



## **ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FIRST MEETING, FEBRUARY 12, 2018**

### **Summary**

The Zero Waste Advisory Committee held its first meeting on February 12, 2018, at City Hall. After welcomes from Chris Osgood, Chief of Streets, and Austin Blackmon, Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space, the Committee and the consulting team discussed:

- The background of the project
- The project team, project tasks, and timeline
- Introduction to Zero Waste
- Boston's waste generation figures
- Community engagement plans

A video recording of the one-hour presentation and discussion and handouts and presentations from the meeting are available on the City's Zero Waste web page <https://www.boston.gov/departments/environment/zero-wasteboston>.

The full committee then broke into two subcommittees, one focusing on residential and the other on the institutional/commercial/industrial sectors. Each committee discussed an initial list of potential zero waste initiatives that the City could undertake. Members of the public also participated. Subcommittee members added possible measures to the list and expressed (with blue and red dots) initial support or concern. See attached.

### **Next Steps**

1. Advisory Committee members are welcome to submit more ideas or additional thoughts about the list of potential initiatives.
2. The consulting team and City staff will be developing more information about the benefits, costs, and feasibility of potential initiatives. We will send that information to you before the next meeting, where it will form the basis for further discussion.
3. The next meeting of the full Zero Waste Advisory Committee will be Monday, May 14, at 3 o'clock in City Hall.

### **Send ideas, comments, and questions to:**

Susan Cascino, [susan.cascino@boston.gov](mailto:susan.cascino@boston.gov), Director of Recycling Policy, and  
Amy Perlmutter, [Amy@aperlmutter.com](mailto:Amy@aperlmutter.com), lead consultant.  
Please put Zero Waste Advisory Committee as the subject.

# Boston Zero Waste Plan Options

## Residential Policies and Programs



• Positive • Negative

Waste/Packaging Reduction		ZWAC Comments
1. Bans or fees	Adopt local ordinances that limit or ban sales of toxic or hard to recycle products and product packaging (e.g., Styrofoam).	●●●●●● Banning non-recyclable and non-compostable and Fluorinated compounds Reduce types of plastics coming into the city
2. Require items to be reusable, recyclable or compostable	Develop an ordinance to require that all products and packaging sold in Boston be reusable, recyclable or compostable.	●●●●
3. Retailer take-backs (voluntary, mandatory)	Develop an ordinance to require takeback of items at retail locations. This can be to improve convenience for consumers or to collect materials that are not acceptable in the curbside recycling program (e.g., batteries, pharmaceuticals, compact fluorescent bulbs).	●●
4. Product & packaging fees	Adopt point-of-sale fees for products that are toxic, hard to reuse, recycle or compost and/or certain disposable items to incentivize customer reuse.	●
5. Statewide packaging and product design	Advocate for statewide packaging policies, including Extended Producer Responsibility.	●●●●●●●●
6. State collaboration		● Collaborate with state on legislation supporting Zero Waste incentives
New Services		ZWAC Comments
7. Expand organics (food and compostable paper) collection	Expand organics collection to include food scrap and compostable paper (organics) to all residential households.	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●● Important if City wants to increase its recycling rate. City also should support build-out of an infrastructure for processing and end-markets for compost and/or biogas. Keep in mind rat control downtown Consider a free finished compost pickup for residents as an incentive to composting their food waste.
8. Expand yard waste collection	Expand the number of weeks that yard waste collection it is provided.	●●●●●● Expand based on Mother Nature's course for any given season.
9. Every other week trash collection	As the City moves closer to Zero Waste, more of the waste	●● Not downtown. No way

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	materials collected should be recoverable (recyclable or compostable). Provide recycling and organics collection every week and provide trash collection every other week.	
10. Reuse collection (e.g., reuse nonprofit goes ahead of cleanup collection trucks)	Add reusable items to by-appointment clean up days and allow non-profits to take turns collecting those goods the day before the collection trucks arrive.	●●●●● Not if cluttering City streets
11. Neighborhood Drop Off Centers		● Drop off centers can supplement curbside pick-ups and take additional materials
12. Public Space Recycling		● Have recycling and composting in public spaces/public parks, next to every trash bin, and collect frequently as needed, also put more trash and recycling bins on well traveled streets (Ashmont near Washington in Dorchester)
<b>New Rules</b>		<b>ZWAC Comments</b>
13. Rate structure incentives or trash limits	Transition to Pay-As-You Throw or Save-Money-and Reduce Trash where residents purchase preprinted bags for trash disposal. Consider limiting the amount of trash put out by residents, i.e., no more than one bag/barrel per week. Consider charging fees for bulky items that don't fit in the trash barrel.	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●● Consider what to do about furniture or large household items that are not recyclable if trash limits or PAYT implemented. Low income communities will perceive the program as yet another City fee- program incentives and marketing need to be VERY clear. Organics should be classified as a recyclable, MN Statute 297H.06 allows source separated recyclables and compostables to be exempt from the solid waste management tax, residents and commercial entities can reduce their trash bills which are high: residential is 17.8% and commercial 31% in Hennepin County. Need regional solution for new rules re: PAYT Citizens will be angry and middle class to poor unfairly burdened by PAYT. Educate residents about how trash

