SW&RTS replacement, as well as evaluate new proposed legislation or programs targeting some of the larger remaining components of avoidable waste. The ZWC adopted the FY 2021-22 Work Plan on February 22, 2021. M/S/C: de Tournay/Grubb; Ayes: 6 (de Tournay, Poliwka, Dougherty, Schueler, Ulakovic, Grubb); Abstain: 0; Absent: 1 (Stein).

These projects advance the City's Strategic Plan goals to:

1. Provide state-of-the-art, well-maintained infrastructure, amenities, and facilities.
2. Be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

The following goals have been identified for the upcoming year:

Goal	Resources	Program activities	Outputs	Outcomes
Transfer Station Replacement	Feasibility Study (completed Nov. 2019) First Carbon Solutions retained for CEQA	Consultant presentation to Commission TBD	None	N/A
Zero Waste Strategic Plan	RFP to be issued for consultant in Q4 2021	Consultant presentation at ZWC TBD	Commission recommendations to City Council	Ongoing Commission Feedback
Food Recovery and Organics Diversion SB1383	City Staff	Continue updates, review proposed County model ordinance for Berkeley ordinance adoption	Provide recommendations as needed to Council and other stakeholders	To help achieve state SB1383 requirements
Single-Use Foodware & Litter Reduction Ordinance	City Staff, Ecology Center, University of California Berkeley (UCB) /Cal Zero Waste, Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD)	Follow implementation of Single-Use Disposable Reduction Ordinance, review through lens of Covid-19 repercussions Ecology Center pilot of reusable cup program resumes TBD	Provide recommendations as needed to Council and other stakeholders Reusables Pilot program recommendations	Provide feedback to Council on Ordinance Implementation
Reduce Landfilling of Construction Debris	Deconstruction Subcommittee, Bay area Deconstruction group, Urban Ore	Work with builders, material resellers, CEAC, Community Health, Landmarks, Disaster/Fire Safety and Planning to increase reuse of old growth wood debris	Recommendations for Council	Recommendations for Council by end of year 2021
Annual Updates	City Staff, Urban Ore, Community Conservation Centers, Ecology Center, CAW, Northern California Recycling Association (NCRA), California Product Stewardship	Presentations at ZWC Review and recommend relevant legislation Review ZW division annual budget and tonnage/metrics with City staff	Commission feedback to organizations and to Council	Ongoing Council communications

Goal	Resources	Program activities	Outputs	Outcomes
	Council (CPSC), Culture of Repair - (Fix it Clinics), Budget Review, Status of Export Markets, StopWaste			
Clarify/Define/R evisit what is acceptable for program acceptance/rec ycling of all plastics	City Staff, Community Conservation Centers (CCC), Ecology Center, StopWaste	Listen to experts, gather information, receive updates from City partners	Recommendation to Council	Economically viable and environmentally responsible collection operation for recyclable plastics (Highest and best use)
Reduce illegal dumping/bulky items landfilled	City Staff, UCB, Urban Ore	Support UCB sustainable moveout operations/Covid-19 fallout. City Mattress program to coordinate with UCB	Recommendations for Council	Work with UCB Zero Waste Department to identify community support needs Possibly expand/continue curbside mattress collection pilot program

BACKGROUND

- **Transfer Station Replacement:** Community meetings were held in 2019 for design of replacement input. First Carbon Solutions has been retained to conduct the CEQA certification process for the replacement project.
- **Zero Waste Strategic Plan:** Staff indicates an request for proposals (RFP) will be issued later this year.
- **Food Recovery & Organics Diversion SB 1383** requires reduction of organic waste disposal 50% by 2020 and 75% by 2025. Starting in 2022, all CA jurisdictions will need to provide organic waste collection services to all residents and businesses. Berkeley will be required to use products made from this recycled organic material, such as renewable energy, compost, and mulch. Food service businesses must donate edible food to food recovery organizations. This will help feed the almost 1 in 4 Californians without enough to eat. California has a 2025 goal to rescue 20% of edible food currently thrown away, and redirect it.
- **Single-Use Foodware & Litter Reduction Ordinance:** All of the Foodware Ordinance phases have been enacted. Phase 2, requiring all disposable foodware to be compostable and includes a 25 cent charge for disposable cups, took effect on 1/1/20 (just before the mandated Covid-19 *Shelter In Place order*). Phase 3, mandating reusables for dine-in, began on 7/1/2020. Enforcement of all

phases has been relaxed due to the continued pandemic. The Ecology Center's reusable cup pilot program will be resumed at a later date (TBD).

- Plastics - Feasibility of Recyclability: Due to declining infrastructure/operations and unreliable markets for many grades and compositions of plastics, the City's municipal collection program will require reassessment of which plastics are acceptable in its stream.
- Reducing Landfilling of Construction Debris: Carpet recycling program was established at the Transfer Station in 2019. Due to multi-city operations of the construction industry, Deconstruction Ordinance likely to be introduced at regional level. Recommendations for Council will likely be proposed by end of year 2021.
- Annual Updates: City staff and City partners, such as Urban Ore, CCC, and Ecology Center, present at ZWC for annual recaps and situational reports.
- Reduce Illegal Dumping/bulky Items Landfilled: Cal Moveout has made an effort to expand moveout operations. The City can support UCB sustainable moveout operations, now further affected by Covid-19 fallout. A larger citywide program, such as the expanded Mattress program coordination with UC and its city-dwelling/resident students, could help collect additional bulky items abandoned in the streets of Berkeley.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Potential to reduce quantity of material sent to landfill and reduce consumption of new materials.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Future Action Items that ZWC may send to City Council include:

- Resolution to support a Regional Deconstruction Ordinance
- Resolution to support creating a new Zero Waste Strategic Plan
- Resolution to support a Citywide Reusable Food Container program
- Resolution to support an expanded coordinated effort with UCB during Cal moveout months

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Reusable Food Container program and City/UCB collection efforts require funding. The Zero Waste Strategic Plan will require funding for hiring a consultant.

CONTACT PERSON

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