



May 14, 2018

## Zero Waste Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Below is feedback from the Zero Waste Advisory Committee and members of the public at the May 14 Zero Waste Advisory Committee (ZWAC) meeting.

### Potential Zero Waste Goals:

- What is doable and can create momentum?
- If we're going to do it, let's do it!
- Would pounds/person/day be another way to set the goal?
- Focus on reduction to disposal facilities

### Evaluation Criteria for Potential Initiatives

Add:

- Stickiness- things that don't require continuous pushing
- Flexibility to changing conditions
- Carrots (vs sticks)
- Quality of diversion (highest and best use)
- Driven by data
- Culture change

Subtract

- Nothing

Other thoughts:

- Equity: not every neighborhood is the same, solutions may differ

### Initiatives/Options

New Services

- Organics- have hierarchy of diversion, prioritize highest and best use
- Think about public/private partnerships for infrastructure development
- Consider economic justice
- Look at more collaborative models/partnerships (e.g., RFP vs IFB)
- Tailor solutions to neighborhoods, not one size fits all
- Provide rebates for garbage disposers in neighborhoods where it makes sense
- Fixit clinics and other reuse- great, changes culture even if doesn't have big impact on waste
- Consider the timeline for new trash and recycling contracts and what can get done
- Lead by Example is great, but vague; government must internalize.
  - Dedicated staff positions needed in more departments



- Zero Waste at City-permitted events
- Recycling container next to every public garbage container, and make them dual stream not single stream
- Metrics!

#### New Rules

- Are there reporting tools businesses can use?
- Products and packaging reduction- make sure compostable packaging isn't toxic (e.g., perflourinated chemicals)
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing- include toxics and recyclability
- Who will define what is reusable for ban on disposal of reusables?
- Address existing buildings in addition to new construction with building codes
- Address rules that cover entire system, not just parts, including living wage,
- Deconstruction, recycling, and source separation of C&D could be expensive and impact relationships with vendors

#### Outreach and Education

- Add schools, student-informed curriculum.
- Need funding to address infrastructure
- Develop gamification app

#### Outreach and Education Case Studies-

What else would we like to know?

- What are effective carrots?
- How diversity of population addressed
- How commuter population engaged
- How to dovetail with large institutions already doing education, how leverage other relationships
- Is approach by tenant, building, complex—how measure participation?
- Difference in care between those who own their property vs. rent
- How to introduce people to new programs
- How to get community buy-in to programs so people feel ownership
- Incentives
- Any examples of recycling workers helping with outreach, telling neighbors about their jobs, creating common sense of purpose
- Use of social media- videos and other messaging
- How those who don't recycle (individuals, populations) are targeted

#### From Whom?

- Boston Student Advisory Council has Zero Waste presentation
- Minneapolis- has seasons, like Boston
- Boston Public Health – UMass Boston Health Impact Report as resource



**Next meeting:**

- Will have subcommittees, as well as full committee