

ZERO WASTE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

5:30PM

City of Berkeley Corporation Yard (Ratcliff Building, Willow Room) 1326 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA, 94702

Commission Members:

Chair Steven Sherman, Vice-Chair Claire Wilson, Commissioner Layla Dargahi, Commissioner Dennis Uyat, Commissioner Philip Monrad, Commissioner Sandra Curtis, Commissioner Lucy Longwell, Commissioner Barun Singh

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid model with both in-person and virtual attendance. Attend this meeting remotely using **Zoom** <https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1651361038>. To request to speak, use the “raise hand” function in Zoom. To join by phone: Dial **1-669-254-5252** and enter **Meeting ID: 165 136 1038**. To provide public comment, Press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair. To submit a written communication for the public record, email jheath@berkeleyca.gov.

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting, however, if you are feeling sick, please do not attend the meeting in person. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Julia Heath at 510-981-6357 or jheath@berkeleyca.gov.

5:30pm: Call to Order by Chair and Roll Call by Secretary

5:35pm: Approve Meeting Agenda and Order of Agenda Items

5:40pm: Approve Draft Action Minutes

Minutes for Approval

Draft minutes for the Commissions consideration and approval.

1. Minutes of July 15, 2026

From: Commission Secretary

Recommendation: Approve the draft minutes of the July 15, 2026.

5:45pm: Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

Speakers are allotted up to two minutes. Speakers may be allotted less time at the discretion of the Chair.

5:55pm: Staff Updates

6:15pm: Infrastructure Updates

- Status update of transfer station CEQA process;
- Status update on strategic plan adoption by council;
- Status update on legal or regulatory issues, fines, consent orders, or settlements regarding: a. Transfer station runoff; b. Closed landfill.

Discussion and Action Items

*The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. Following review and discussion of the items listed below, the Commission may continue an item to a future Commission meeting. **No Action can be taken on items that are not noticed on the published agenda.***

2. Roseann Stempinski on Plastic Free Marin (6:30pm)

From: Julia Heath, Secretary

Recommendation: Reflect and review Roseann's presentation on her work at Plastic Free Marin, sustainable design principals, and reuse opportunities.

3. Discussion on Commission Workplan progress check (6:45pm)

From: Commissioner Sherman

Recommendation: Review and discuss recommendations on Commission Workplan goals.

4. Discussion on one-pager for tabling/increasing Commission visibility (7:10pm)

From: Commissioner Sherman

Recommendation: Discuss recommendations for one-pager and tabling events.

5. Subcommittee Updates

6. Commissioner Announcements

7:25pm: Items for Future Agendas

These items are not scheduled for discussion or action at this meeting. The Commission may schedule these items to the Action Calendar of a future Commission meeting.

- Requests by Commission members to add items to the next agenda

7:30pm: Adjournment

Information Items *(All items for discussion only and no final action)*

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.

****Roseann Stempinski on Plastic Free Marin**

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

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

Notices

Notice of Public Record

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.

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 Zero Waste at City of Berkeley Corporation Yard (Ratcliff Building, Willow Room) 1326 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA, 94702.



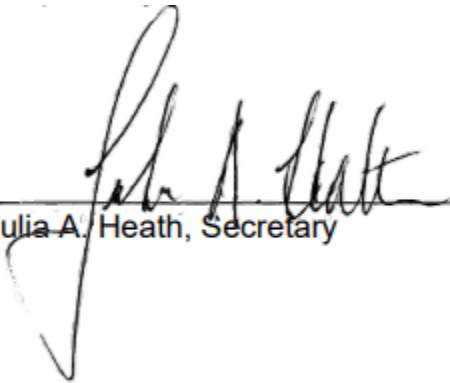
Communication Access Information

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 ada@berkeleyca.gov, (510) 981-6418 (V), or (510) 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various scents, whether natural or manufactured, in products and materials. Please help the City respect these needs.

