



Zero Waste Commission

City of Berkeley ZERO WASTE COMMISSION Regular Meeting

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
City of Berkeley Corporation Yard (Ratcliff Building, Willow Room)
1326 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA, 94702

MEETING AGENDA

PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

- 5:30 pm 1. Call to Order by Chair and Roll Call by Secretary
- **Steven Sherman (Chair)**, appointed by CM Rashi Kesarwani, District 1
 - **Claire Wilson (Vice Chair)**, appointed by CM Shoshana O'Keefe, District 5
 - **VACANT**, appointed by Mayor Adena Ishii
 - **Layla Dargahi**, appointed by CM Terry Taplin, District 2
 - **Dennis Uyat**, appointed by CM Ben Bartlett, District 3
 - **Philip Monrad**, appointed by CM Igor Tregub, District 4
 - **Sandra Curtis**, appointed by CM Brent Blackaby, District 6
 - **Lucy Longwell**, appointed by CM Cecilia Lunaparra, District 7
 - **Barun Singh**, appointed by CM Mark Humbert, District 8
- 5:35 pm 2. Approve Meeting Agenda and Order of Agenda Items
- 5:40 pm 3. Approve Draft Action Minutes:
- June 17, 2026 Regular Meeting*
- 5:45 pm 4. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda
Speakers are allotted up to two minutes. Speakers may be allotted less time at the discretion of the Chair.
- 5:55 pm 5. Staff Updates

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

Members of the public may provide comments at the end of each discussion item and prior to the vote of the Commission on any action items. Speakers are allotted up to 2 minutes.

- 6:10 pm 1. Commission Workplan progress check
- 6:20 pm 2. Presentation from Katie Greenwald, Berkeley Food Network Senior Development Manager

6:40 pm 3. Create the following subcommittees: Single Use Disposables, Food Recovery

6:50 pm 4. Discuss Goals for tabling/increasing Commission visibility

7:10 pm 5. Subcommittee Reports Updates

- a) Special Events Subcommittee
- b) Lease Language Subcommittee
- c) Single Use Disposables
- d) Food Recovery

7:20 pm 6. Commissioner Announcements

Commissioners may make general announcements; no action will be taken.

7:25 pm 7. Discuss Future Agenda Items

7:30 pm 8. Adjournment

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Information items may be moved to discussion, but no action will be taken

- o Ad campaign live: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/94ibvKcAYCg1Qvti8>

COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications from the public are included as links or attachments in the agenda packet.

***Indicates material included in the agenda packet**

**** Indicates material to be available at the meeting**



ADA Disclaimer: This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services Specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

SB 343 Disclaimer:

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Public Works Department located at the address below.

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Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information.

Commission Secretary:

Julia A. Heath, Recycling Program Manager,
Zero Waste Division, 1201 Second St. Berkeley, CA 94710
510-981-6357

jheath@berkeleyca.gov

MINUTES

The meeting was convened at 5:35pm with Steve Sherman presiding as Chair.

ROLL CALL

Present: Philip Monrad, Steven Sherman, Claire Wilson, Sandra Curtis, Dennis Uyat, Layla Dargahi, Lucy Longwell

LOA:

Absent: Barun Singh

STAFF PRESENT: Julia A. Heath, Johnny de Lara

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: 2

PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): 1

ACTION MINUTES:

- **Approval of the June 17, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda**

Action Taken: M/S/C (Uyat/Dargahi) to approve the June 17, 2026 meeting agenda.

Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Singh

- **Approval of the May 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Action Taken: M/S/C (Dargahi/Uyat) to approve the May 20, 2026 meeting minutes.

Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: Monrad, Curtis None; Absent: Singh

Action Taken: M/S/C (Sherman/Monrad) To revote on the minutes

Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Singh

Action Taken: M/S/C (Uyat/Dargahi) revoting to approve the May 20, 2026 meeting minutes.

Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: Monrad, Curtis None; Absent: Singh

- **Public Comment**

1 public comment. No Action Taken.

- 1100 Block of Addison St. resident: Fining people for having their bins moved out of position? Not a fine, you are charged for a special pickup if the driver cannot service your cart, meaning you are paying the cost for a driver to come collect your cart on a different day while they're servicing a different route.

- **Staff Updates**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Ad campaigns finally going out!

