



Zero Waste Commission

City of Berkeley ZERO WASTE COMMISSION Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 17, 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:
- May 20, 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. Compliance and Circularity in Regulated Waste – Lisa Puckett
- 6:30 pm 2. Continue discussion of which initiatives from the Zero Waste Strategic Plan Executive Summary commissioners will work on

6:50 pm 3. ZWC Workplan Progress Check

7:00 pm 4. Discuss SB343 going into effect in October: extended producer responsibility for recyclables

7:15 pm 5. Subcommittee Reports Updates

- a) Special Events Subcommittee
- b) Lease Language Subcommittee

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

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:

Internal

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.

Communications Disclaimer:

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 5:37 with Steven Sherman presiding as Chair.

ROLL CALL

Present: Steven Sherman, Barun Singh, Dennis Uyat, Layla Dargahi, Kitt Saginor

LOA: Lucy Longwell, Philip Monrad, Claire Wilson

Absent: Sandra Curtis

STAFF PRESENT: Johnny de Lara, Keith Morin, Leticia Jauregui

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: 5

PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): 3

- Bay Nature Magazine ad from Marylou
- EC Summer Solstice Event at Berk farmers' market on 6/23, 6/25, 6/27
- Swasti grad!!!!

ACTION MINUTES:

- **Approval of the May 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda**
Action Taken: M/S/C (Sherman / Dargahi) to approve the May 20, 2026 meeting agenda.
Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Lucy Longwell, Philip Monrad, Claire Wilson, Sandra Curtis
- **Approval of the April 15, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**
Action Taken: M/S/C (Dargahi / Uyat) to approve the April 15, 2026 meeting minutes.
Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Lucy Longwell, Philip Monrad, Claire Wilson, Sandra Curtis
 - Add Lucy Longwell
- **Staff Updates**
Discussion only. No Action Taken.
- **Mary Lou – A Short History of Recycling in Berkeley, California**
Discussion only. No Action Taken.
 - Waste is a verb, not a noun.
 - A lot of demand in the Bay Area for organizations like Urban Ore
 - Interested in selling Urban Ore
 - The Urban Ore model scales up and down
 - Greatest challenge today?
 - Archive? How can people access the archive?

- i. Recycling archive lives in Berkeley's Mezzanine, oral history interviews of founders of the recycling industry
- ii. 22 questions written by Dan

Public Comment: 0

- **Vote to adopt the revised Transfer Station Rebuild 1-pager**

Action Taken: M/S/C (Sherman/Saginer) to adopt the revised Transfer Station Rebuild 1-pager
Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Lucy Longwell, Philip Monrad, Claire Wilson, Sandra Curtis

- Is there a point that emphasizes the urgency of the situation? Any data/numbers we can write down that show the urgency?
- This can be an evolving document, this is essentially a list of talking points that commissioners can use to push the rebuild (either through quoting them in an article, a meeting with a council member, etc.)

Public Comment: 3

- Does it endorse a specific design? No. That's not the intention of the document.
- Has there been a shortening of the CEQA process? No.
- It looks good, the intention is meant to provide good talking points for everyone.
 - i. Especially because there are folks who read the packets/minutes online, so they can be informed as well even if they don't attend commission meetings

- **Subcommittee Updates**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

Public Comment: 0

- **Special Events**

- i. Ordinance got turned a bit sideways
- ii. Council member Tregub is doing a larger initiative on permitting, so trying to include special events ordinance material in this larger initiative
- iii. Still confused about how to get a document to City Council

- **Lease Language Subcommittee**

- i. Need to figure out how to talk to the City Council
 1. Because rent board must go through City Council
- ii. No particular traction
- iii. Looking for examples of successful lease language programs to reach new tenants

- **City Staff – Zero Waste Fund Forecast and Budget Presentation**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Talk of separating Transfer Station Rebuild point from the greater plan to get it to council sooner

Public Comment: 1

- What is the transfer station bond? **IF** the rebuild was authorized, there would be a bond to pay for it (no existing transfer station bond yet)

- **ZWC Workplan Progress Check**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Commission can make more public appearances over the next couple months (at farmers' markets or other places)
- WWF grant from \$75,000-300,000 to decrease food waste

Public Comment: 0

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

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Dennis: mobile food vending, education, zero packaging, and refill stores
- Layla: SUDs and foodware, litter reduction, food recovery
- Barun: Help wherever, has little time
- Philip: Events ordinance

Public Comment: 0

- **Commissioner Announcements**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Open government commission; Open government ordinance to make meetings more accessible remotely (make all meetings available in hybrid form)
- Dennis: Zero Waste Forum. Met someone who works in medical _____. Would be great to have her in for a presentation

- **Discuss Future Agenda Items**

- Discuss SB343 going into effect in October: extended producer responsibility for recyclables
- Continue discussing which initiatives from the Zero Waste Strategic Plan Executive Summary commissioners will work on
- [running agenda item] ZWC Workplan Progress Check

Public Comment:

- **Adjournment at 7:31 p.m.**

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

Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Lucy Longwell, Philip Monrad, Claire Wilson, Sandra Curtis

The next regular meeting of the Zero Waste Commission will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 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

DRAFT



 **BAC**
Compliance | 360

RAISING THE BAR ON HEALTHCARE COMPLIANCE

Compliance and Circularity in Registered Medical Waste: Introducing NETZERO360's Compliance First Approach



NETZERO360™

SUSTAINABLE WASTE SOLUTIONS

833-247-OSHA

BayAreaCompliance.com



A local, compliance-led, co-op investment model that eliminates waste cost drivers and builds a netzero future

NETZERO360™ introduces a compliance-first circularity model designed specifically for registered Medical Waste.



The Problem: A Broken and Expensive System



- **Escalating Costs**
Waste costs rise 5–12% annually.
- **Long-Haul Transportation**
50–300+ miles increase costs, emissions, and operational risk.
- **Landfill & Incineration**
High tipping fees and limited capacity drive costs higher.
- **Overclassification**
Treating "RMW everything" inflates volumes and expenses.
- **Vendor Consolidation**
Limited transparency and high margins reduce control.
- **ESG Gap**
Organizations face rising expectations with limited measurable impact.



Local Solution. Global Impact.



Keeping Waste Local. Resources in Circulation.



The NETZERO360 Solution



Local Infrastructure

Processing within approximately 10 miles of the point of generation.

Full-Service Solution

Logistics, staffing, permitting, processing, and compliance support.

Shredding, Treatment & Material Recovery

Viewing waste as a resource where appropriate and compliant.

Compliance First

OSHA, EPA/RCRA, DOT, state regulations, and audit-ready documentation.

Co-op Investment Model

Organizations participate in a shared system designed for regional benefit



NETZERO360™

COMPLIANT TODAY. CIRCULAR TOMORROW.

Your Waste. Your Data. Your Impact.

The NETZERO360™ dashboard gives labs and healthcare facilities real-time visibility into waste streams, compliance, diversion performance, and circular outcomes—all in one place.



STAY COMPLIANT
Audit-ready records and chain-of-custody documentation.



IMPROVE PERFORMANCE
Track diversion, CO₂e reductions, and cost savings.



