

Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND OPERATIONS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

COUNCILMEMBER BRIANNE K. NADEAU, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND OPERATIONS

ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE ON

THE ZERO WASTE DC PLAN
AND
RECYCLING IN THE DISTRICT

October 2, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Hybrid in Room 412 and Virtual via Zoom

Watch live at:

<https://www.brianneknadeau.com/live>

On October 2, 2024, Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau, Chairperson of the Committee on Public Works and Operations, will convene a public roundtable to consider the Department of Public Works' responsibilities with respect to the Zero Waste Plan DC, as well as the future of recycling in the District. The roundtable will begin at 9:00am.

The Sustainable Solid Waste Management Amendment Act of 2024 established an Interagency Waste Reduction Working Group in the District and tasked that group with developing a plan to achieve the District's target of 80% diversion from landfills and incineration. This plan, which took over eight years to develop, was finally published in February 2024. It provides a strategy for sustainable solid waste management over the planning and implementation period of 2023 to 2040. It consists of 42 actions organized under seven overarching goals, and creates a shared responsibility among 32 District agencies and regional partners to bring the plan to fruition.

The District generates almost 9 pounds of solid waste per resident each day, and our citywide solid waste stream is on track to reach nearly 1.4 million tons annually by 2038. Diverting 80% of this waste from the waste stream could have huge environmental benefits for our communities and our local ecosystem: from getting trash out of our rivers, to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and incineration, to curbing illegal dumping in the District. Implementation of the plan is particularly important for the District's marginalized communities and communities of color, who disproportionately bear the harms of the District's solid waste management practices (including insufficient access to city services, illegal dumping in their communities, and proximity to the city's waste management facilities leading to an unfair human health burden from exposure to

toxins). It's critical, therefore, that the District gets implementation of the Zero Waste DC Plan right.

The Committee is convening this public oversight roundtable to discuss the role of the Department of Public Works in implementing the plan. The Committee hopes to learn from the agency what measures it has already implemented; its priorities for the upcoming year; its timeline for the remaining actions in the plan; as well as gain an understanding of funding needs and any additional legislation or authority that would help DPW fulfill its responsibilities under the plan.

In addition, the Committee would like to hear from the agency about its new recycling contract, as well as any plans to change or modernize the District's recycling processes. This past July, the executive withdrew its proposed contract for processing of the District's recyclables from Council consideration because of issues with the contracting process. The Committee hopes to learn from DPW what will change under this new contract and the justifications for those changes. Further, as the modernization of the Benning Road transfer station is now underway, the Committee hopes to get a better understanding of how DPW anticipates the capabilities of the new facility might change how the District collects, sorts, and processes recyclables, as well as any other changes to the District's recycling processes the agency is planning for.

The roundtable will have a hybrid format, with the government appearing in person, and public witnesses appearing in person or virtually via the Zoom platform. Those who wish to testify must register using the Council's Hearing Management System at <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/hearings> by **5 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2024**. Representatives of organizations will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for oral testimony, and individuals (and any subsequent representatives of the same organizations) will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. Witnesses who anticipate needing spoken language interpretation, or require sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee office of the need as soon as possible by emailing publicworks@dccouncil.gov. We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests. Witnesses will receive instructions on how to participate by Zoom prior to the hearing. If you have additional questions, please email publicworks@dccouncil.gov.

Testimony should be submitted through the Council's Hearing Management System <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/hearings> in advance of the roundtable. Testimony will be publicly accessible upon Committee review. If you are unable to testify at the roundtable, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record. Statements for the record should be submitted through the Hearing Management System.

The record will close at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2024.