- Trying to work with an ad agency to get contractors in compliance with Cal Green requirements
- Starting route reviews on July 10th
- Council passed compliance/inspection fees
 - i. \$250 flat rate, and it assumes 2 hours for each plan check and inspection

- **Compliance and Circularity in Regulated Waste – Lisa Puckett**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

Public Comment:

- **Continue discussion of which initiatives from the Zero Waste Strategic Plan Executive Summary commissioners will work on**

Discussion only. No Action Taken

- Sherman: Zero Waste Events, Rate Structures
- Dargahi: SUDs, Food Recovery Program Expansion, Public Engagement
- Curtis: SUDs Update, Public Engagement
- Longwell: Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinance
- Monrad: Zero Waste Events, Space Allocation follow-up
- Wilson: SUDs, Food Recovery Program Expansion, Public Engagement
- Uyat: Lease Language, Mobile Food Vending, Zero Waste Packaging and Refill Stores, Public Engagement
- Singh:
- Subcommittees:
 - i. SUDs (Dargahi, Wilson, Curtis)
 - 1. Possibly include Mobile Food Vending work here?
 - ii. Zero Waste Events Ordinance (Sherman, Monrad)
 - iii. Food Recovery Program Expansion (Uyat, Dargahi, Wilson)
 - iv. ~~Public Engagement (Curtis, Uyat, Wilson, Dargahi)~~

Public Comment:

- **ZWC Workplan Progress Check**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Making progress on Commission visibility/public engagement!

Public Comment:

- **Discuss SB343 going into effect in October: extended producer responsibility for recyclables**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Truth in labeling
- Covered materials list also included in SB54
- CAA would need to be the one to find responsible end markets, enforcement won't necessarily be up to the jurisdiction

Public Comment:

- **Subcommittee Updates**

- a) **Special Events Subcommittee**

- In limbo

- b) **Lease Language Subcommittee**

- Feedback from Swasti
 - Consider doing good outreach for this

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

Public Comment:

- **Commissioner Announcements**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Curtis: Reach the Decision Makers Fellowship. Trying to reduce microplastics.
- Wilson: Emphasizing lithium-ion battery education. There was a fire started from this item in Napa.
- Uyat: Global Zero Waste Forum in Istanbul accompanied by a public Zero Waste Festival. Hosted by the Turkish gov. Trying to make "Zero Waste" a mainstream climate topic, especially looking to COP 31.
- Dargahi: Meeting with City staff about food recovery and expanding basic needs programs. YWCA may be able to host a "Back to School Garage Sale" or something similar to the Cooperative Reuse Event.
- Sherman: Sunday 3pm singing at Baker and Commons. Connected Dennis with a UC researcher who's researching batteries.

Public Comment:

- **Discuss Future Agenda Items**

- Bring back discussion of the Budget/Fund Forecast
 - i. Can we attach the most recent Budget report for the new fiscal year?
 - ii. Hold this for September
- Bring in Operations Manager for the July Meeting
- Send commissioners a copy of which initiatives they want to work on

- Formally create subcommittees
- Discussion Item: What do we want to convey during tabling/increasing visibility?
Discuss a short list of that.
- Include an agenda item for YWCA items
- Katie from Berkeley Food Network would be happy to make a presentation

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

Public Comment:

- **Adjournment at 7:35 p.m.**

M/S/C (Sherman/Monrad) to extend the meeting.

M/S/C (Sherman/Monrad) to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Singh

The next regular meeting of the Zero Waste Commission will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in person at City of Berkeley Corporation Yard (Ratcliff Building, Willow Room) 1326 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Respectfully Submitted

Julia A. Heath, Secretary

FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 WORK PLAN

The following goals and activities for the ZWC have been identified for fiscal year (FY) 2026-27 and are provided in Table 1, below:

Table 1: ZWC Goals for FY 2026-27

Goal	Resources	Program Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
Advocate for City Council to adopt the Zero Waste Strategic Plan	Consulting team, City staff, other commissions	Work to build momentum towards adoption of the zero waste plan and rates to support zero waste activities. Distribute information to increase public input and build consensus with other commissions	Articulation of the benefits of and risks of non-adoption to Councilmembers and other identified stakeholders	Support for the adoption of a comprehensive, detailed strategic plan and funding to achieve City's zero waste goals
Support community engagement regarding zero waste in Berkeley	City Staff, Ecology Center, UC Berkeley/Cal Zero Waste, BUSD, the public	Presentations at ZWC by practitioners. Join other Commission meetings and zero waste events in the community	Foster public support for zero waste activities and programs. Have attendance by a least one commissioner at 10 events during the year	Foster zero waste goals and awareness in the community
Strengthening existing and adopting new zero waste ordinances outlined in the draft Zero Waste Strategic Plan	City Staff, consulting team, Ecology Center, UC Berkeley/Cal Zero Waste, BUSD	Through subcommittees and then the commission as a whole, evaluate and recommend ways to strengthen existing City ordinances and to support adoption new ones that further efforts to achieve zero waste goals	Staff reports, draft ordinance language, and recommendations to Council as needed	Support for strengthened and new zero waste ordinances

Goal	Resources	Program Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
Review and assessment of accepted materials: inclusion or exclusion in City collection services	City staff, Urban Ore, CCC, Ecology Center, CAW, NCRA, CPSC, StopWaste, others	Presentations at ZWC by specialists. Review list of accepted materials, and recommend changes, particularly with the onset of SB 54	Recommendations to Council as needed	To help Council have an accurate understanding of City's collection services and the extent to which they align with the City's goals
Monitor outside resources and funding opportunities	City Staff, StopWaste, CalRecycle, California Product Stewardship Council	Presentations by outside organizations to help ZWC track and understand proposed legislation, for the purpose of advising Council	Recommendations to Council as needed	To help establish effective, fiscally prudent laws that support City's zero waste goals
Preliminarily assess organization and oversight considerations regarding the City's Zero Waste Program	City staff, consulting team, other commissions, other communities	Preliminarily evaluate effectiveness, efficiency, and equity opportunities regarding: (a) more inclusive public oversight of rate-setting processes; (b) zero waste program administrative structure, based on other leading zero waste programs	Preliminary assessment of organization and oversight considerations regarding the City's Zero Waste Program	Hold preliminary discussions with City Councilmembers about preliminary findings and potential opportunities

BACKGROUND

The following topics have shaped Zero Waste in the City and are monitored closely by the ZWC, including the goals for the upcoming fiscal year.

Zero Waste Strategic Plan: A draft plan has been completed by the City's consultants. Whereas new programmatic and policy elements of the draft plan are relatively modest in scope and cost, infrastructure upgrades to the Transfer Station, as currently conceived by staff and its consultant, are very substantial in scope and estimated cost.

SB 1383 - Food Recovery and Organics Diversion: This State of California law requires local governments to reduce the landfilling of compostable materials, to reduce climate change effects associated with methane emissions resulting from the landfilling of such items. Implementation of State Law SB 1383 requires the City and subsequently the Zero Waste Division to provide education and outreach to residents and businesses, monitor contamination, manage an edible food recovery program, and many more activities.

Zero Waste Ordinances: The City has adopted various zero waste ordinances over time. Now that their effects are being observed in practice, some of them may merit modifications to improve their effectiveness. Many Zero Waste ordinances and programs have been evaluated for effectiveness in the City of Berkeley in the draft Zero Waste Plan.

Accepted Materials in City Collection Programs: Periodically, the list of accepted materials in City collection programs deserves review. This is especially prudent with the adoption of SB 54, which becomes fully effective by January 1, 2027. Review of accepted materials lists for the City's recycling and composting programs will be required. Additionally, consideration of harder-to-recycle materials potentially could be added to City collection services, such as batteries.

Zero Waste Program Oversight: Two primary topics for consideration involve the Commission's role in helping to ensure, prior to a vote by Council, that the content of draft competitive solicitations for zero waste services (e.g., compostables, recyclables, refuse, reusables, household hazardous waste, etc.), and of draft zero waste rate adjustments, are consistent with the City's zero waste-related goals, services, and policies.

ZW Commission Commission Visibility Goals & Talking Points

Purpose: Introductory statement for Zero Waste Commissioners to share with the public about who we are and what we do.

We are members of the City of Berkeley's Zero Waste Commission. Commissions are made up of Berkeley residents, appointed by a Councilmember, to serve as key advisors on important issues. The Zero Waste Commission is made up of industry expertise with a combined XX years of experience in municipal waste management. We have backgrounds in food recovery, solid waste and organics management, toxins and plastics, the legal field, etc. Berkeley Zero Waste Commission has a strong reputation in developing municipal Zero Waste Policies, which often are used as models in State, National, and International policy.