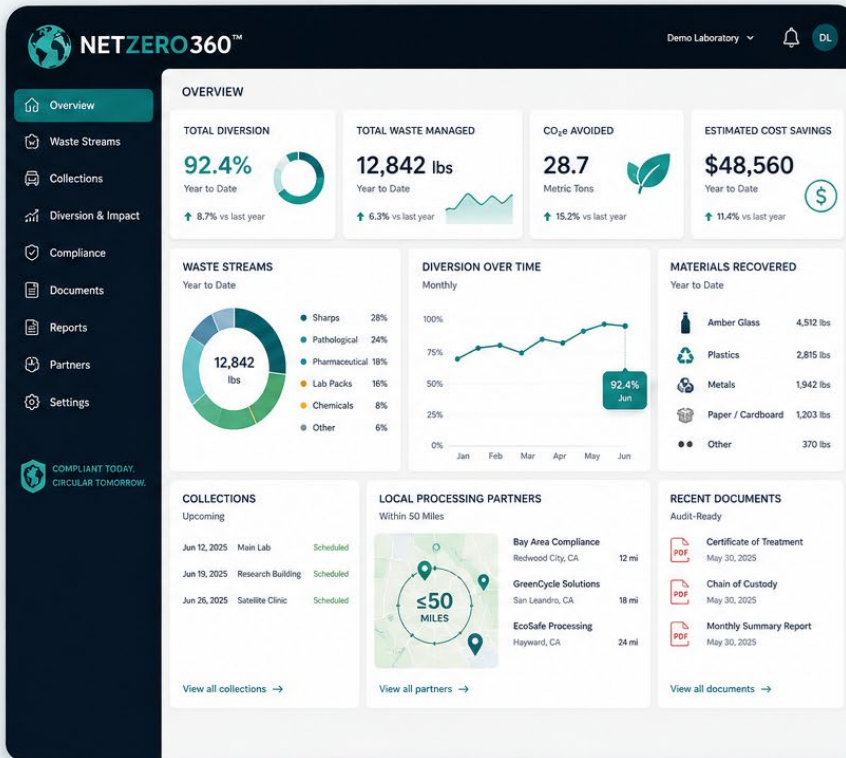
LOCAL & RESPONSIBLE
Processing partners within 50 miles whenever possible.



DRIVE CIRCULARITY
Turn waste into resources and create lasting impact.



SECURE & RELIABLE
Enterprise-grade security for your sensitive data.



Building a circular future for people and the planet.

THE NETZERO360™ CIRCULAR PROCESS

Powered by compliance. Driven by data. Focused on impact.



1. AUDIT & ASSESS
We evaluate your waste streams and-compliance needs.



2. COLLECT & TRANSPORT
Regulated, secure, and manifested every step of the way.



3. TREAT & PROCESS
Waste is treated, sterilized, and prepared for recovery or destruction.



4. RECOVER & RECYCLE
Materials are recycled through responsible, local partners.



5. CREATE IMPACT
We close the loop—reducing risk, cost, and carbon.

AUDIT-READY. DATA-DRIVEN. IMPACT-FOCUSED.

>90% Average Client Diversion

4.5M LBS Amber Glass Diverted

Local Processing Within 50 Miles



Compliance First: **Circularity Must Operate Within Regulatory Boundaries**

Our framework aligns with:

- **OSHA requirements**
- **EPA and RCRA standards**
- **DOT transportation requirements**
- **State-specific regulations**
- **Audit-ready documentation practices**



Collection & Segregation



Transportation



Treatment



Documentation



Material Recovery



Reporting

How We Manage Registered Medical Waste



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Typical Outcomes

- **90%+ Diversion from Landfill and Incineration**
- **Significant Scope 3 Emissions Reduction**
- **30–40% Reduction in Regulated Waste Volume**
- **ROI Within 6–12 Months***
- **Long-Term Cost Stabilization**

**Actual outcomes vary by organization and waste profile.*



Why NETZERO360 Structurally Reduces Costs



Transportation Elimination

Reducing long-haul logistics and handling points.

Disposal Cost Collapse

Reducing dependence on high-cost pathways.

Overclassification Correction

Ensuring only regulated waste is treated as regulated.

Shared Infrastructure

Lowering costs through regional participation.

Vendor Margin Compression

Reducing unnecessary layers and overhead.

Cost Stabilization

Improving predictability over time.



How the Co-op Model Works



NETZERO360™
SUSTAINABLE WASTE SOLUTIONS

833-247-OSHA
BayAreaCompliance.com

Partners join together.



Organizations co-invest.



NETZERO360 builds local infrastructure.



Lower costs. Greater impact.



Ready to Take Control of Your Waste?



NETZERO360™
SUSTAINABLE WASTE SOLUTIONS

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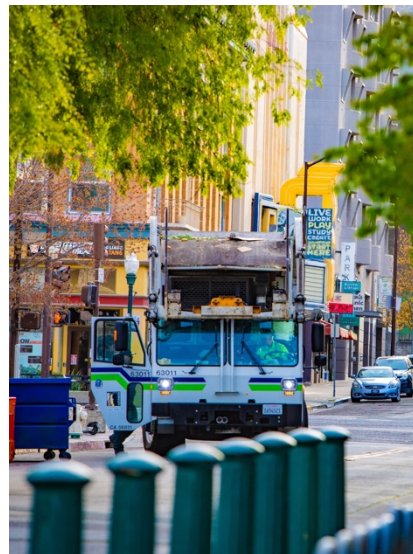
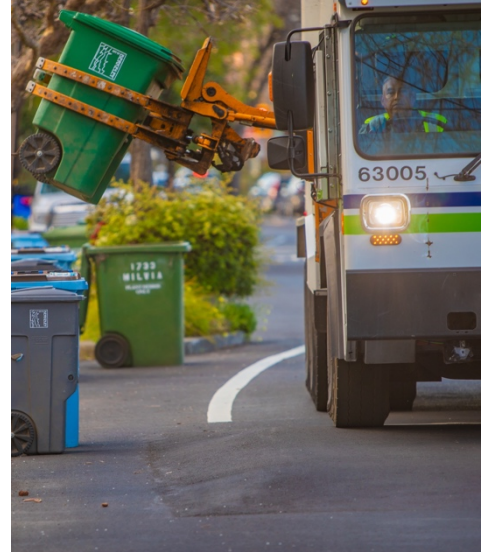
Compliance.

Control.

Community.

Cost Savings.

Climate Impact.



