

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
Office of Clean & Green Initiatives, Sanitation Department, and Office of
Sustainability
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION on SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Please see below the City's responses to questions received for further information relating to the RFI:

1) The city's website shows that the Zero Waste Initiative is archived and that "These initiatives started in 2017 with the first Zero Waste and Litter Action Plan and concluded in 2024." See [here](#). Does the city consider the Zero Waste and Litter Action Plan to have been concluded, generally, or are there ongoing initiatives continuing from it?

There are ongoing initiatives. Through Mayor Parker's Clean and Green Initiatives Office, the administration plans to build upon initiatives launched in prior administrations while identifying new post-pandemic goals and priorities related to zero waste and litter. The Parker administration has created a Clean and Green Cabinet, which has a Sustainability Subcommittee composed of members of City departments and the private sector. The Committee makes recommendations related to three main areas: waste reduction, recycling, and renewable energy. Updates and recommendations from this committee are forthcoming.

2) If there are ongoing programs from the Zero Waste and Litter Action Plan, please outline what they are, what their time frames are, and which offices or departments are in charge of them.

The City plans to release updates and recommendations from the Sustainability Committee of the Clean and Green Cabinet and other updates to prior administrations plans at a later date; recommendations received through this RFI may inform these future plans and programs.

3) Is the Philadelphia Environmental Justice Advisory Commission (PEJAC) still operational? If so, when and where do they meet, how many vacancies are there, and how do people join it? Would PEJAC be advising waste programs of the city?

The Philadelphia Environmental Justice Advisory Commission (PEJAC) is operational. Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor. Five members currently comprise PEJAC. PEJAC has held executive session meetings both virtually and in-person to conduct business. The agenda is set by commissioners; however, waste management is not presently a PEJAC business item. Most recently PEJAC has advised the Office of Sustainability on the City's Community Resilience & Environmental Justice Fund.

4) The Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee (SWRAC) has not been functioning in an advisory capacity for a long time, and it seems no new people have been appointed to it in years. What are the terms of sitting members, how are new people appointed, and where can we find bylaws or other governing documents about SWRAC's operations? Will SWRAC be consulted on the RFI and the upcoming waste and recycling RFPs?

At any time, the SRWAC may make policy recommendations for the Department to consider.

However, the Department is working with Procurement to prepare Best Value RFPs for the trash and recycling contracts beginning July 1, 2026. Since a number of SRWAC members and meeting attendees

represent firms that will or may submit proposals, it is not appropriate to discuss content that may be related to preparing these procurement documents.

5) The RFI states (3.2.3. on page 9) that large providers are to provide information on "Greenhouse gas emissions from collection vehicles and fuel consumption per ton collection" and on "Distance traveled for ton of waste." For each disposal facility, could you please ask for ALL air emissions data (in pounds per year) for the past five years including dioxins/furans and all greenhouse gases (including biogenic CO₂), without deducting offsets for energy or waste facilities that are assumed to be displaced, or for metals recycling. Also, please ask that respondents state whether emissions calculations are based on continuous emissions monitoring or on annual stack tests. Regarding distance traveled, that should not be per ton, which doesn't make sense.

Thank you for this recommendation, the Sanitation Department will work with the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives and the Office of Sustainability to evaluate incorporation in the RFP.

6) For incinerators -- so called "waste-to-energy" facilities, or Thermomechanical Treatment Facilities as Reworld (Covanta) now calls them -- please ask respondents to spell out how many tons per year of fly ash and bottom ash is produced by each facility, how many tons per year of fly ash and bottom ash go to each facility that receives it (including landfills and ash reuse/recycling operations such as the Reworld Metals Management plant in Bucks County). At landfills, ask respondents to state whether any of this ash is used as alternative daily cover material (ADCM). For reuse/recycling facilities, ask respondents to state what the end use is (roads, construction material, landfill, etc.).

Thank you for these recommendations, the Sanitation Department will work with the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives and the Office of Sustainability to evaluate incorporation in the RFP.

7) For incinerators, please ask respondents to state which air pollution control devices are used at each facility, and what the time frames are for installing any new or updated controls.

Thank you for this recommendation, the Sanitation Department will work with the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives and the Office of Sustainability to evaluate incorporation in the RFP.

8) In section 3.3.1., please ask for a description of the technology, a list of permits held (and stating the type of permit and which agency issued it), and facility names, locations, owner, operator, and capacity in tons/day.

Thank you for this recommendation, the Sanitation Department will work with the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives and the Office of Sustainability to evaluate incorporation in the RFP.

9) What percentage of source separated recyclables are collected separately vs. collected with trash in the same truck?

It is not the general policy or practice for source-separated recyclables to be collected with trash in the same truck. As the recent FY 26 budget testimony indicates the FY 24 actual recycling rate was 13%, the FY 25 Target is 14% and the FY 26 Target is 15%.

10) Are there GPS trackers on all trash and recycling trucks yet? If not, what percentage now have them, and when will it be 100%?

Sanitation Department vehicles have GPS on its collection vehicles. Status of collection route activities are shown on Pickup PHL.

While the City welcomes recommendations on waste collection, the current RFI and forthcoming RFP are more heavily focused on waste diversion and disposal.

11) Are any records kept on whether a recycling truck is sent out on a given route on a given day? If so, where are those records kept and in what format?

This data is not available.

While the City welcomes recommendations on waste collection, the current RFI and forthcoming RFP are more heavily focused on waste diversion and disposal.

12) Where do (non-curbside collected) recycling and special collection wastes currently go? Please answer this for polystyrene, household hazardous waste, electronic wastes, pharmaceuticals, tires, mattresses, and any other specially collected waste stream. Please include what contractor is paid to remove these wastes, when that contract expires, and what facility or facilities the wastes are brought to for processing or disposal.

Household Hazardous Waste materials are managed by the City's contractor MXI. The City uses the State COSTARS Contact for this service.

Electronic wastes are managed through Reworld's ewaste operation which is a certified stewards operation in accordance with PADEP requirements.

13) Please provide a list of all trash transfer stations in the city, their locations, their owner and operator, their permitted capacity, their actual capacity, and what areas they serve.

This information can be found on the PADEP web site.

14) What percentage of the city's municipal solid waste is collected by the Department of Sanitation?

Approximately 50%, the balance is commercially collected by multiple private haulers.

15) What involvement, if any, does the city have in management or disposal of construction and demolition waste?

The forthcoming RFP will not include the disposal of construction and demolition waste.

However, the welcomes policy and programmatic recommendations for management or disposal of construction and demolition waste in the RFI.

16) When procuring waste disposal services, how does the city ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, ensuring that, as a recipient of federal funds, the city is not engaging in practices that have a discriminatory impact on racial minorities? Will PEJAC have a role in determining this process?

All City contracts require the City General Provisions, which include contract terms for nondiscrimination and anti-discrimination in accordance with Office of Economic Opportunity ("OEO") requirements and procedures, and provisions for enforcement of those terms.

Please see response to #3 above regarding the PEJAC.

17) When evaluating environmental impacts of disposal options, will criteria other than climate impacts (such as impact on local health via pollutants that trigger asthma attacks, heart attacks, stroke, COPD, cancers, birth defects, learning disabilities, etc.) be evaluated?

As the RFI indicates, the City seeks information on “methodologies, measurement tools, and best practices to evaluate the comparative health and environmental impacts of residential waste management practices so that more than operational needs are factored into the RFP.” We welcome RFI submissions that provide information on best practices for incorporating these criteria in the RFP.