Video and audio recordings of the Zero Waste Commission meetings are available upon request. Please contact the Commission Secretary at jheath@berkeleyca.gov or 510-981-6357 to obtain a recording.

Certification of public posting

I hereby certify that the agenda for this meeting of the Berkeley City Commission was posted at the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, as well as on the City's website, on September 11, 2026.



Julia A. Heath, Secretary

MINUTES

The meeting was convened at 5:34 pm with Steve Sherman presiding as Chair.

ROLL CALL

Present: Philip Monrad, Steven Sherman, Claire Wilson, Dennis Uyat, Lucy Longwell

LOA:

Absent: Sandra Curtis, Layla Dargahi, Barun Singh

STAFF PRESENT: Julia A. Heath, Johnny de Lara

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: 3

PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): 2

Information Items:

- Contact for Audrey Williams, Food Sourcing Coordinator at Berkeley Food Network:
510-214-2385
audrey.williams@berkeleyfoodnetwork.org

ACTION MINUTES:

- **Approval of the July 15, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda**
Action Taken: M/S/C (Sherman/Monrad) to approve the June 17, 2026 meeting agenda.
Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Curtis, Dargahi, Singh
- **Approval of the June 17, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**
Action Taken: M/S/C (Sherman/Claire) to approve the May 20, 2026 meeting minutes.
Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Curtis, Dargahi, Singh
- **Public Comment**
2 public comment. No Action Taken.
 - Add a publicly available transcript for ZWC
 - Add a publicly available recording of the ZWC via zoom webinar
- **Staff Updates**
Discussion only. No Action Taken.
 - Truck Banner campaign is live
 - Digital spot on Cal Move-In
 - Electric Annual Report
- **Commission Workplan progress check**
Discussion only. No Action Taken.
 - Proposal for the commissioners to each have a meeting with their council members within the next 3 months
 - Tie-in the tool-lending library through reuse initiatives

- Add a “short-term, long-term” goals table to the agenda packet

Public Comment: 0

- **Presentation from Katie Greenwald, Berkeley Food Network Senior Development Manager**

Discussion only. No Action Taken

- BFN opened first food pantry in 2019
- Collects food for the Berkeley region and is the city’s sole food-distribution center
- Seeking more Warehouse Wrap-Up and Driver volunteers
- BFN has recovered 3 million pounds of food
- Berkeley Bowl is a quality partner
- #1 constraint: BFN doesn’t have large enough refrigerators to store all the food

Public Comment: 0

- **Create the following subcommittees: Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction SUDs, Food Recovery**

Action Taken: M/S/C (Wilson/Monrad) to create the Single Use Disposables Subcommittee.

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

Action Taken: M/S/C (Uyat/Monrad) to create the Food Recovery Subcommittee.

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

Public Comment: 2

- Suggestion to name the SUDs Subcommittee after the full name of the ordinance

- **Discuss Goals for tabling/increasing Commission visibility**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Compile edits to send to Commissioner Wilson for wordsmithing

Public Comment: 0

- **Subcommittee Updates**

a) **Special Events Subcommittee**

b) **Lease Language Subcommittee**

c) **Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction SUDs Subcommittee**

d) **Food Recovery**

- Work on community fridges/expanding food recovery organizations’ capacities

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

Public Comment: 0

- **Commissioner Announcements**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- SB343 is not constituted
- Mention reuse within the food industry to Upstream Board

Public Comment: 0

- **Discuss Future Agenda Items**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Request to bring Crystal and Roseann from Upstream for a presentation in September

Public Comment: 0

- **Adjournment at 5:30 p.m.**

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

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

The next regular meeting of the Zero Waste Commission will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 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

Human-centered **wisdom** exchange: *behavior shifts*

Zero Waste Commission - Berkeley

Fall 2026

hello!