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		<p>collection is currently paid for— people think it is free.          Provide additional outreach to lower income areas to mitigate “penalty” perceptions- no reason low income cannot comply with reasonable regulations—this is why incentives may be better</p>
14. Mandatory ordinance, reinforcement and enforcement	<p>Provide periodic auditing of residential collection containers and provide outreach and education to residents to ensure that they are aware of the mandatory recycling program and how to comply. Ensure that all customers are auditing once per year with more outreach provided to residents who require more assistance.</p>	<p>●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●</p> <p>Increase reinforcement and enforcement to keep recyclables out of trash, increase disincentives to improperly dispose of recyclables as trash.          Consider a system that provides incentives for compliance (eg, property tax break)          Engage property management companies: Many open dumpsters are in large privately-managed rental companies with no covers, residents in large rental properties want to recycle but management resists, workers at large rental properties bring trash in to dumpsters in Boston, also building materials          Inspectional services needs to be able to demand heavier fines and able to enforce with multiple follow ups. They also need to place inexpensive game cameras in known problem areas.          Need to look at incentives and enforcement through equity lens.          Conduct training and outreach after conducting neighborhood by neighborhood needs assessment.</p>
15. Provide only recycling service to large buildings	<p>Provide only recycling service (but not trash service) to large buildings. Property managers would subscribe separately to trash collection.</p>	<p>● Patchwork trash pickup will not serve the city well</p>
<b>Outreach and Education</b>		<b>ZWAC Comments</b>
16. Behavior change marketing	<p>Use Community-Based Social Marketing techniques to change behavior: identify barriers, conduct focus groups, evaluate options, conduct pilots, expand behavior-change programs.</p>	<p>●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●</p> <p>Identify barriers to behavior change          Consider how to engage residents that are not civically engaged— community meetings are largely attended by organizations and civically active residents. Information should be provided at places that</p>

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## Residential Policies and Programs

		<p>people are frequenting. Recycling in Boston is a meager 20% when all residents have access to it- we need to invest in increasing education and awareness about recycling practices otherwise we won't be successful. Education, policy, and incentives!</p>
17. Conduct outreach and technical assistance	<p>Provide door-to-door outreach to residents, train recycling ambassadors and Zero Waste block leaders, form green teams and conduct presentations with home owner associations and at multifamily complexes.</p>	<p>●●●●●●●●●●                  Need to crack the nut of tenant motivation- enforcement actions against absentee landlords is not effective to improve behavior                  Consider a multi-tiered education and outreach program: schools and community centers, churches and religious institutions, community organizations and businesses, PSAs and commercials, etc.</p>
18. Schools		<p>●●                  Include schools in education and outreach, including surveys; use schools to do Zero Waste education</p>
19. Neighborhood approach		<p>● Do focus group in East Boston</p>
20/ Signage		<p>●● Universal, color coded, multi-language signage with pictures that can be edited to show most common products that anyone can download, same signage in every building.</p>
21. Multiple Languages		<p>● Have 311 and other information in multiple languages</p>
<b>Other</b>		
22. Data collection		<p>●●●●●●●●●●●●●●                  Collect data to: have baseline (don't use "Portfolio Manager"), understand how and where to target outreach to change behavior and provide technical assistance, collect data on illicit C&amp;D waste in residential organics and non-organics streams and develop systems to foster increased diversion. Look at lead and metals contamination sources in yard waste. Get data on who is generating the residential trash- by neighborhood and income level (ties in to PAYT equity issue)</p>
23. Develop local markets/manufacturing		<p>●● Local manufacturing can utilize recyclables from City to make new products, including building products required by LEED and can also make durable products that help</p>

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## Residential Policies and Programs



		reduce waste.
24. Revise City Contracts and Bids		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●● Need long term contract for facility development, operator needs to be a partner with the city</li> </ul>
25. Create good jobs standards for industry		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●●●●● Standards could include wages and worker health and safety. Recycling workers under city contracts should be subject to living wage. Pay attention to wages of people doing the work, cover recycling workers with living wage ordinance.</li> </ul>
26. Take a neighborhood approach		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Different neighborhoods have different needs, not all have space for long term storage of materials</li> </ul>
27. Reduce litter		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●● Prevent bagged/loose materials from being put out; inspection and enforcement of containers to ensure they are not overflowing and are right sized, target Air B&amp;B's that contribute to sidewalk mess when trash is put out on wrong days</li> </ul>
28. Zero Waste Events		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●● Require all large events to be Zero Waste</li> </ul>
29. Underground bins		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Take advantage of underground garbage bins in many pre 1960 homes.</li> </ul>
30. Systems thinking		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Find ways to tighten up the waste stream systems- e.g., yard waste and woodchips on a residential scale can be utilized by local community gardens and urban farms.</li> </ul>
31. Litter		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We need to take care of litter— bottles, bags, fast food containers, nips, etc.</li> </ul>