AUGUST 2025



CITY OF BERKELEY ZERO WASTE STRATEGIC PLAN

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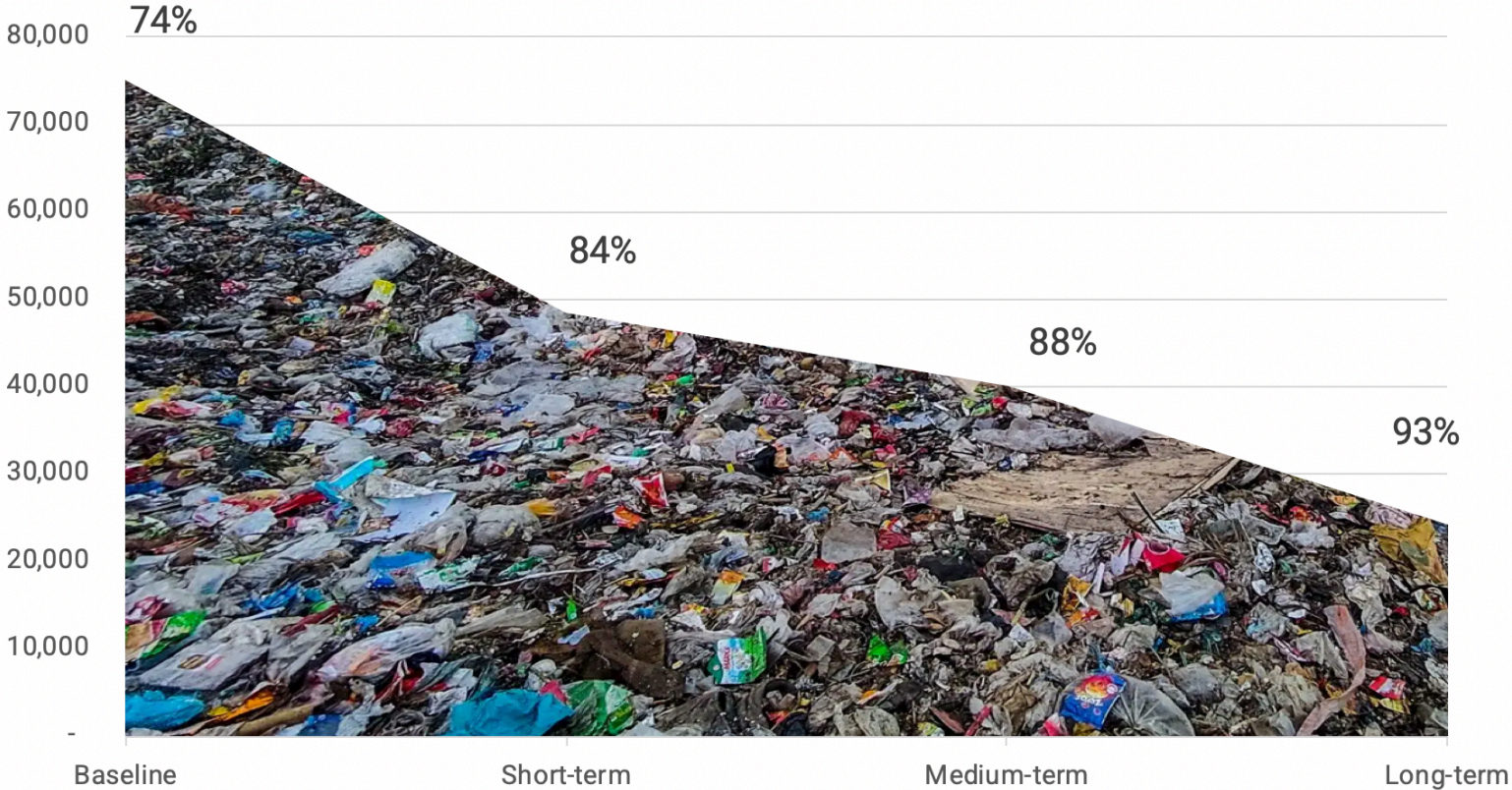
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 - 2. Transfer Station Feasibility Study Findings, Estimated Costs, and Financing Plan
 - 3. Zero Waste Initiative Descriptions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Berkeley (City) has a long and storied history of local, state and nationwide environmental leadership. The City and its community members have implemented many forward-thinking and effective environmentally focused policies, initiatives, and programs, including establishing one of the first municipal curbside recycling programs in the nation. The Zero Waste Division within the Department of Public Works operates the City’s collection system and City-owned Berkeley Solid Waste and Recycling Transfer Station. The City partners with three mission-driven organizations: Community Conservation Centers, the Ecology Center, and Urban Ore to provide recyclables processing, residential recycling collection, and salvaging reusable items at the Transfer Station.

The City Council adopted a Zero Waste goal in 2005 and the City reached 74 percent diversion from destructive disposal (landfill or incineration) in 2022. The Zero Waste Strategic Plan identifies the policies, programs and infrastructure that will be needed to increase the City’s diversion rate to 93 percent over the 10-year planning period.

Tonnage Reduction and Diversion Rate Increase Over Time



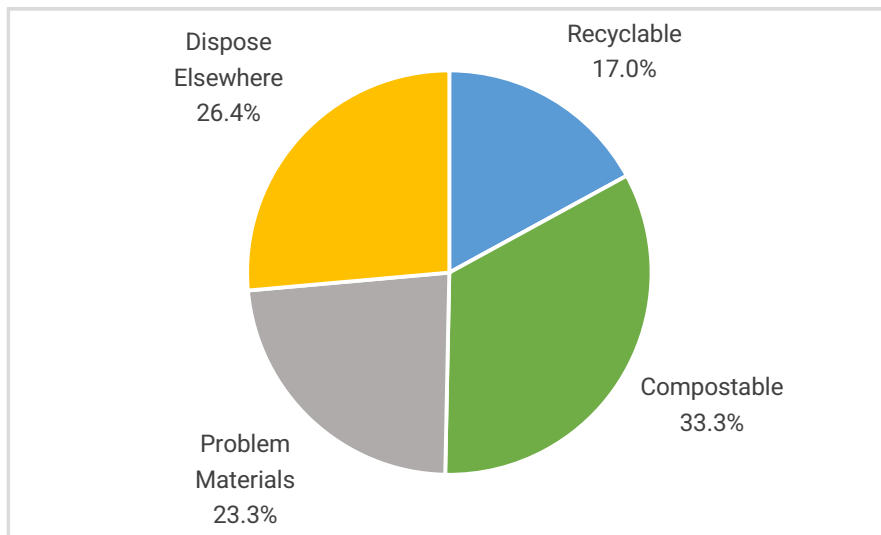
The City conducted a stakeholder-driven planning process which included a citywide survey, listening sessions, interviews and focus groups, in-person and online workshops, and meetings with the City's Zero Waste Commission and Environment and Climate Commission.

As part of the development process, workshop participants identified seven Guiding Principles for the plan.

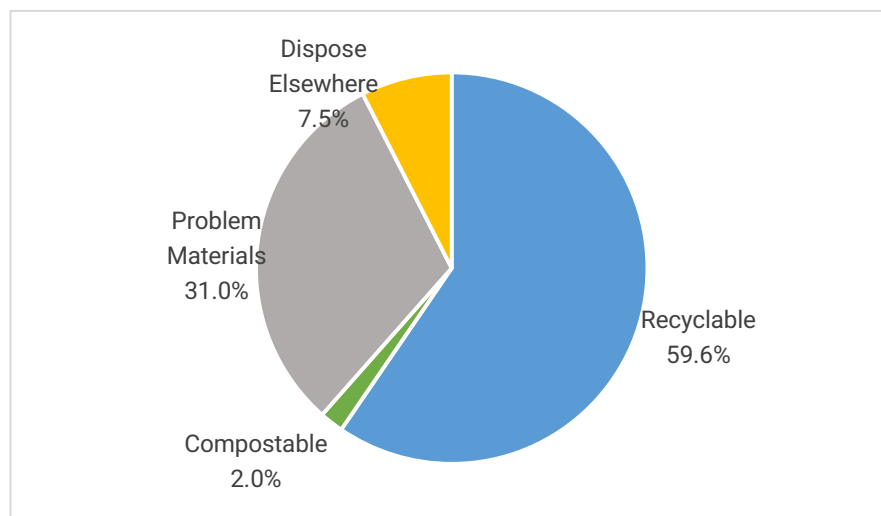
1. Grow community power through public engagement, accountability and a sense of accomplishment
2. Ensure City department leadership in Zero Waste practices
3. Engage public and private institutions to model Zero Waste practices
4. Prioritize reduction, reuse and repair
5. Hold producers accountable for their problem products through state and federal advocacy
6. Create a culture of Zero Waste through reducing consumption and maximizing reuse, recycling and composting
7. Make "doing the right thing" convenient and accessible for all

The City conducted a comprehensive materials characterization study, sampling recycling, organics, and refuse streams from residential, commercial and self-haul customers. The study concluded that over 50 percent of materials disposed as refuse by residential and commercial customers could have been recycled or composted through the City’s current programs. Approximately 26 percent are potentially recyclable elsewhere, but would require new programs in Berkeley. Approximately 23 percent of materials in the refuse are not reusable, recyclable or compostable and would require new policies to address (at the state or local level). Over 60 percent of materials delivered to the Transfer Station by self-haul customers could have been recycled.