Pivotal Education

Industrial Design



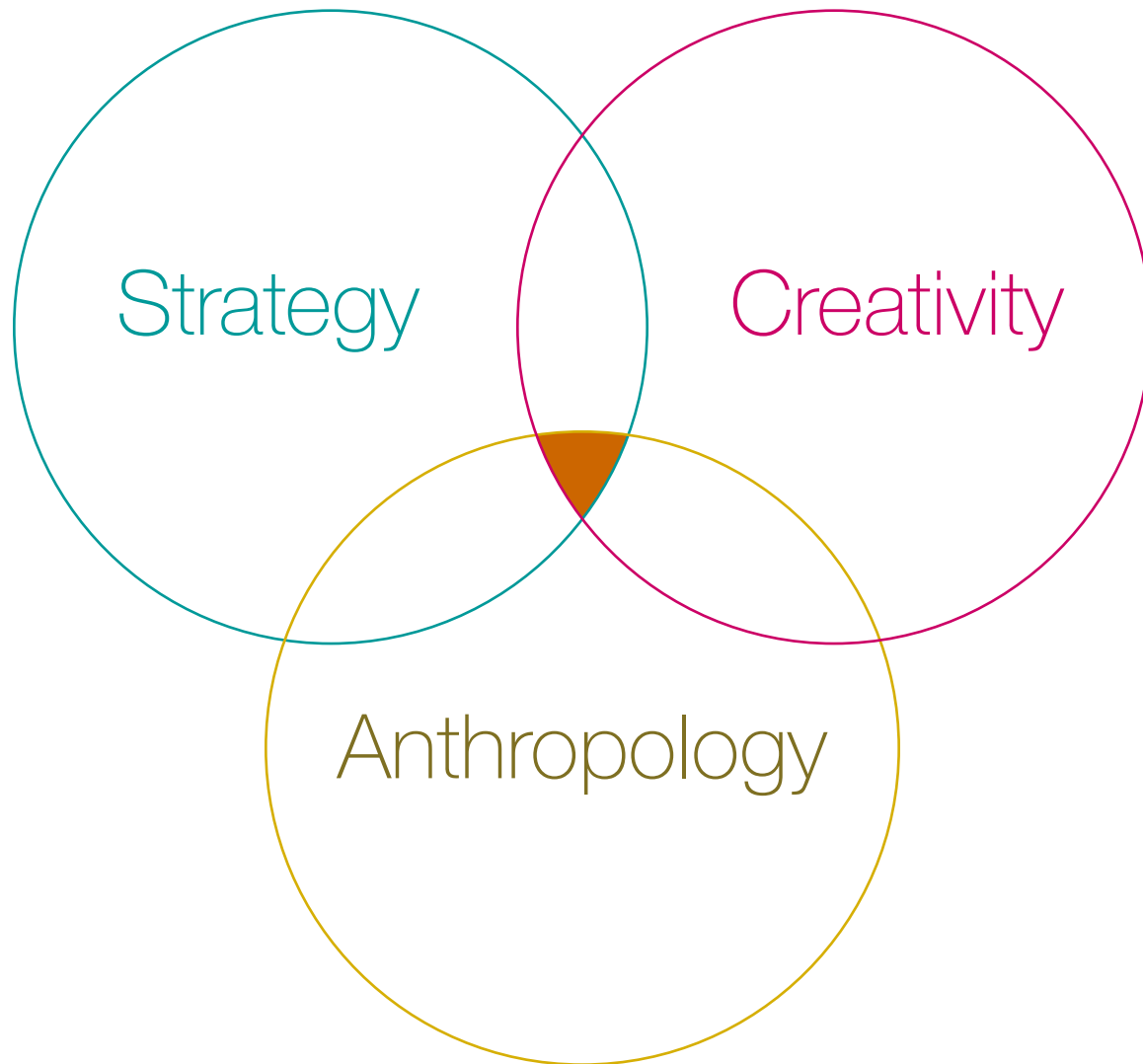
Disassembly Data

Parts Description	Tag No.	Material	Weight (English)	Weight (Metric)	Dimensions (English) (in/in)	Dimensions (Metric) (mm)	Manufacturing Process	Source
Screen	1	Acrylic	0.85oz	24.0 g	6.05/0.12/7	153.55 / 2.44 / 68.54	Machine cut and printed	
Aluminum panel	2	Aluminum	0.42oz	12.0 g	6.06 / 0.014 / 5.41	153.94 / 0.36 / 137.30	Sheet cut and printed	
Front plastic housing	3	H.I.P.S	1.48 oz	42.0 g	6.08 / 0.24 / 8.25	154.36 / 6.20 / 209.55	Injection Molded	
Buttons	4	H.I.P.S	0.85oz	24.0 g			Injection Molded	
- Buttons 1 (+)					0.73 / 0.28 / 1.42	18.44 / 0.05 / 15		
- Buttons 2 (numbers)					0.63 / 0.29 / 0.62	15.90 / 7.33 / 15.66		
- Buttons 3 (label)					0.63 / 0.24 / 0.43	15.95 / 18 / 10.83		
Sliders	5	H.I.P.S	0.06oz	1.70 g	0.86 / 0.55 / 0.35	21.71 / 14.03 / 8.92	Injection Molded	
Silicon sheet	6	Silicone	0.49oz	14.0 g	5.01 / 0.13 / 5.64	127.30 / 3.24 / 143.20	Molded	
Battery	7	Stainless steel	0.05oz	1.71 g	0.45 / 0.21 / 0.45	11.45 / 5.40 / 11.45	Externally purchased	
PCB board	8	PET	1.34oz	38.0 g	5.59 / 0.04 / 5.02	142 / 1.03 / 127.50	Externally purchased	