Berkeley was the first Bay Area jurisdiction to implement municipal recycling in 1973 and compost in 1984, 3 months before San Francisco.

Since then, here are some of the ways the Zero Waste Commission intersects with zero waste and the work of the Zero Waste Division at the City of Berkeley:

- **We're helping shape a long-term plan for Berkeley's future.** The Commission is advising and supporting adoption of a comprehensive Zero Waste Strategic Plan that outlines how Berkeley can reduce waste over the coming years while making smart investments in community services.
- **We want recycling and composting to be easier and more effective.** As products and state laws change, we're reviewing what can be collected and looking for ways to make the City's waste collection programs simpler, clearer, and more useful for residents and businesses including upcoming SB 54. California is currently updating how packaging, recycling, composting, and food recovery work. The Commission helps the City understand these changes and plan for a smooth transition that benefits the community.
- **We're looking for policies that create meaningful reductions in waste generated in the City.** The Commission reviews existing City laws and policies and recommends improvements to such policies that can reduce waste, encourage reuse, and help Berkeley meet its zero waste goals.
- **Our goal is to make zero waste practical, affordable, and accessible.** We want City programs to work well for everyone by encouraging solutions that are environmentally responsible, fiscally sound, and equitable for all Berkeley residents. We want to hear from residents, businesses, schools, and local organizations so that Berkeley's zero waste programs reflect the needs and ideas of the people who use them every day.



FOOD RECOVERY & SECURITY

Zero Waste Commission Presentation
July 15, 2026



BERKELEY FOOD NETWORK



- Founded 2016 as a community food hub
- Operating from a City-owned warehouse since 2019
- The region's largest direct food assistance provider

COMMUNITY ACCESS

9th Street Pantry

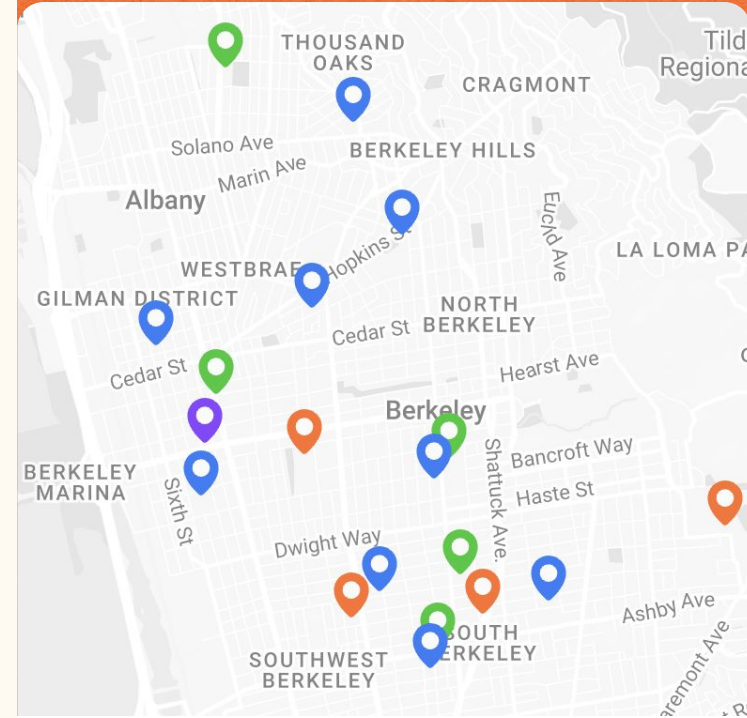
- Open Tues. & Thurs., 11 - 6
- 1,400+ households weekly
- ~30 lbs groceries per visit
- CalFresh, MediCal, and safety net connections

Neighborhood Pantries

- Pop-ups at schools, community centers, senior housing
- 600 additional households monthly

Home Delivered Groceries

- Custom boxes, twice monthly
- For those with nowhere else to turn
- Grown from 20 households (2022) to 200+



BLUE: BUSD Pantry • GREEN: Neighborhood Pantry
ORANGE: Senior Housing Pantry • PURPLE: BFN



FOOD BANKING

- Redistribution organization (RDO) with ACCFB and Feeding America
- Food sourced and distributed to 30 partner organizations in Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, and Oakland
- Case management, data reporting, and program support