Material Recoverability, Single Family, Multi-Family and Commercial Refuse, 2023



Material Recoverability, Berkeley Self-Haul Refuse, 2023



Based on the stakeholder outreach, materials characterization study, research conducted about potential new policies and programs implemented in other communities, the City identified 33 new Zero Waste initiatives to be implemented in the short-term (1-3 years), medium term (4-7), and long-term (8-10 years). Detailed descriptions of the Zero Waste initiatives are included in an attachment to the plan.

Zero Waste Initiatives

Short-Term (1-3 Years)	Medium-Term (4-7 Years)	Long-Term (8-10 Years)
Single-Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance Update	Space Allocation for Buildings Ordinance	Mandatory Self-haul Source Separation Ordinance
Zero Waste Events Ordinance	Living Walls, Landscaping, or Rooftop Gardens	Museum of Bad Design Displays
Mobile Food Vending Ordinance	Lease Requirements and Minimum Service Ordinance	Research and Development Institute
Water-Efficient Landscape Ordinance	Food Recovery Program Expansion	"User-friendly" Transfer Station
Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinance	Battery Collection	
Zero Waste Business Expansion Ordinance	Household Hazardous Waste Collection	
Space Allocation for Enclosures Ordinance	Hard-to-Recycle Materials Collection	
Green Building Ordinance Update	Furniture and Household Goods Collection	
Zero Waste Education and Enforcement	Diaper Program and Pet Waste Diversion Program	
Share, Reuse, Repair Program	Reusable Foodware Infrastructure	
Alternative Rate Structures	Tool Lending Library Expansion	
Zero Waste Events Program	Water Bottle Refill Stations	
Construction Materials Reuse Exchange	Public Compost Bins	
Zero Packaging and Refill Store Expansion	Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Expansion	
	Expand Materials Collected Curbside	

An essential component of the City's Zero Waste infrastructure is the redevelopment of the Transfer Station. Built in 1983, the Transfer Station is showing its age. In 2018-19, the City undertook a feasibility study to identify the critical needs in rebuilding the Transfer Station and conducted community outreach to obtain input on the desired program features. The permitting process and environmental reviews are nearing completion and the financing program is in development. As the Transfer Station will need to be operational during redevelopment, the rebuild is scheduled in six phases over five years. The Transfer Station is expected to be operational by 2031.

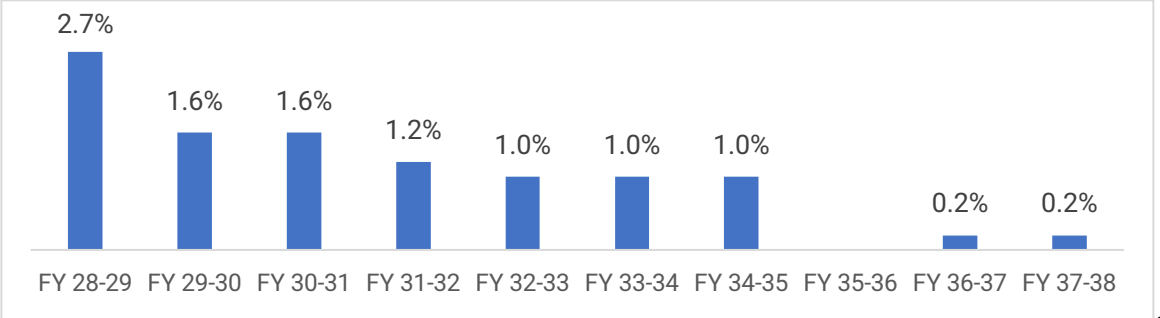


Redesign concept rendering, prepared by Zero Waste Collaborative

The rebuild is necessary not only for program enhancements, but is essential to worker and customer safety, traffic mitigation, and environmental protection. An attachment to the plan includes more details about the Transfer Station Feasibility Study, Estimated Costs for rebuilding the Transfer Station, and the Financing Plan for the Transfer Station.

Costs for implementing the policies and programs identified in the Zero Waste Strategic Plan are estimated to be \$7.5 million over the 10-year planning period and would potentially increase collection rates by 10.5 percent over that timeframe. Some of these costs can be off-set based on staffing reassigment or alternative revenue sources (such as grants and program fees).

Annual Rate Adjustments for Zero Waste Initiatives (Excluding Transfer Station Rebuild)



Costs for the Transfer Station rebuild is estimated to be \$119.4 million. This cost would result in a 19.7 percent increase to the rates. The City can also potentially reduce the costs of landfilling and increase revenues from the sale of recyclable materials.

Expenditures for implementing the Zero Waste Strategic Plan and Transfer Station rebuild will be subject to annual department budgeting and future actions of the Berkeley City Council.

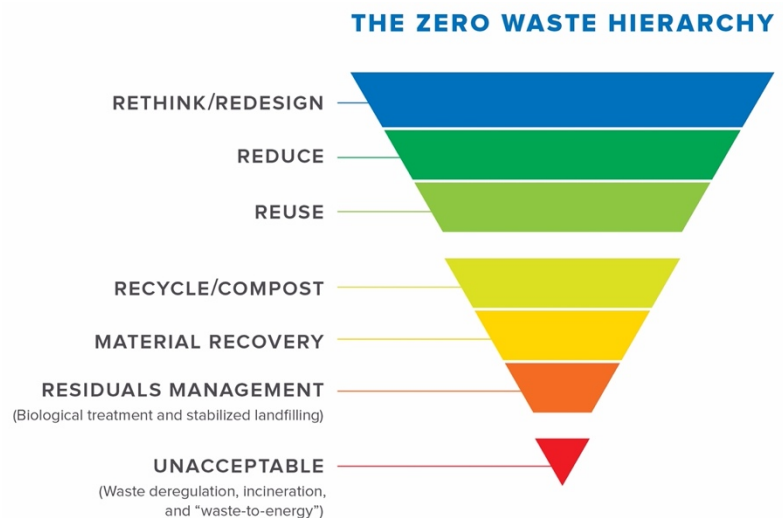
Zero Waste

The internationally peer-reviewed definition has been curated by the Zero Waste International Alliance:

Zero Waste is the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.¹

The Zero Waste Hierarchy² describes a progression of policies, programs and infrastructure to support the development of a Zero Waste system, from highest and best to lowest use of materials. The components of the hierarchy are:

- **Rethink/Redesign** – Design and purchase products/materials to be durable, repairable, reusable, fully recyclable or compostable, and easily disassembled.
- **Reduce** – Minimize quantity and toxicity of materials used.
- **Reuse** – Maximize reuse of materials and products.
- **Recycle/Compost** – Support and expand systems to keep materials in their original production loop and to protect the full usefulness of the materials.
- **Materials Recovery** – Maximize materials recovery from mixed discards and research purposes after extensive source separation.
- **Residuals Management** – Examine materials that remain and use this information to refine the systems to rethink, reduce, reuse, and recycle in order to prevent further discards. Biologically stabilize materials prior to landfilling.
- **Unacceptable** – Incineration and other “waste-to-energy” or “waste-to-fuels” schemes.