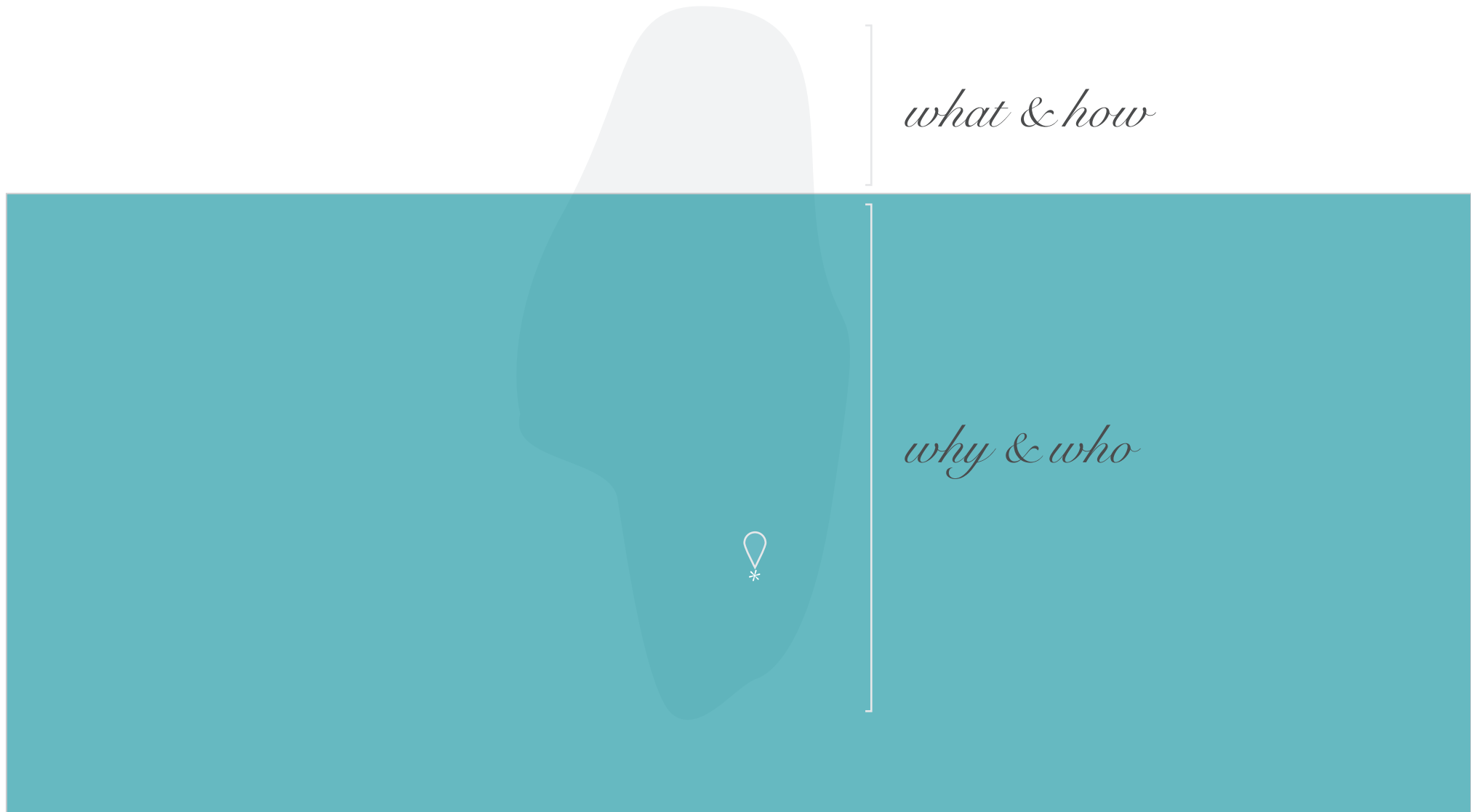


Professional background

What's **Human-centered** Design?



Unseen work informs the seen



Organizations I've **partnered** with

Embedded Partnerships

INNOVATION CONSULTANCIES



GOVERNMENT



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Client Brands

BEAUTY & FASHION



ESTÉE LAUDER

RALPH LAUREN

COMMERCE



kmart.

EDUCATION



MOREHOUSE
COLLEGE

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



Growing Farmer Networks

FINANCIAL SERVICES



FOOD & BEVERAGE



HEALTHCARE



Stanford
University



HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL



CANYON RANCH.



DELTA



THE RITZ-CARLTON

WALT DISNEY World.

