



COMMENTS of THE MANHATTAN SOLID WASTE ADVISORY BOARD
New York State Solid Waste Management Plan 2019

What NYS Can Do to Help NYC Achieve Its Zero Waste Goals
Submitted April 30 2019

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on your New York State Solid Waste Management Plan presented at the Stakeholders' Meeting in 2019. We are the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board, created by Local Law 19 of 1989 and appointed by the Manhattan Borough President. We advise the Manhattan Borough President, City Council, City Administration, State of New York and others on legislation, policies, plans, and programs regarding the development, promotion and operation of the City's waste prevention, reuse and recycling initiatives.

The NYS goal per the NYS Solid Waste Management Plan had a progressive reduction in the amount of waste managed in combustors or landfills from 4.1 lbs to .6 lbs (85%) per person per day by 2030.

Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board fully agrees with and supports this goal.

To help achieve this important reduction of New York State's waste to landfill and incineration Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory board requests that the State of New York implement the appropriate policies, regulations and enforcement to align the City of New York's actions with NYS's Solid Waste Management Plan's progressive reduction goal of .6 lbs per NYS resident per day by 2030. This alignment would significantly contribute to the State's waste reduction targets.

In early 2015 The City of New York announced a target of reaching zero waste to landfill by 2030. The New York City's waste represents approximately 50 percent of the State's waste. If NYC achieves zero waste by 2030, the State's waste level would be dramatically reduced by 2030. It is in our shared best interest to have the City's actions align with that of the State. As of Earth Day 2019, there is an additional 20-year misalignment between the accomplishment of New York State's and New York City's. This will damage the ability of the State to reach its goals.

We have identified specific legislation and policy efforts at a state level we believe with appropriate enforcement would significantly help the City reach its target of zero waste to landfill by 2030. More

importantly many of these initiatives eliminate several deficiencies in the City's plan to achieve its stated goal of zero waste by 2030.

We therefore request that NYS support the following statewide initiatives, identified below, to help NYC achieve zero waste by 2030 and by doing so reduce NYS's overall waste footprint by an amount that would approach a 50 percent reduction.

1. Statewide legislative initiatives that will help the City achieve its goal of zero waste by 2030.
 - a. You point out in the 2008 Beyond Waste plan that 400 New York State communities employ some form of volume-based pricing. We would like New York City to be one of those. We would ask that you implement the 2008 NYS Beyond Waste plan on page 4 which states "Pay as You Throw/Save Money and Reduce Trash (PAYT/SMART) programs create a financial incentive for consumers to waste less and recycle more" A **statewide implementation of PAYT/SMART** will reduce the NYS overall waste footprint by helping NYC achieve its goal of Zero Waste by 2030.
 - b. **Right to Repair (electronics)**. Senate bill S618C, currently in S710, Consumer Protection Committee as of 1/9/19. We urge that this bill be passed.
 - c. **Ban on non-recyclable packaging and single-use disposable plastics**. The recent Amendment to New York State's Environmental Protection Law, Title 28 "Bag Waste Reduction" allowed the City to "opt-in" on April 2019 to the 5 cent paper bag deposit that augments the State ban on plastic carryout bags. New York City represents 10 billion plastic carry out bags out of the State's total 20 billion. Title 28 can serve as a blueprint for future legislation to ban non-recyclable packaging and single-use disposable plastics.
 - d. **Expand Bottle Bill S2129**, in Environmental Conservation Committee as of 1/9/19, to include wine and liquor glass, increase to at least \$0.10 fee, include stakeholders such as municipal recyclers and canners. We encourage NYS legislature to reconcile A5028 with S2129.
2. **Support for Organics Processing Initiatives**
 - a. We encourage legislation that addresses beneficial use of organic material using anaerobic digestion with focus on biogas, composting for in-state farming and soil remediation applications deemed necessary after evaluation.
 - b. We also encourage a review of any current state regulations on application of biosolids for agriculture (e.g., investigate avenues to liberalize beneficial reuse) if such a review considers that biosolids could potentially disperse micro-contaminants.
 - c. We urge that the State prioritize the siting of organics processing near NYC and in City where practicable (by instituting regulations that incentivize local processing over long distance and under-utilized land)

- d. In addition, we encourage the State to consider efficiency of truck routes, also considering rail and water transport, and to promote local solutions first by means of organics processing, micro-hauling, corner collections in any legislative effort.
3. Support for enhanced handling of C&D Materials
 - a. We urge support for **S87**, in Environmental Conservation Committee as of 1/9/2019, which establishes goals for NY agencies considering bids
 - b. Likewise we urge support for **S1587**, in Cities Committee and A3203 in Assembly Committee as of 1/15/2019, which requires contractors in cities of greater than 1 million population to recycle 50% of C&D material.
 - c. Also, we urge support for legislation to require deconstruction and reuse of as much building material as possible.
 4. Support for **extended product / packaging responsibility (EPR)**
 - a. We encourage legislation that scales producer fees in such a way as to favor packaging that is designed to be recyclable, reusable, have recycled content, etc
 - b. We urge passage of paint industry-supported legislation for sharing the responsibility for environmentally-appropriate disposal of paint S4351, A1463 as of 1/15/19 in Environmental Conservation Committee.
 5. MSWAB supports DEC's receiving adequate resources it needs to achieve and enforce our mutual zero waste goals.
 6. MSWAB supports the reconciliation of the Green New Deal - S2878B & A5334A *provided that* these bills incorporate Zero Waste initiatives, because 42% of carbon emissions to the atmosphere come from production and distribution of consumer goods and packaging according to USEPA.
 7. NYS DEC must ensure New York City does not enact long-term waste export contracts to landfill and incineration. For example, the NYS FY 2019 DSNY budget allocated \$411 million to continue long-range export contracts for the incineration and landfilling most of NYS's curbside collection. New York City's policy to continually enter into long-term landfill and incineration contracts ensures that the State's zero waste goal can never be reached.

Again we ask the state to implement the appropriate legislation and resulting regulations, referenced above, and associated enforcement that supports policies that will help align the City of New York's actions with the above State policies and goals. We look forward to your response and to working cooperatively with you on our mutual goals.

Sincerely,

The Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board

