

Zero Waste Commission

Zero Waste Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, CA

1. Roll Call (5 minutes)
2. Approve Agenda (5 minutes)
3. Comments from the Public (10 minutes)
4. Announcements from Commissioners (10 minutes)
Commissioners may make general announcements; no action will be taken
5. Approval of Minutes from the November 28, 2016 Regular Meeting (5 minutes)
6. Discussion and possible action to provide written feedback
to lead commissions regarding the T1 Infrastructure Bond Program
and the list of projects, including the Transfer Station Modernization,
proposed for Phase One of Three (15 minutes)
7. Update on City of Berkeley Commercial Collection Expansion,
including route data gathering (5 minutes)

8. Update on contract negotiations with Community Conservation Centers (5 minutes)
9. Action on a resolution on Extended Producer Responsibility and Packaging (15 minutes)
10. Discussion on Multifamily Signage (15 minutes)
11. Work Plan for 2017 (30 minutes)
12. Identification of agenda items for the next regular meeting to be held on Monday, February 27, 2017 (5 minutes)
13. Adjournment

Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting. This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services Specialist at 510-981-6342 (V) or 510-981-6345 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date.

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Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information. Zero Waste Commission Secretary: Heidi Obermeit, 1201 2nd St. Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-981-6357, hobermeit@cityofberkeley.info

MINUTES

The meeting was convened at 7:03 p.m. with Alfred Twu, Chairperson, presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Alfred Twu, Janice Wenning, John Hitchen, Alexander Salah, Elisabeth Watson
(7:05 p.m. arrival)

Absent: None

LOA: Allegra Saggese

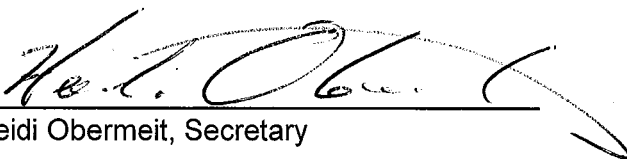
ACTIONS TAKEN

1. M/S/C (Twu/Salah) to approve the agenda for the November 28, 2016 regular meeting. Ayes: Unanimous; Absent: Watson.
2. M/S/C (Hitchen/Salah) to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2016 regular Meeting. Ayes: Unanimous; Absent; Saggese; Abstain: Watson. (Watson abstained because she was not present at the October 24, 2016 meeting due to an approved Leave of Absence.)
3. M/S/C (Hitchen/Watson) to approve the Zero Waste Commission meeting schedule for 2017. Meetings will be held the 4th Monday of every month except August and December. Ayes: Unanimous; Absent: Saggese

The next meeting of the Zero Waste Commission will be held on January 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Heidi Obermeit, Secretary



Report to the Zero Waste Commission
from Alfred Twu, Zero Waste Commission Chair
January 17, 2017

Multifamily Signage

Background

In 2016, the Citizens Environmental Advisory Commission identified better signage for improving sorting at apartment buildings as an opportunity to improve the percent of materials recycled or composted. City Council also asked ZWC about drafting a signage ordinance.

Findings & Discussion

- There is already a countywide ordinance, enacted 2014, requiring signage and education at businesses and multifamily buildings with 5 or more units. This ordinance is unenforced and would also be difficult to enforce.
- Best place for signs is on the carts themselves, as they're often not put in the same place.
- I inspected carts in the Southside neighborhood and talked with some residents. Most recycling and compost carts are labeled, however, over half of them have outdated information. For example, most of the recycling bins haven't been updated since the acceptance of plastics other than #1 or #2, and some compost carts still say "Yard waste". Garbage cans are unlabeled.
- Other than the confusion from outdated labels, most people are pretty satisfied with the signage.
- Most commonly seen types of improperly sorted materials are:
 - Plastic clamshell take out containers in garbage
 - Plastic bags in recycling
 - Food stained paper plates/cups in recycling and garbage
- In contrast, the full-color posters from StopWaste have too much information – individual text and images are too small to read quickly while disposing of materials.
- Full color labels fade after a year or two to the point that only the blue and black ink is left.
- The outer 1" of the labels has peeled off on about 10% of labels.