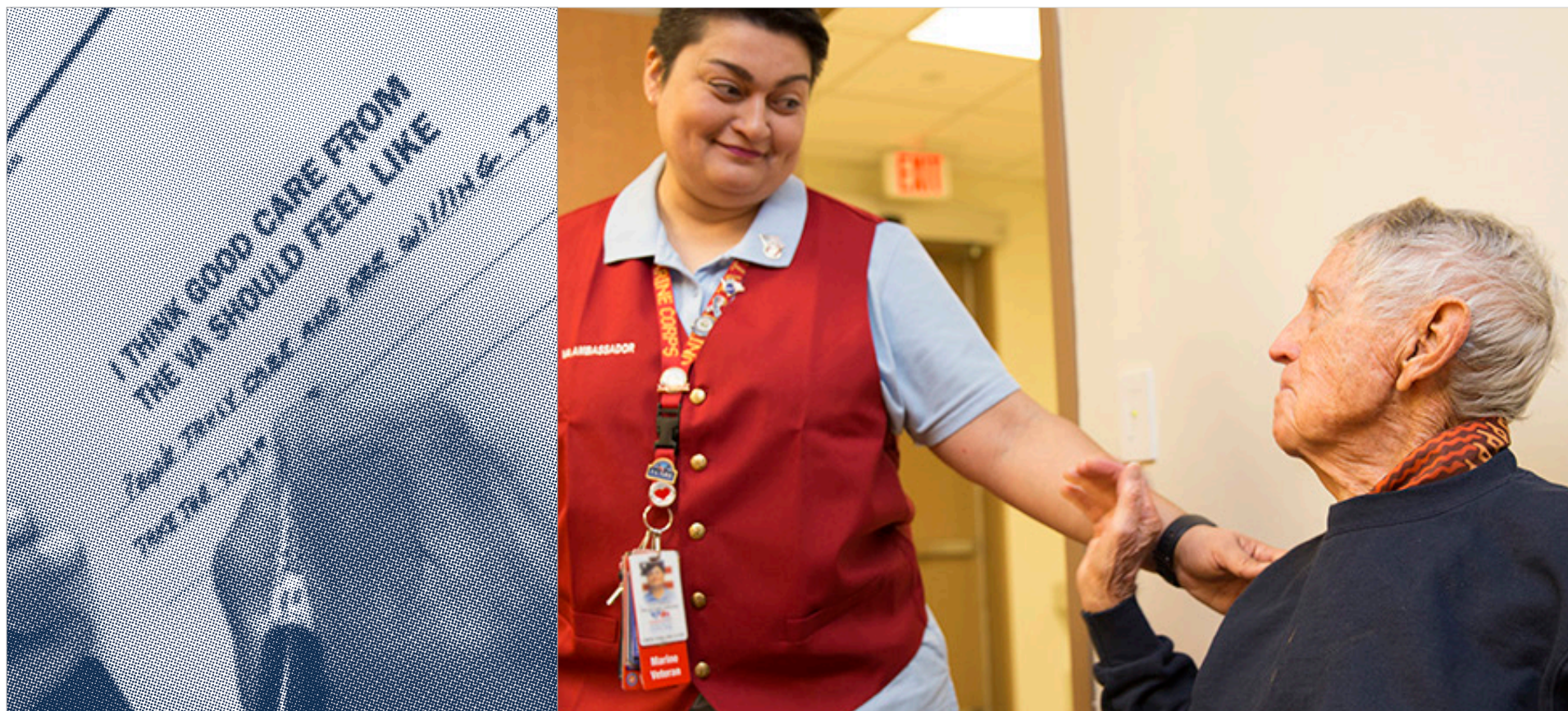
TECHNOLOGY



