



Zero Waste Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR
July 25, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Zero Waste Commission
Submitted by: Alfred Twu, Chairperson, Zero Waste Commission
Subject: Zero Waste Commission 2017 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.

The Zero Waste Commission adopted the following work plan for 2017 at the Zero Waste Commission meeting on April 24, 2017. (M/S/C: de Tourney/Clark. Ayes: Twu, de Tourney, McKinstry, Stein, Watson, Clark; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent; Chang.)

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

While an early leader in recycling and composting, Berkeley's progress towards zero waste has stagnated in the last few years as the City has accomplished the last of the easy steps such as mandatory recycling and collection of mixed plastics. Fortunately, other cities such as San Francisco and El Cerrito have rolled out improved facilities and programs that Berkeley can adopt to make additional gains.

Further progress will require new and/or expanded collection and distribution systems, new ordinances, and above all, strategic planning to coordinate and prioritize efforts.

ZWC is currently looking at both individual short-term legislation and long term projects to reduce waste and improve efficiency in the collection process. The following goals have been identified for the upcoming year.

Goal	Resources	Program activities	Outputs	Outcomes
Transfer Station Rebuild	Current proposed T1 allocation of \$500,000 for Conceptual Master Plan Staff time to issue RFP	EIR Consultant presentation at ZWC	Commission recommendations to City Council	Work on EIR started by 3 rd quarter 2017 for the Transfer Station Rebuild
T1 Infrastructure Bond	Public Works and Parks and Waterfront Commission	Participation in T1 workshops	Construction and Demolition Recommendations	Increased C&D diversion rate for T1 funded projects
Food Recovery and Diversion	Assistance from Community Health Commission and Berkeley Food Network	Discuss/Approve Edible Food Recover and Diversion Subcommittee Organizing Questions. Stakeholder presentations at ZWC meeting.	Metrics and Recommendations	TBD pending subcommittee recommendation
Commercial Recycling Expansion	Staff time to gather data and design routes		Update to council	City starts servicing all commercial customers by Spring 2018.
Zero Waste Strategic Plan	Staff time to compile and share data with commission. Previous subcommittee work. Global Recycling Council Statewide Plan	Evaluate current City zero waste goal, programs, baseline metrics, and methodologies and compost quality. Redefine zero waste goal. Evaluate other ZW Strategic Plans. Creation of ZW Strategic Plan	Recommendations to Staff	Consultant or staff drafts Strategic Plan for the City.

		Subcommittee		
Reduce use of single use foodware	Ecology Center	Research current COB foodware ordinance. Research other ordinances, including analysis of impact on businesses and consumers. Attend meetings with Ecology Center and other collaborators.	Suggest content for educational materials	Draft ordinance by end of year 2018

BACKGROUND

Transfer Station Rebuild: The layout and facilities at the Transfer Station are outdated, limiting the quantity and variety of materials that can be handled, and also poses stormwater runoff issues. This has made the rebuild a high priority and led to its inclusion in the list of Measure T1 infrastructure projects. Other cities such as El Cerrito have updated their facilities, providing examples that Berkeley can use in its redesign.

T1 Bond: Earlier this year, members of the ZWC participated in the funding allocation public process. Aside from the funding of redesigning the Transfer Station, the other waste related issue is reducing construction and demolition materials sent to landfill in other projects.

Food Recovery: The Berkeley Food Network initiated efforts to analyze, expand, and coordinate food recovery and donations, and reached out to the ZWC for input.

Commercial Refuse and Recycling Expansion: In 2014, a study was done that informed a subsequent decision by the City to phase out franchises for commercial garbage and recycling, and bring all commercial garbage and recycling in-house within the Zero Waste Division. This process has taken longer than originally planned due to a number of vacant positions in the Zero Waste Division, but now that hires have been made, it is again moving along.

Zero Waste Strategic Plan: Several years ago the City hired a consultant to update its Zero Waste Strategic Plan, a guiding document to get to zero waste, however, the Plan was not adopted and the process stalled. In 2014 and 2015 the ZWC revisited the issue and compiled recommendations for restarting the process, but due to limited City

staff availability the process stalled again. Currently a Subcommittee is updating the recommendations to Council.

Reduction of Single Use Foodware: In 2014, based on a Council referral, the ZWC evaluated available products and other cities' ordinances on mandating foodware be recyclable or compostable. We found that both available recyclable plastic foodware and compostable foodware had limited reuse/compost value, and no ordinance was adopted at the time. This year, the Ecology Center has an opportunity to revisit the issue, perhaps through switching towards reusables.

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:

- Food Recovery Ordinance
- Hiring a consultant to update the Zero Waste Strategic Plan
- Foodware Ordinances

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Transfer Station rebuild construction costs could come from second or third phase of T1 bond funds. Rebuilt station has potential for higher revenues and lower operating costs.

Commercial Refuse and Recycling Expansion will bring more revenue and costs to the Zero Waste Division, with potential savings from more efficient truck routing and economies of scale.

Strategic Plan costs would include consultant time to update the Strategic Plan.

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