Recommendation

- Carts and bins should be relabeled, including garbage carts.
- Labels should have date of label on it, and a note to check city website for latest info.
- No need to pass a new ordinance.
- See next page for potential label designs.

COMPOST



Food Scraps, Food Stained Paper,
Cartons, and Yard Waste

January 2017 – For Latest Info See www.cityofberkeley.info/zerowaste/

PAPER & CARDBOARD



NO Food Stained Paper

January 2017 – For Latest Info See www.cityofberkeley.info/zerowaste/

GARBAGE



Bags, Ceramics, Mixed Materials

**NO Hazardous Materials,
Recyclables, or Food**

January 2017 – For Latest Info See www.cityofberkeley.info/zerowaste/

GLASS, FOIL, CANS, & PLASTIC



Glass Containers, All Plastics,
Aluminum and Tin Cans and Foil

NO Plastic Bags, Window Glass, or Foam

January 2017 – For Latest Info See www.cityofberkeley.info/zerowaste/

Report to the Zero Waste Commission
from Alfred Twu, Zero Waste Commission Chair
January 10, 2017

Measure T1 Funding for Transfer Station Modernization

There was a joint meeting on 1/5/2017 of 12 commission chairs and associated staff regarding city staff's proposal for allocation of the Measure T1 funds.

Total T1 Budget

- Total infrastructure needs: \$500M
- Measure T1 funding: \$100M. Remaining funding to come from annual public works allocations and matching grants.
- Funds to be spent in 3 phases: Fiscal Year 2018-2021, FY 2022-2025, and FY 2026-2029
- 24 projects totaling \$32M are proposed for phase 1. Half the projects are in planning and design, while the other half are ready for construction.

Transfer Station

- The Transfer Station is the only Zero Waste related project on the list. \$250,000 is proposed for Phase 1 for a conceptual master plan. This figure is based on city staff estimates.
- After the conceptual master plan is done, the next step is Planning and Design, followed by Construction.
- If Phase 1 only gets the transfer station to a conceptual master plan, then construction probably won't be happening until the late 2020s.
- I recommend we prepare the case to fund both a master plan and Planning and Design for the TS in Phase 1. That would put the TS shovel-ready for Phase 2 allocations. The accelerated schedule could be justified by estimating the annual cost savings of a modernized station vs. the current one.

Other Remarks

- One of the buildings at the Transfer Station is now being used as a 47-bed homeless shelter.

Next Steps

- January 2017: ZWC discusses
- February 2017: ZWC sends feedback and recommendation to Public Works Commission
- March/April: Public Works Commission and Parks and Waterfront Commission prepare recommendations to City Council
- May/June: City Council approves Phase 1 allocations.

Zero Waste Commission Goals and Priorities Scorecard

Item: Transfer Station Modernization

Date: Jan 10, 2017

	Single Family & Small Apartments (up to 9 units)	Large Multifamily (10 or more units)	Businesses
Reduce landfilled materials Currently 56,000 tons/year, 19 pounds per resident per week. 50% of landfill is compost, 20% is paper.	- Potential space to handle drop off of more types of materials not collected by curbside recycling	- Potential space to handle drop off of more types of materials not collected by curbside recycling	- Potential space to handle drop off of more types of materials not collected by curbside recycling
Manage costs / increase income Current budget is \$37.6M/year, or \$327 per resident. Half of budget is personnel, one FTE = \$200k. All cost increases will need to be passed on as rate increases.	<i>Currently pays \$39/month for a 32 gallon trash can</i> - modernized Transfer Station would be more efficient to operate	<i>Pays \$32/month for a 32 gallon trash, and \$26/month for 32 gallon compost</i> - modernized Transfer Station would be more efficient to operate	<i>Pays \$32/month for a 32 gallon trash, and \$26/month for 32 gallon compost</i> - modernized Transfer Station would be more efficient to operate
Ease of use Will this make the system easier to learn? Will it save customers time?	- El Cerritto's modernized recycling center has been rated as easy to use, and also has an education component.		
Other environmental goals - Hazardous Waste - Litter & Stormwater runoff - Greenhouse gas reduction	- Stormwater runoff reduction - Better facility for handling hazardous waste - reduction in vehicle miles traveled		