¹Zero Waste International Alliance: <https://zwia.org/zero-waste-definition/>

²Zero Waste International Alliance: <http://www.zwia.org/zwh>

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.



Zero Waste Division

Fund Status Update 2026

Leticia Jauregui and Keith Morin

CITY OF BERKELEY
PUBLIC WORKS
ZERO WASTE





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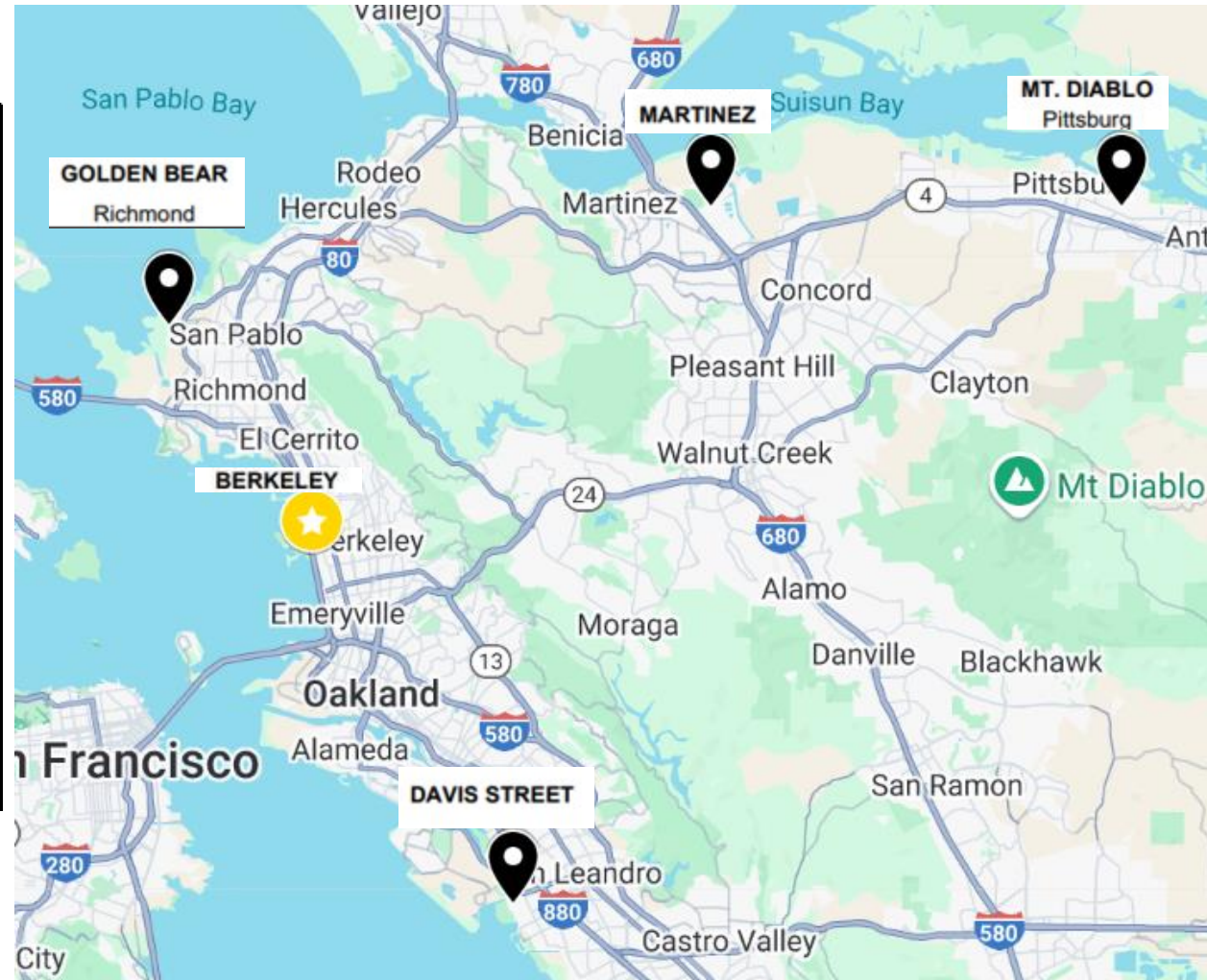
Transfer Station Established in 1978





Transfer Station Rates

	Refuse		Green Waste		C&D Materials	
	Min.	Per Ton	Min.	Per ton	Min.	Per ton
SAN LEANDRO DAVIS STREET San Leandro	\$ 78.00	\$303.00	\$ 64.00	\$100.94	\$ 53.50	\$ 209.18
RICHMOND GOLDEN BEAR	\$ 56.00	\$212.70	\$ 45.20	\$212.70	\$ 54.20	\$ 201.90
FREMONT RECYLING & TRANSFER STATION	\$ 63.00	\$134.40	\$ 63.00	\$122.76	\$ 63.00	\$ 134.40
CONCORD CONTRA COSTA WASTE SERVICES	\$ 46.25	\$151.25	\$46.25	\$151.25	\$ 46.25	\$ 151.25
NOVATO REDWOOD LANDFILL	\$55.00	\$131.03	\$55.00	\$131.03	\$ 27.50	\$ 120.65
BERKELEY TRANSFER STATION*	\$ 38.50	\$149.00	\$ 27.75	\$ 72.05	\$ 33.50	\$ 130.00