# Boston Zero Waste Plan Options

## Institutional Commercial Industrial



• Positive • Negative

Waste/Packaging Reduction		ZWAC Comments
1. Improve green purchasing procedures	Ensure that all City staff are aware and fully participating in the City's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy. Develop standard operating procedures and education campaign.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•••••</li> <li>• (share with business) Share green purchasing guidelines with business community. Include reuse of products (circular economy). Purchase compost from city-derived sources. Public a list of products that are good for recycling (e.g., #1 and #2 plastics, not #6). Address toxics use reduction. Need to address chemicals of concern.</li> </ul>
2. Zero Waste research initiative	Work collaboratively with industry, government and educational institutions to find new solutions for items that are hard to reuse, recycle or compost, connecting with the latest developments, innovation and innovative funding (including venture capital).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•••••</li> </ul>
3. Address Problem Products Specific to different industries		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Figure out how to recycle medical plastics, etc. <a href="#">Healthcare Plastics Recycling Council</a> is a resource.</li> </ul>
New Services		ZWAC Comments
4. Modify permit system to require universal collection of recyclable and compostable materials	Require all solid waste haulers to provide collection of recyclable and compostable materials to all of their customers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>••• (hauler data collection) Require hauler data collection at the point of pickup (but don't use Portfolio Manager).</li> </ul>
5. Consider exclusive contracts or franchises for collection services	Consider transitioning from permit system to exclusive contracts or franchises for collection services (could include dividing the city into collection areas). Provide financial incentives for recycling and composting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•••</li> <li>• No franchising – competition is important</li> </ul>
5. Food waste prevention and surplus food donation	Expand on-going outreach to grocery stores, restaurants, school cafeterias and other food generators on opportunities and practices to prevent food waste and surplus food donation. Work with local business and regional industry associations to hold Waste Less Food panels. Incentivize food waste reduction tools such as Lean Path, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•••••</li> </ul>
6. Expand organics (food and compostable paper) collection	Expand organics collection to include food scrap and compostable paper (organics) to all commercial customers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>••••••••••</li> <li>••• Compost requirements for commercial generators. Affect the</li> </ul>



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		most generators (e.g., focus on food scraps)
7. Reuse exchange	Develop a clever and convenient program that encourages and rewards businesses for institutionalizing internal reuse – reuse closets for office supplies or tools, surplus sales to other businesses – remnants, surplus goods and equipment, donating goods to non-profits and, finally, giving items away.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>••• (prioritize reuse) Prioritize reuse in other ways as well.</li> </ul>
Churches		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Churches need to be included in our trash pick up. Currently they have to pay. Many churches can't afford that. We are picking up their dumping onto state and city lands.</li> </ul>
<b>New Rules</b>		<b>ZWAC Comments</b>
8. Mandatory ordinance, reinforcement and enforcement	Expand and improve outreach and enforcement of sorting requirements for institutional, commercial and industrial customers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•••••</li> <li>•• (government encourage)</li> <li>• (focus on generator)</li> </ul> <p>Government encourage recycling/organics – there are limited containers so the rest goes in the trash. City should enforce current waste ban laws. New city ordinance requiring organics. Focus on generator, not hauler.</p>
9. Require deconstruction, recycling and source separation of construction materials	Adopt an ordinance to specify requirements for deconstruction, recycling and source separation of selected materials to increase the diversion rates in place of complete demolition which would no longer be allowed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>••••••••••</li> <li>• (expand infrastructure)</li> </ul> <p>Need to expand construction debris recycling infrastructure.</p>
<b>Outreach and Education</b>		<b>ZWAC Comments</b>
10. Waste Prevention Technical Assistance	Expand commercial technical assistance program to include waste prevention and reuse. Provide tools to identify and redesign wasteful practices, products and packaging, and purchasing more environmentally preferred products as well as how to recycle and compost, and right-size collection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•••</li> <li>• (address barriers for tenants)</li> <li>•••• (Main Streets)</li> <li>• (behavior change)</li> <li>•••• (educate students)</li> </ul> <p>Encourage all Main Streets programs in this process immediately. There are implications for both businesses and residents – especially in terms of food waste and other organics. Focus on behavior change. Share success stories on recycling and reduction. Educate students to teach their families to recycle.</p>



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<p>11. Business outreach (presentations, door-to-door outreach, Zero Waste Champions)</p>	<p>Expand outreach and technical assistance to industrial, commercial and institutional generators addressing recycling and/or composting logistics and increasing employee participation.</p>	<p>Change culture through students.          ●●●●●●●●          Address barriers: tenants, building managers (not participating), custodial (mixing materials).          Market desired behavior/ separation/which plastics to recycle. Encourage recycling.</p>
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