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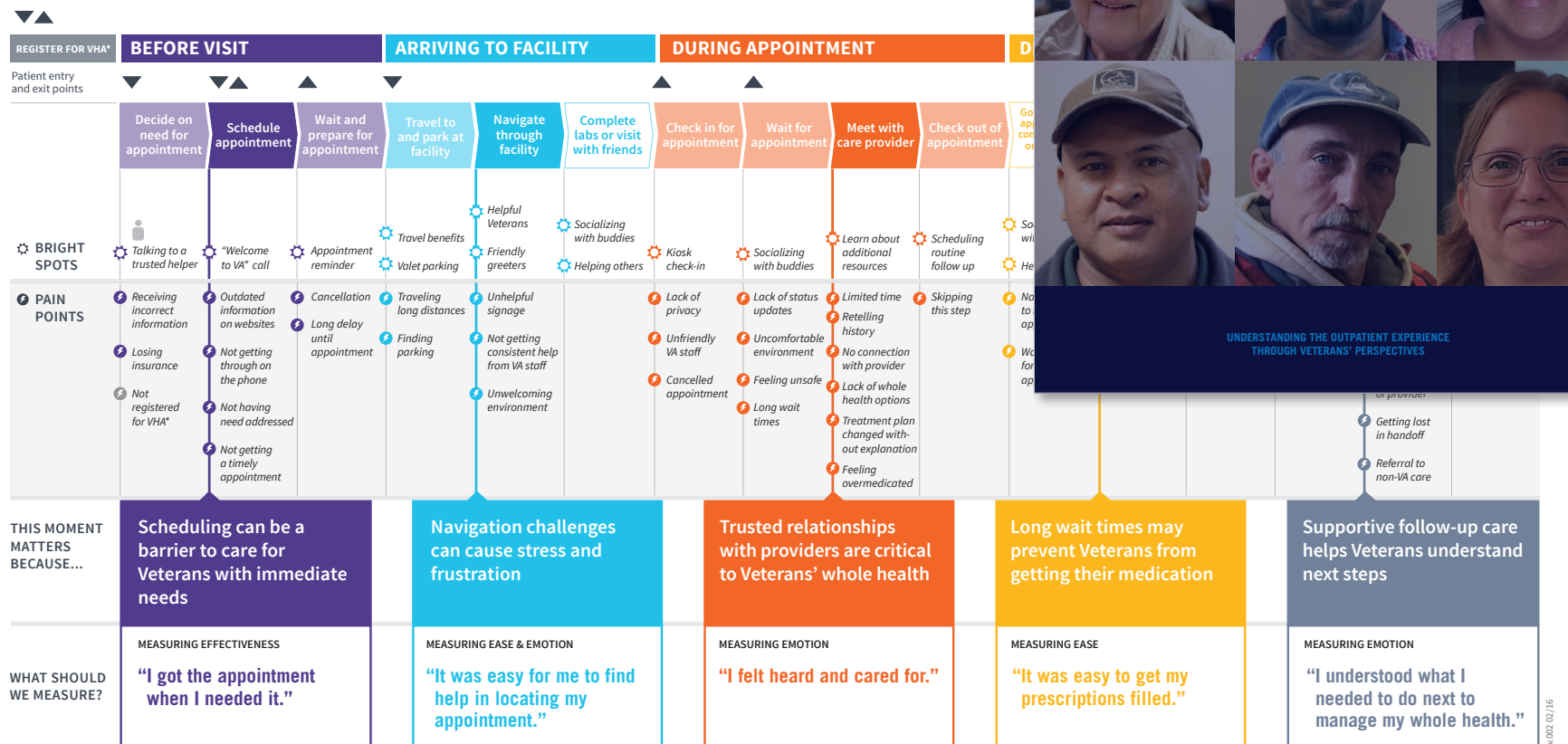