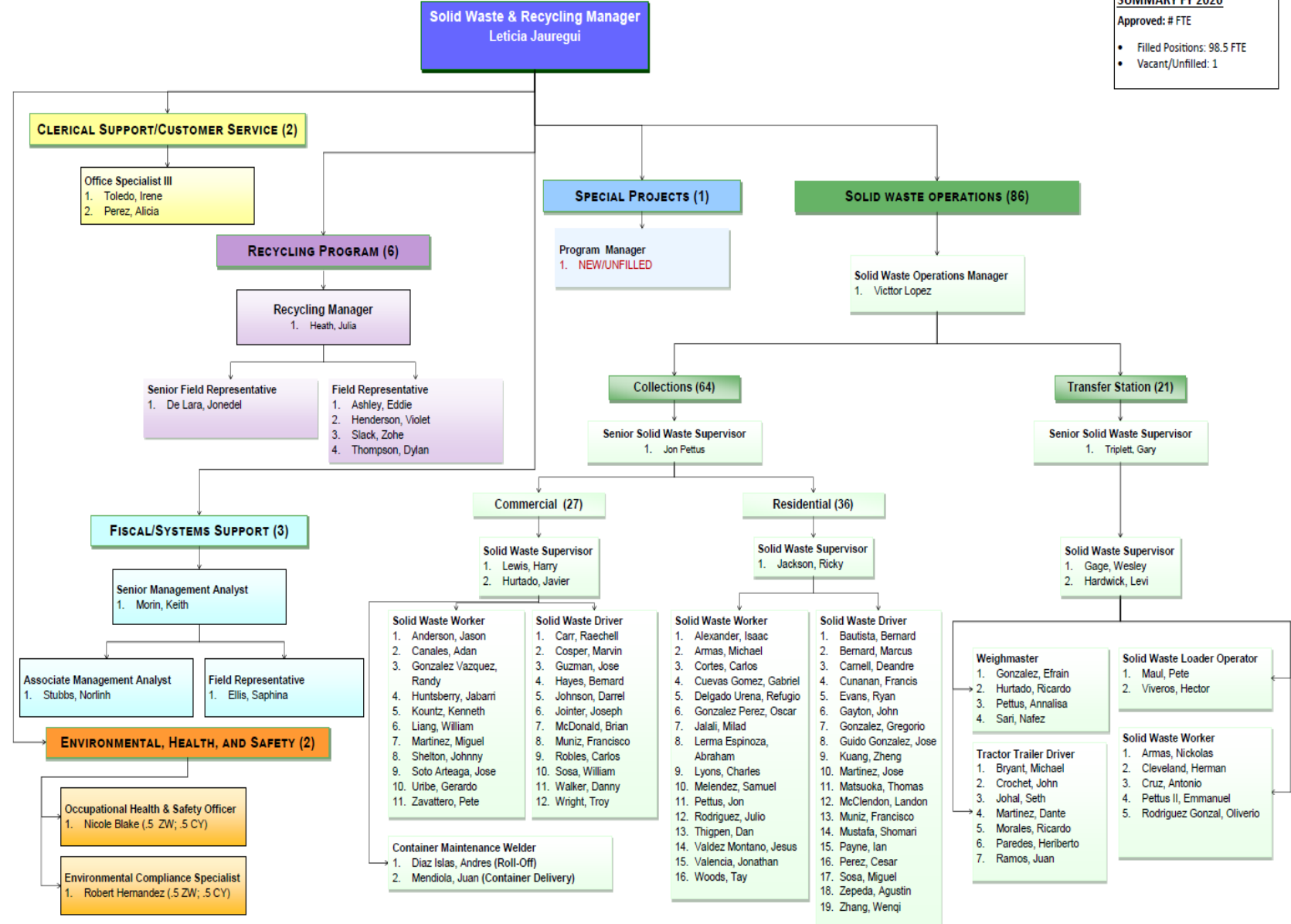
Staffing and Equipment

Staffing

This includes all the drivers who are critical to our operations, as well as the Zero Waste Outreach team and operations team. The Zero Waste division employs 108 staff in total with 80+ fleet of vehicles.

ZERO WASTE ORGANIZATION CHART

Last Updated: 1/1/2026



SUMMARY FY 2026
 Approved: # FTE
 • Filled Positions: 98.5 FTE
 • Vacant/Unfilled: 1



Staffing and Equipment

Equipment

- (9) Side Loader Collections Routes
- (5) Front Loader Collection Routes
- (14) Rear Loader Collection Routes
- (1) Roll Off

- (2) Carts
- (2) Container Maintenance
- (7) Tractor Trailers
- (20) Support Vehicles
- (20) Heavy Equipment

(83) Total Equipment





Transfer Station Stats

- Tons of incoming material averaged approximately 240,000 tons in the past 2 years.
- ~50% of tons generated come from public customers.
- Diversion rate 74% the goal is to get to 93% in the upcoming 10 years.



Collection Operations





Residential and Commercial Numbers

- Zero Waste is charged with protecting the environment and safeguarding the public health by providing municipal solid waste services. Zero Waste directly provides or oversees the following services:
- **Refuse, Plant Debris (Compost), Bottles, Cans & Plastics, and Fibers – non organics**
- **Zero Waste Services Total Accounts billed:**
 - Residential – 9,200 (quarterly/monthly)
 - Residential – 14,000 (annual Property Tax)
 - Commercial – 3560
 - **Total: 26,760 ACCOUNTS**



4 Stream Weekly Service

- # of routes by line of business
- Residential – 14
- Commercial – 13
- Total: 27
- 28 routes are serviced by the Ecology Center





CCC

- **Recycling Processing:** operates Berkeley Recycling for the sorting, processing, and marketing of residential, multi-family, and commercial recyclables (16,000 tons per year and a Recycling Buyback and Drop Off program; and salvaging of reusable materials dropped off at the Transfer Station (1,000 tons annually)).





Collections Rates Schedule

- Base Current Rates
- Proposition 218 Cost of Service based rates.
- Our current Rates are approved through FY 2028.
- Rate setting study in progress. Plan to return to City Council FY 2027.



Zero Waste Rate Study - Schedule Summary	
Draft Zero Waste Financial Projections to City	6/10/2026
City Staff Comments on Draft Projections to R3	7/22/2026
R3 Finalizes Financial Projections	8/19/2026
Draft Rate Calculations to City	9/23/2026
City Staff and LEGAL Comments on Draft Rate Calculations to R3	10/14/2026
R3 Finalizes Rate Calculations	10/28/2026
R3 & City Staff Finalize Public Workshop Materials	11/12/2026
Start Public Workshops with Council Committees and Zero Waste Commission	11/12/2026
Draft Rate Study Report to City	11/25/2026
City Staff and LEGAL Comments on Draft Report to R3	12/23/2026
Complete Public Workshops with Council Committees and Zero Waste Commission	1/28/2027
R3 Finalizes Rate Study Report	1/30/2027
March City Council Staff Report Due for Packet	1/30/2027
Off Agenda Memo To City Council	2/13/2027
City Council Meeting - Study Session and Direction to Issue Prop. 218 Notice	3/16/2027
Prop. 218 Notices Mailed	3/30/2027
May City Council Staff Report Due for Packet	4/3/2027
City Council Public Hearing - Rate Adoption	5/18/2027
New Zero Waste Rates Take Effect	7/1/2027



Zero Waste Strategic Plan

- The Zero Waste Strategic Plan is a Guide (roadmap) to help the City of Berkeley identify the policies, programs, and infrastructure to reach its Climate Action and Zero Waste Goals. It also identifies the investments needed to implement Zero Waste solutions over the 10-year planning period.



Internal

INTEREST

Compliance, Outreach and Technical Assistance





Recycling staff ensure compliance with SB 1383 by conducting route reviews and quarterly organics samplings and find low level of contamination, especially in residential settings and actively conduct education and technical assistance to commercial generators with high levels of contamination.



The City of Berkeley has **Field Reps and Climate Action Fellows** who conduct outreach and give technical assistance (TA) to businesses around Berkeley.

Our Outreach

Ordinances

- Single Use Disposables (SUDs)
- SB 1383
 - Edible Food Recovery
 - Mandatory Compost & Recycling
 - Service Starts/ Stops
 - Free tools/Technical Assistance

Internal/ City Facilities

- City Facilities & New Employee Orientation
- Trainings
- Special Events

Green Building/ Construction and Demolition (C&D)

- Green Halo and meeting the 65% CalGreen Diversion Requirements
- School Partnerships (BUSD, Cal)
- Open Office Hours at the Permit Service Center
- Green Business Certification

Community Partnerships

- School Partnerships (BUSD, UC Berkeley)
- Visit Berkeley, Business Improvement Districts
- Community-Based Organizations such as Berkeley Food Network and Dorothy Day House

Tabling Metrics

- The Zero Waste division tabled at **10 city-sponsored events** such as the Berkeley Bay Fest and Solano Stroll.
- We had a **total of over 750 conversations** across these events!
- We provide essential resources to Berkeley residents about local organizations, sorting tips, and local laws and ordinances.





Projects



Transfer Station Rebuild Project

- The proposed improvements will total over 90,000 SF and include a larger public buyback and drop-off center, new MRF building with a modern dual-stream processing system, larger fully enclosed transfer station, and vehicle maintenance facility. The proposed public buyback and drop-off center is designed as a community amenity that will embody the City's commitment to zero waste and sustainability goals.





AMCS

- AMCS is an integrated software solution that will replace FUNDS\$ for Zero Waste Billing, PC Scale with Platform Scale for scale operations, Route Smart with Route Planner for collections truck routing. Project is anticipated to Go-live September, 2027.





Current Projects

- Above Ground Diesel Storage Tank
Estimated Costs: \$1.5 million
 - **Mandated by the State of California by Health and Safety Code, chapter 6.7 (H&SC), section 25292.05**
- First Carbon Solutions
 - City's contracted firm to lead the Transfer Station Rebuild project in the CEQA Process.
 - Cost: \$725k

- Zero Waste Strategic Plan: Funding goals that are in the ZW Strategic Plans
 - Cost: \$725k

Future Projects

- **EV Clean Fleet/City Climate Action Goals**
- **Expected to be at least 3x the Vehicle price**
- **Avg cost for garbage truck is \$350k, it is expected that the cost will be 3x the current price to comply by 2042.**

Internal

Enterprise Budget and Fund Forecast



Public Safety
Public Safety Policy Committee



Health, Life & Police



Land Use



Environment



Public Viewing Binder
Agenda Rules Policy Committee



Public Viewing Binder
Budget & Finance Policy Committee

Fund Forecast

- Including 60-day operating reserve and projected Transfer Station Bond Repayment

Zero Waste Fund 601 Proposed

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Adopted	FY 2026 Revised	FY 2026 Projected	FY 2027 Projected	FY 2028 Projected
Beginning Balance	24,669,999	20,539,424	18,587,276	18,587,276	18,587,276	16,204,152	14,730,981
Revenues	50,552,675	53,984,317	61,289,555	61,289,555	60,971,154	64,376,841	67,288,372
Residential Collection	16,439,530	17,802,265	20,912,623	20,912,623	20,081,208	21,737,208	23,393,208
Commercial Collection	17,616,692	17,990,231	22,089,797	22,089,797	20,824,093	22,281,779	23,173,050
Transfer Station	9,154,945	9,042,449	10,606,938	10,606,938	9,779,318	10,072,697	10,374,878
Franchise Fees	245,946	657,348	425,000	425,000	477,361	475,000	475,000
Recycling Fee	1,598,514	2,047,080	150,226	150,226	2,444,067	2,615,151	2,368,766
Recycling Food Waste	3,390,854	3,456,794	4,062,950	4,062,950	4,152,404	4,443,073	4,620,796
CoB Interdepartmental	1,075,865	1,298,967	1,523,263	1,523,263	\$1,185,775	\$1,268,779	1,319,531
Exempt Agencies	338,282	376,062	548,518	548,518	\$552,669	\$591,356	615,010
Misc. Revenue (interest)	692,048	1,313,120	970,240	970,240	\$1,474,259	\$ 891,797	948,133
Expenditures	54,683,250	55,936,466	61,600,713	71,684,415	63,354,278	65,850,012	73,555,071
Personnel	21,687,913	24,380,742	26,130,992	26,211,937	23,235,414	24,660,523	25,646,944
<i>Other Department Personnel:</i>							
Finance	579,492	746,629	908,225	908,225	674,503	704,856	733,050
Planning	77,474	91,875	108,516	108,516	89,503	93,531	97,272
CMO	13,431	14,165	15,219	15,219	14,318	14,962	15,561
PRW	29,010	47,689	52,484	52,484	1,550	1,620	1,685
Total other Department Personnel	699,407	900,358	1,084,443	1,084,443	779,874	814,969	847,567
Non-Personnel	32,995,337	31,555,724	33,269,721	43,199,769	38,338,536	35,889,489	36,608,127
Capital Improvement Projects	0	0	2,200,000	2,272,710	1,780,327	5,300,000	2,900,000
Transfer Station Bond Debt Repayment							8,400,000
Annual Surplus/Shortfall	-4,130,575	-1,952,149	-311,157	-10,394,859	-2,383,123	-1,473,171	-6,266,699
Ending Balance	20,539,424	18,587,276	18,276,118	8,192,416	16,204,152	14,730,981	8,464,283



TS rebuild project/bond repayment

Project Financing:

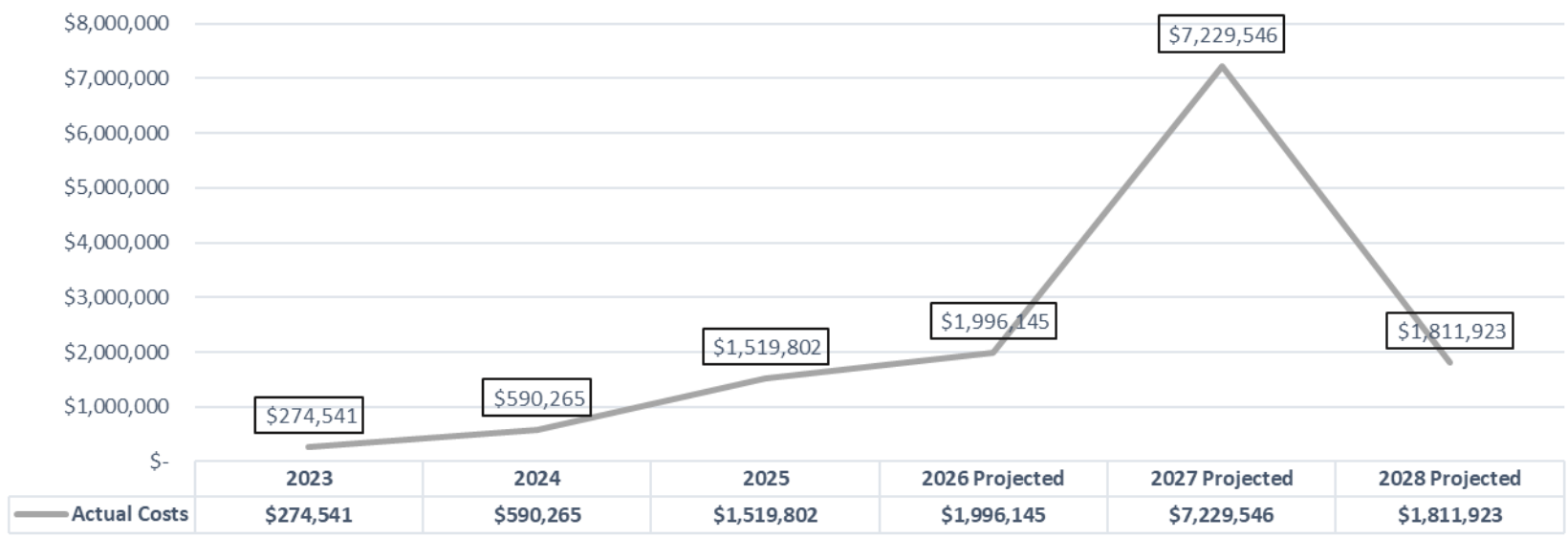
- **Project Estimate \$119,400,000**
- **Financed Amount \$109,400,000**
- **Debt Service Reserve estimated at \$8,400,000 over 30 years expected to start FY 2028**
- **Costs of Issuance \$1,050,000**
- **Total: \$118,850,000**





Closed Cesar Chavez Landfill Maintenance

Closed Landfill Maintenance Costs





Contracts

- \$54.5M: Ecology Center (6/2031) – Recycling
- \$45.5M: Waste Management (12/2026)– Disposal
- \$26.6M: Recology (2/2026)– Compost
- \$21.5M: Zanker Road (6/2027)– C&D
- \$30.1M: CCC (6/2031)– Recycling Processing
- \$190K: Urban Ore (6/2026)– Reuse Salvaging
- \$50K: Rethink Disposables and Stop Waste (12/2025)- Outreach and Education





Staff Updates

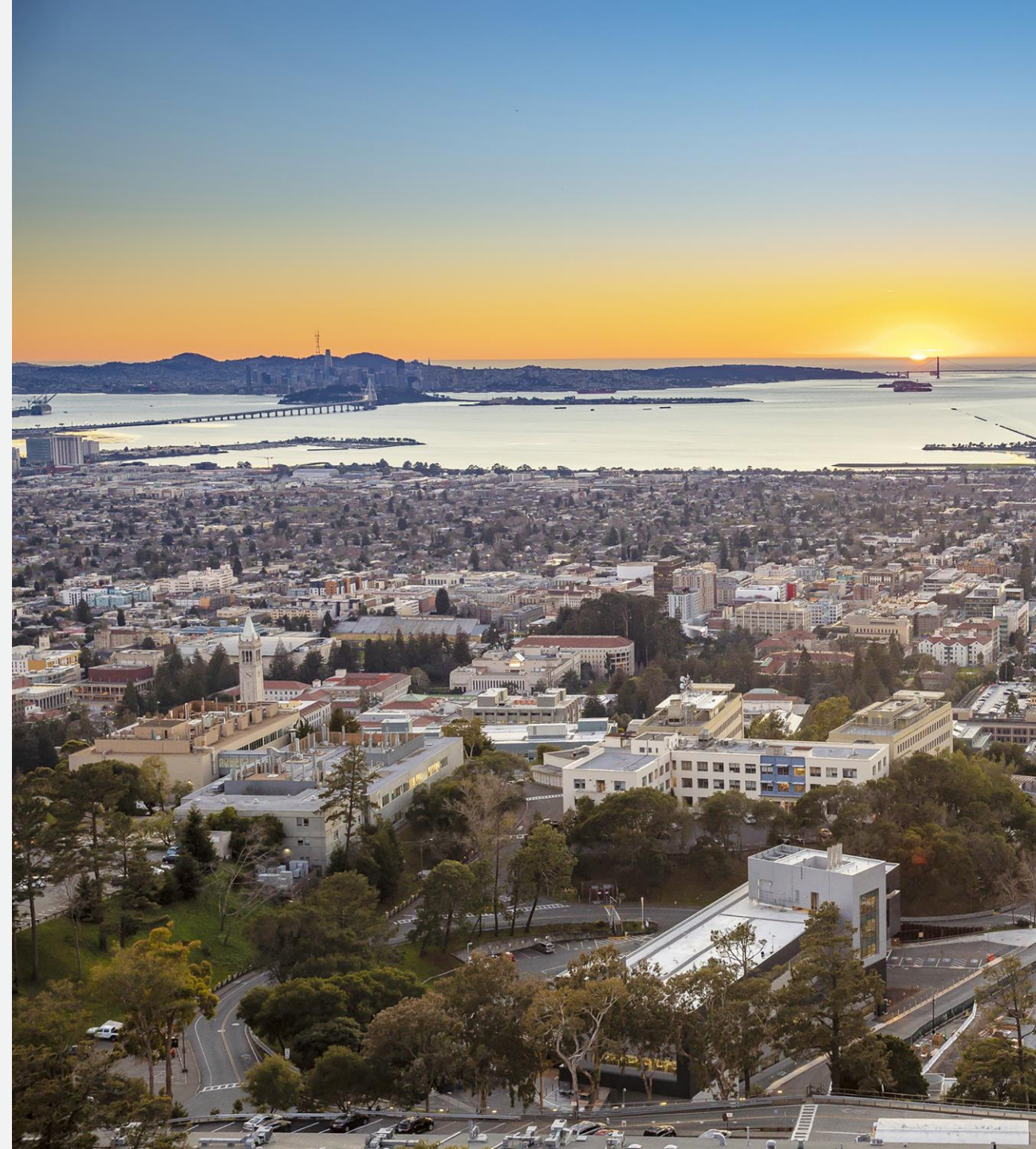
- New Positions:
- Project Manager
- Absenteeism and vacancies lead to high OT expenditures
- Vacancy Rate has improved to 5%.





THANK YOU!

CITY OF BERKELEY
PUBLIC WORKS
ZERO WASTE



Berkeley Transfer Station and Recycling Center

What is It?

Berkeley's publicly-owned Transfer Station and Recycling Center provides our residents and businesses with convenient, reliable, and affordable recycling, composting, and disposal. This important infrastructure was built over 30 years ago. It was designed just to handle trash. Now, it also processes curbside and drop-off recyclables, yard trimmings and food scraps for composting, construction/demolition debris, reusable materials, and other items. This expanded range of services is no longer optional, but fundamental and essential, given State of California mandates.

Why Does It Need Upgrading?

The facility should be upgraded for public and worker safety and efficiency, and to meet its expanded current and future role in environmental protection, sustainable use of natural resources, and climate change response.

What Could Happen If Upgrading Is Not Done?

Without major upgrading or re-building, we believe that the facility will increasingly pose worker and customer safety and stormwater management risks. If the facility were not available, the City, its residents and businesses would face substantially higher costs, much longer drives and drive times to other materials processing facilities, loss of dozens of local jobs, diminished quality of end products, and greater environmental and climate change impact.

What Will the Upgraded Facility Do?

Upgrading the Berkeley Transfer Station and Recycling Center will allow the City to:

- reduce physical safety concerns;
- better manage operational discharges (e.g., stormwater) to protect environmental health and to avoid citations and fines;
- meet extensive State of California waste reduction, recycling, and composting requirements;
- reduce wait times and improve operational efficiency through better traffic flow and materials processing.

The Berkeley Transfer Station/Recycling Center is a Tremendous Public Asset

1. Centerpiece of Local Environmental Linkages: Hub that links environmental issues, including climate change, with local economy, sustainability and community resiliency.
2. Waste Reduction and Recycling (Resource Conservation): Accepts wide array of reusable, recyclable and compostable materials.
3. Climate Change Response: The facility is the City's single most vital property for making meaningful differences in resource consumption and reduction in greenhouse gas generation.
4. Local Revenue: The facility is a publicly-owned and -operated enterprise that generates revenue for the City from facility usage fees ("gate or tip fees") and from the sale of recyclable materials.
5. Saving Costs: By operating the facility in-house, the City avoids paying the profit margin any third party would charge to perform the same functions, and keeps those funds working within our community instead of flowing to distant corporate shareholders.
6. Local Public/Non-Profit Jobs: The facility employs approximately 100 full-time unionized City workers, and approximately 40 unionized workers who work for a local non-profit.
7. Local Environmental Businesses: The City contracts with a locally-owned reuse business to recover valuable products, such as furniture, windows, and lumber, that otherwise would be buried in a landfill.
8. Environmental Education: Once re-built, the facility plans to provide environmental education tours as a regular feature of its services. Everyone, especially school children, should learn about where things come from and where they go after use, and how our actions matter.
9. Support for Local Economy: The facility is a nearby, reliable, and reasonably priced destination for self-haulers, especially local landscapers and building contractors. Less driving time and lower gate rates translate into cost savings that boost the local economy.