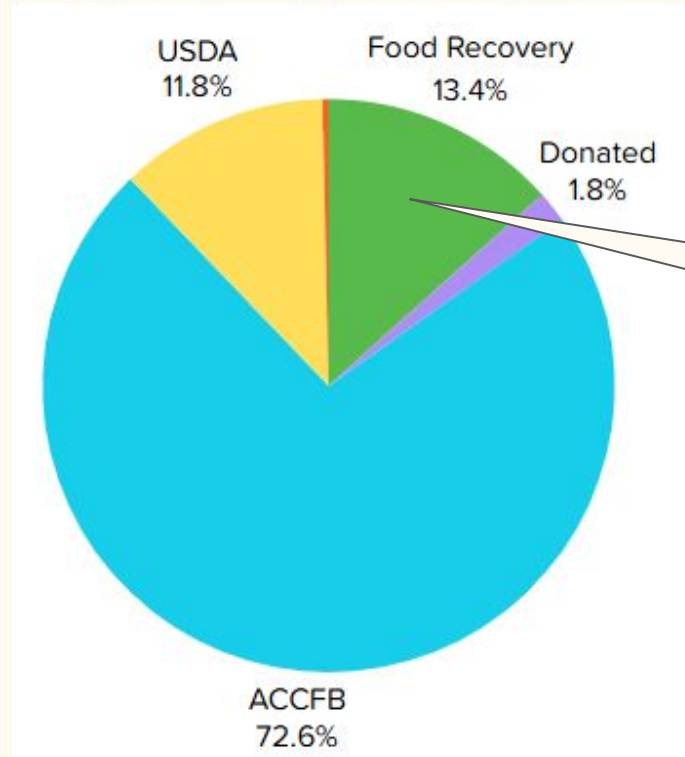


FOOD BANKING

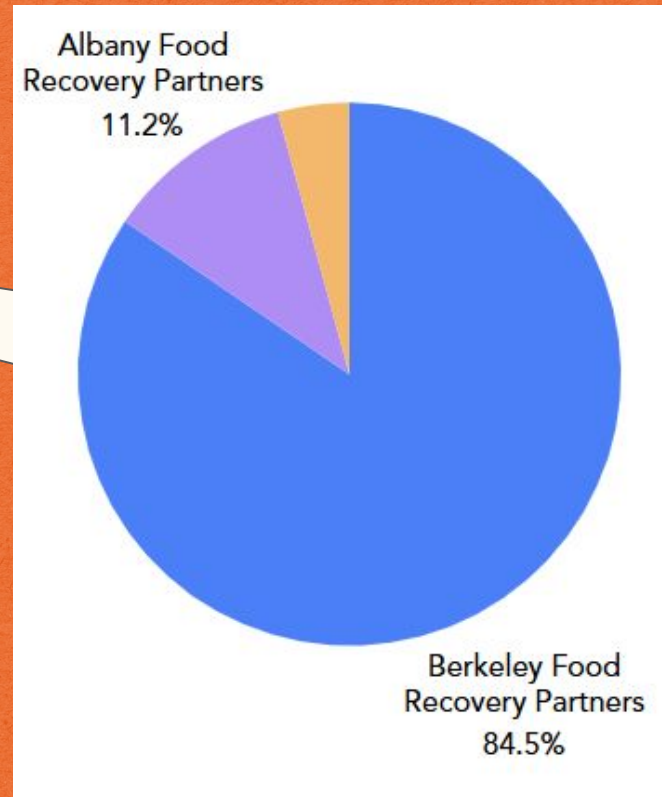




FOOD SOURCING



● Food Recovery ● Donated ● ACCFB ● USDA ● Purchased



FOOD RECOVERY





FOOD RECOVERY

What BFN takes:

-  Tier 1 — large grocers & retailers
-  Tier 2 — restaurants

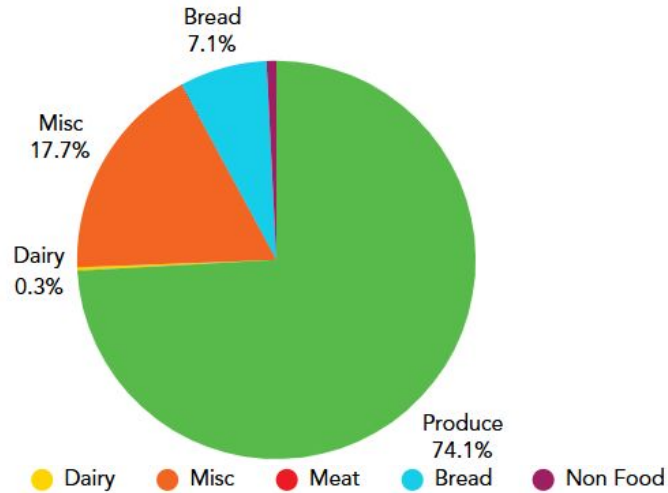
Who's who:

- **StopWaste** → enforces the county food recovery program
- **ACCFB** → represents Feeding America's Food Recovery Program (Trader Joe's, Target, Berkeley Natural, Sprouts)
- **BFN direct relationships** → largest are Berkeley Bowl (4x/week) and Acme Bread (2x/week)





FOOD RECOVERY





FOOD RECOVERY

What Food Recovery looks like daily:

- Sorting donated produce; culling waste, composting, re-boxing
- Daily grocery and bakery pickups
- Occasional warehouse pickups and one-off donations





FOOD RECOVERY

Challenges:

- **Short shelf life** of recovered food
- Unpredictable donation volume, timing, quality
- Training donor staff on guidelines
- Balancing waste reduction with dignity
- Cold storage capacity
- Waste Management Costs
- Facility
- Lack of a kitchen/processing site





FOOD RECOVERY

Opportunities:

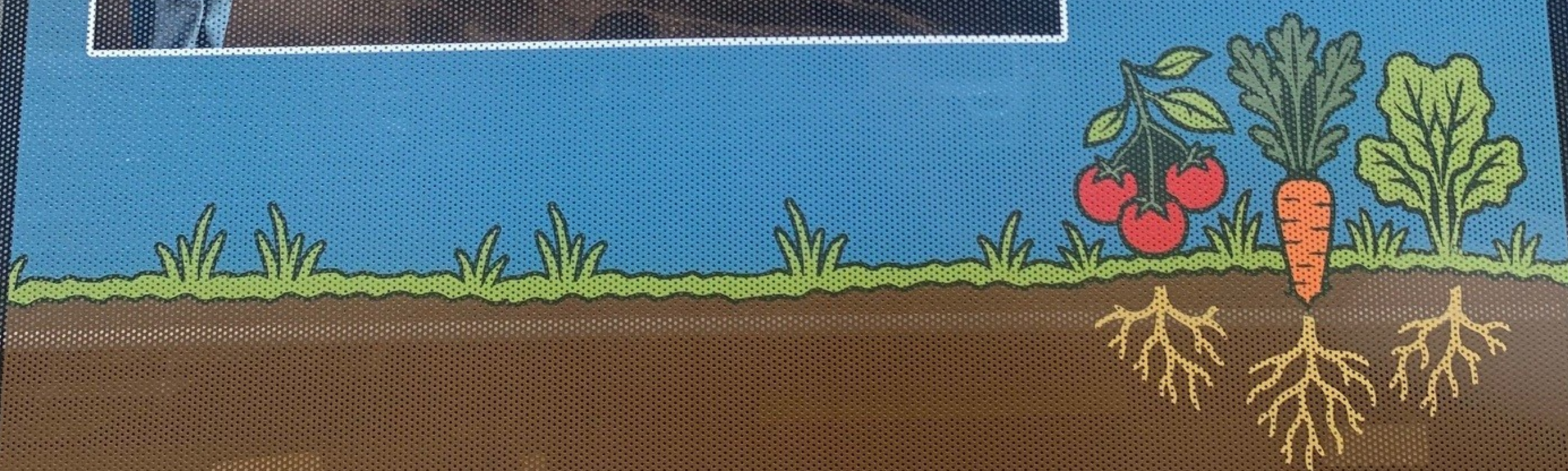
- BFN as a Central Food Recovery Hub
- Refrigerated Vans
- Training for Food Generators
- Purpose-Built Facility
- Increased Capacity to Allow for Adaptation and Flexibility





Spring into Sustainability

When you sort food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings correctly, they're transformed into nutrient-rich compost. Pick up free compost at the Berkeley Marina!



ZERO WASTE BERKELEY

CalRecycle 