



Zero Waste Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR  
July 23, 2019

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 2019-20 Work Plan

INTRODUCTION

The Zero Waste Commission (ZWC) 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 ZWC adopted the FY 2019-20 Work Plan on May 28, 2019.  
 M/S/C: Poliwka/Schueler; Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: de Tournay, Stein

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Over the last year, the City of Berkeley has made a number of important changes to its Zero Waste services and long-term plans, including:

- Beginning the process to redesign and rebuild the municipal Transfer Station
- Shifting collection of refuse recycling from franchisees to in-house City staff
- Adapting to changes in the recycling export markets
- Implementing the Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance

ZWC is currently looking at ways to follow through with developing the Zero Waste Strategic Plan and Transfer Station rebuild, as well as evaluate new proposed legislation to target some of the larger remaining components of avoidable waste.

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 Rebuild	RFP issued for consultant for Feasibility Study	Consultant presentation at ZWC June 24  Gather public input	Develop preliminary Commission recommendations to City Council in July	Ongoing Commission feedback

Goal	Resources	Program activities	Outputs	Outcomes
Zero Waste Strategic Plan	RFP to be issued for consultant in Q3 2019	Consultant presentation at ZWC  Gather public input	Commission recommendations to City Council	Ongoing Commission Feedback
Food Recovery and Organics Diversion	Assistance from Community Health Commission and Berkeley Food Network	Continue updates with Berkeley Food Network  Consider compost quality and SB 1383 compliance  15 day comment period 6/18-7/3, 2019	Provide recommendations as needed to Council and other stakeholders	Reduce volume of food waste disposal in black bins from current 35% - single largest item in Alameda County waste stream
Reduce Use of Single-Use Foodware	Zero Waste Berkeley (which includes the Ecology Center)	Follow implementation of Single-Use Disposable Reduction Ordinance including stakeholder and public feedback  Ecology Center pilot of reusable cup program Fall 2019	Content for educational materials  Identify preferable compostable product options	Provide feedback to Council on Ordinance Implementation  Phase II all prepared food vendors change materials Jan 1, 2020
Reduce Landfilling of Construction Debris	Deconstruction Subcommittee	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 2019  Bay Area Deconstruction Working Group recommendations
Annual Updates	Culture of Repair - (Fix it Clinics), Urban Ore, Community Conservation Centers, Ecology Center, CAW, NCRA, CPSC, Budget Review, Status of Export Markets	Presentations at ZWC  Review and recommend relevant legislation  Review ZW division budget and tonnage/metrics with City staff	Commission feedback to organizations and to Council	Commission feedback to organizations and to Council
Public Education and Communication	Subcommittee	Develop educational articles for Berkeleyside, Daily Cal; How to recycle in Berkeley; Single use foodware; How to recycle holiday trees	Improve community understanding and compliance with recycle and trash pickup	Commission articles to local publications and social media

Goal	Resources	Program activities	Outputs	Outcomes
Cal Sustainable Moveout	UC Berkeley	Support UCB sustainable moveout  Provide outreach for Cal Yard Sale		Work with UCB Zero Waste Department to identify community support needs

**BACKGROUND**

- Transfer Station Rebuild: Community meetings have been held in past several months. The EIR will study two conceptual plans.
- Zero Waste Strategic Plan: Current plan is for RFP to be issued later this year.
- Food Recovery: Berkeley Food Network is starting its Food Recovery operations.
- Reduction of Single-Use Foodware: The new Foodware Ordinance's first phase has started, 2<sup>nd</sup> phase starts 1/1/2020, will require all disposable foodware to be compostable and includes a 25 cent charge for disposable cups. 3<sup>rd</sup> phase (reusables for dine in) begins 7/1/2020.
- Reducing Landfilling of Construction Debris: Carpet recycling program is starting up at the Transfer Station. Due to multi-city operations of the construction industry, Deconstruction Ordinance likely to be introduced at regional level.
- Public Education and Communication: There is still room to improve in getting existing recyclable and compostable materials into the blue and green bins.
- Cal Sustainable Moveout: In the last few years, there have been small and medium scale efforts to manage Cal Moveout. A larger citywide program could divert additional materials.

**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 a citywide yard sale during Cal moveout

**FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION**

Reusable Food Container program and citywide yard sale may require funding. The Zero Waste Strategic Plan will require hiring a consultant.

**CONTACT PERSON**

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