

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT
MARY M. CHEH, CHAIR

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE ON

Waste Diversion Efforts in the District

Monday, November 7, 2022, at 10:00 AM
Councilmember Cheh's Facebook Page ([facebook.com/cmmarycheh](https://www.facebook.com/cmmarycheh))
DC Council Website ([dccouncil.us](https://www.dccouncil.us))
Council Channel 13 (Cable Television Providers)
Office of Cable Television Website ([entertainment.dc.gov](https://www.entertainment.dc.gov))

On Monday, November 7, 2022, Councilmember Mary M. Cheh, Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, will hold a public roundtable on the District's waste diversion efforts. The roundtable will begin at 10:00 AM and be broadcast live on DC Council Channel 13 and streamed live at www.dccouncil.us, [facebook.com/cmmarycheh](https://www.facebook.com/cmmarycheh), and [entertainment.dc.gov](https://www.entertainment.dc.gov).

The purpose of the roundtable is for the Committee to learn about the status of the District's various waste diversion efforts as well as to learn where there is still room for improvement or adjustment.

In its first Sustainable DC Plan, released in 2013, the District set a "Zero Waste" goal of diverting at least 80% of its waste away from landfill and incineration by 2032. This goal, reaffirmed in the Sustainable DC 2.0 Plan released by the Mayor in 2019, is driven by the dramatic increase in consumer waste over the last half century, and the harmful effects of that waste. As is noted in the Sustainable DC 2.0 Plan, the average American's ecological footprint has increased by nearly 200% over the past 50 years. Much of this increase is driven by the production and use of everyday consumer goods, such as clothing, food, and disposable materials, many of which are single-use. As a result of this increasing consumption, the average American generates about 4.5 pounds of trash per day. Altogether, the United States produces over 260 million tons of trash per year, making it the world's largest trash generator. In the District, much of this solid waste still ends up in an incinerator or a landfill.

Waste management is often framed as an environmental issue, but it also has serious implications for public health, equity, and the local economy. Left unchecked, the District's solid waste, and its many adverse effects, will only increase.

The Council has mandated and funded many waste diversion programs and activities in the District, from requiring certain large food waste generators to source separate food waste and arrange for composting or anaerobic digestion, to requiring the Mayor to prepare a plan for providing recycling infrastructure in the public space, to funding a curbside composting pilot in the District during the last budget cycle.

This hearing will allow the Committee to ascertain the status of those many efforts and determine next steps for strengthening the District's waste diversion efforts. In particular,

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the Committee seeks testimony on the status of Zero Waste initiatives funded in the FY 2022 and 2023 budgets, the upcoming pilot of curbside composting in the District, DPW's incinerator and recyclables contracts, and the work of DPW and the Office of Waste Diversion to oversee the District's waste diversion efforts.

Due to the imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare of District residents posed by the spread of the coronavirus, the Council has adapted the methods by which committees may hold public hearings and roundtables to comply with social distancing, large public gatherings, and other public health and safety requirements. Therefore, this public roundtable will be held remotely through the Zoom teleconferencing platform.

The Committee invites the public to testify or to submit written testimony, which will be made a part of the official record. Anyone wishing to testify should contact Ms. Aukima Benjamin, Staff Assistant to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, at least 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing at (202) 724-8062 or via e-mail at abenjamin@dccouncil.us; witnesses will receive information on how to join the hearing at that time. Witnesses who anticipate needing language interpretation, or requiring sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee of the need as soon as possible but no later than five business days before the hearing, which is October 31, 2022. We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests; however, requests received less than five business days ahead may not be fulfilled and alternatives may be offered.

If you are unable to testify at the public hearing, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record; testimony may be submitted to abenjamin@dccouncil.us. The public may also leave voicemail testimony for the Committee by calling (202) 350-1344, which will be transcribed and made part of the hearing record. Members of the public leaving voicemail testimony should speak slowly and clearly, state their full name and the organization they represent, if any, and note the bill, hearing, or agency that they are submitting testimony on. Members of the public are asked to not provide an e-mail, phone number, or other personal contact information in voicemail testimony.

The record will close at the end of the business day on November 21, 2022.