Economic Development opportunities / Reuse / Highest and best use for materials:

- Modernized station could handle more materials, capturing a bigger share of the Construction and Demolition materials market.

Impact on worker and resident safety:

- Would improve traffic safety at the transfer station

Other:

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY AND PACKAGING

WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a legislative approach that places both financial and operational responsibility and control only on a product's producers for the product's end of life management

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley and other cities have already exceeded state goals of 75% diversion and see EPR as an additional tool in an already successful Zero Waste toolbox to manage materials that are not easily handled by existing collection and processing infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley's Zero Waste Policy is to follow the hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle/compost, put recovered materials to their highest and best use, and does not consider burning or burial of products to be sufficiently protective of human health and the environment to be used as disposal options, and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the City of Berkeley adopted a resolution to support State authority to oversee and manage EPR programs in a manner that is broadly representative of manufacturers, affected government, reuse and recycling industries, and EPR entities, and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is considering expanding EPR from difficult to process materials such as electronics and mattresses to also include packaging, and

WHEREAS, since 2013, EPR programs for packaging materials in other places such as British Columbia and Europe have led to loss of local oversight and control, closure of existing recycling facilities, and burning rather than reduction, reuse or recycling of materials, and

WHEREAS, if implemented in California, statewide EPR programs for packaging would take oversight and control of recycling from the City's Zero Waste Division and from Berkeley based recycling businesses, and place it in the hands of organizations controlled by the packaging industry.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council directs the City Manager to write to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to urge that expansion of EPR be limited to materials that existing recycling infrastructure is unable to process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs the City Manager to write to the California legislative representatives for Berkeley urging them to support EPR on products that are currently being landfilled, while opposing EPR on paper, plastic, metal, and glass packaging that is already being recycled.

Zero Waste Commission Goals and Priorities Scorecard

Item: **Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging** Date: **Jan 10, 2017**

	Single Family & Small Apartments (up to 9 units)	Large Multifamily (10 or more units)	Businesses
Reduce landfilled materials Currently 56,000 tons/year, 19 pounds per resident per week. 50% of landfill is compost, 20% is paper.	Limited reduction. The majority of packaging materials are currently already accepted in recycling and compost collection.		
Manage costs / increase income Current budget is \$37.6M/year, or \$327 per resident. Half of budget is personnel, one FTE = \$200k. All cost increases will need to be passed on as rate increases.	<i>Currently pays \$39/month for a 32 gallon trash can</i> Unknown.	<i>Pays \$32/month for a 32 gallon trash, and \$26/month for 32 gallon compost</i>	<i>Pays \$32/month for a 32 gallon trash, and \$26/month for 32 gallon compost</i>
Ease of use Will this make the system easier to learn? Will it save customers time?	EPR for packaging would lead to a statewide EPR entity determining how materials are recovered, which could lead to a change to current collection and sorting practices.		
Other environmental goals - Hazardous Waste - Litter & Stormwater runoff - Greenhouse gas reduction	EPR implementations in other parts of the world have included burning of materials as fuel. This would increase air pollution. Additionally, the energy generated by burning is small compared to the energy saved by reusing materials.		

Economic Development opportunities / Reuse / Highest and best use for materials:

- Placing control of materials collection in the hands of a manufacturer-led EPR entity may lead to closure of existing recycling businesses.

Impact on worker and resident safety:

Other: