

**City of Philadelphia Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee (SWRAC)
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: September 16, 2021

ATTENDEES:

SWRAC Members

Fern Gookin (Chair), Revolution Recovery
Kyle Lewis, City of Philadelphia – Streets Department
Chuck Raudenbush, Consultant
Jack Embick, Interested Party
Maurice Sampson II, Clean Water Action
Paul Kohl, Philadelphia Water Department

Others Present:

Amy Cornelius, GreenBeams
Andy Shea, RNG Energy Solutions
Daniel Lawson, City of Philadelphia – Parks and Recreation
Emily Yates, Smart City PHL
Haley Jordan, City of Philadelphia – Office of Sustainability
Helena Rudoff, City of Philadelphia – Office of Sustainability
Logan Welde, Clean Air Council
Maria Horowitz, Philadelphia Water Department
Megan Milligan, Northeast Times
Mike Ewall, Energy Justice Network
Nagiarry Meneus, City of Philadelphia – Commerce Department
Neil Garry, City of Philadelphia – Streets Department
Rebecca Collins, Temple University
Scott McGrath, City of Philadelphia – Streets Department
Tamika Davis, PHL International Airport
Terry Keene; Keene Environmental Consulting
Tracy Bugh, Interested Party
Winnie Branton, Branton Strategies

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by SWRAC chair Ms. Gookin at 3:07 pm.

Introductions.

July Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from the July 15th General SWRAC meeting were approved as presented by voice vote.

State of Recycling (Kyle Lewis)

Commodities markets are rebounding. Pricing for plastics #1, 2, 5 is doing well and are projected to do well through at least the end of the year. Cardboard and mixed paper markets are also strong. The cost for the City to process recyclables has come down again and is currently at around \$48/tn; when contamination is factored in the cost jumps to about \$68/tn.

The price for waste disposal is approximately \$68.75/tn right now, which is a blended rate across all disposal facilities.

Operational challenges still exist, but the value of the materials is strong. There will be some media coming out around this positive news.

The City is currently collecting about 6,800 tons of recycling per month of recycling, but the goal is to increase participation to be above 7,000 tons per month.

There was discussion about if / how truck routes are documented in the day-to-day and where does the waste from each route end up? An area map will be distributed. In general (though things do change day-to-day):

- Areas 5, 6 and some of Area 3 go to the Forge Transfer Station.
- All of South Philly and some of Area 3 goes to Grays Ferry Transfer Station.
- Area 1 goes to the 58th Street Transfer Station.
- Area 4 goes to the Northwest Transfer Station.

Zero Waste Subcommittee Update

- Zero Waste in Philadelphia is defined as 90% diversion by 2035.
- This SWRAC subcommittee is developing a planning process that will recommend how goals might be set to achieve this mark.
- There is a lot of work and a lot of players that go into every step; SWRAC (beyond this subcommittee) can be a big resource to the effort.
- Maurice Sampson presented ZW Committee's planning process
- Neil Garry presented Waste and Diversion Data
- Helena Rudoff presented OOS's food waste initiatives
- Presentation slides will be distributed.
- There was discussion around the complications of tracking the types of waste streams and getting them as accurate as possible.
- There was discussion around who (if anyone or any group) is taking on some of this work since the Zero Waste and Litter was cut. And, there was specific discussion around who is taking on environmental crimes work related to short dumping.

Organics Subcommittee – did not report, yielded time to general meeting

Informational Items, Open Discussion and Announcements

- Megan Milligan asked for a statement about the trash and recycling being put together; she can reach out to the Street's Department Public Relations team for comment.
- Maurice Sampson announced that the Oct 2nd waste symposium he discussed at the last meeting has been postponed.
- Helena Rudoff announced that the Office of Sustainability's Food Waste Business Challenge is open for applications through Oct 3rd. Information on how to apply will be distributed.

Next Meeting Date

November 18, 2021

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01pm.