



Zero Waste Commission

**55**INFORMATION CALENDAR

June 28, 2022

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 2022-23 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 2022-23 Work Plan on May 23, 2022.

M/S/C: de Tournay/Curtis; Ayes: de Tournay, Sherman; Nelson, Curtis; Abstain: None; Absent: Doughty; Stein.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Over the last two years, 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 CEQA process,
- Adapting to changes in the recycling export markets,
- Implementing the Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance,
- Implementing new state legislation SB 1383 to reduce landfilled organics, and
- Expanding collection services for hard-to-recycle materials.

ZWC is supporting 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.

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 was issued for consultant in Q2 2022	Consultant presentation at ZWC TBD	Commission recommendations to City Council	Ongoing Commission Feedback
Food Recovery and Organics Diversion SB1383	City Staff	Continue staff updates	Provide recommendations as needed to Council and other stakeholders	Help achieve state SB1383 requirements
Single-Use Foodware & Litter Reduction Ordinance	City Staff, Ecology Center, UC Berkeley/Cal Zero Waste	Follow implementation of Single-Use Foodware Ordinance, review through lens of Covid-19 repercussions	Provide recommendations as needed to Council and other stakeholders	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 2022
Clarify/Define/ Revisit what is acceptable for program acceptance/ recycling of all plastics	City Staff, Community Conservation Centers, 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)

## 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.
- **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 to those in need.

- 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 pandemic, but is now increasing with addition of new staff positions.
- 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.
- Reduce 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 may be introduced at regional level. Recommendations for Council will likely be proposed by end of year 2022.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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 a Citywide Reusable Food Container program
- Resolution to support an expanded coordinated effort with UCB during Cal moveout months
- Public information available for transparency in materials being recycled based on markets and destinations.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Reusable Food Container program and City/UCB collection efforts require funding.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Heidi Obermeit, Recycling Program Manager, Public Works, (510) 981-6357