From a crisis of trust to **leading** customer experience



VA PATIENT EXPERIENCE JOURNEY MAP

The VA Patient Experience Journey Map represents a common set of moments Veterans experience before, during, and after an outpatient appointment. While this map does not represent what happens to every Veteran during every appointment, it is a good starting point to define the ideal patient experience at VA and recognize high impact improvement opportunities. Veterans also identified five key moments that matter during which VA can build trust with Veterans or lose them entirely. An examination of the Employee's experience is underway in 2017 to understand why some of these moments are occurring. A complementary VA Employee Experience Journey will result to enable VA to make sure these moments are done right.



Zero Waste Initiatives

What's informing my **insights**

Collaborative

Projects

- ✔ **Just 1 Thing platform development**
- ✔ Landscape rewilding (Permaculture)
- ✔ **Dooryard Provisions Food Packaging**

Organizations

- ✔ Upstream Board Member
- ✔ **Plastic Free Marin Steering Committee Member**

Learnings

- ✔ Behavior Design
- ✔ Circular Economics
- ✔ Indigenous Culture Practices
- ✔ Permaculture
- ✔ Regenerative Economics

Individual

Projects

- ✔ Zero waste family estate rehoming
- ✔ Material-conscious renovations

Lifestyle

- ✔ Low-plastic food purchasing
- ✔ Low-plastic personal care purchasing
- ✔ Low-plastic home goods purchasing
- ✔ Worm composting
- ✔ Second-hand clothing
- ✔ Second-hand home furnishing

Learnings

- ✔ Zero Waste store research

Workshop Platform



In San Rafael and most of Marin

The human goal to aim for

↓

LINEAR ECONOMY

Take
↓
Make
↓
Use
↓
Waste

RECYCLING ECONOMY

Take
↓
Make
↓
Recycle
↓
Use
↓
Waste

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Take
↓
Make
↓
Recycle
↓
Use
↓
Repair
↓
Reuse
↓
Return

source: Final Straw

Spring 2026

Intention & Journey Mapping



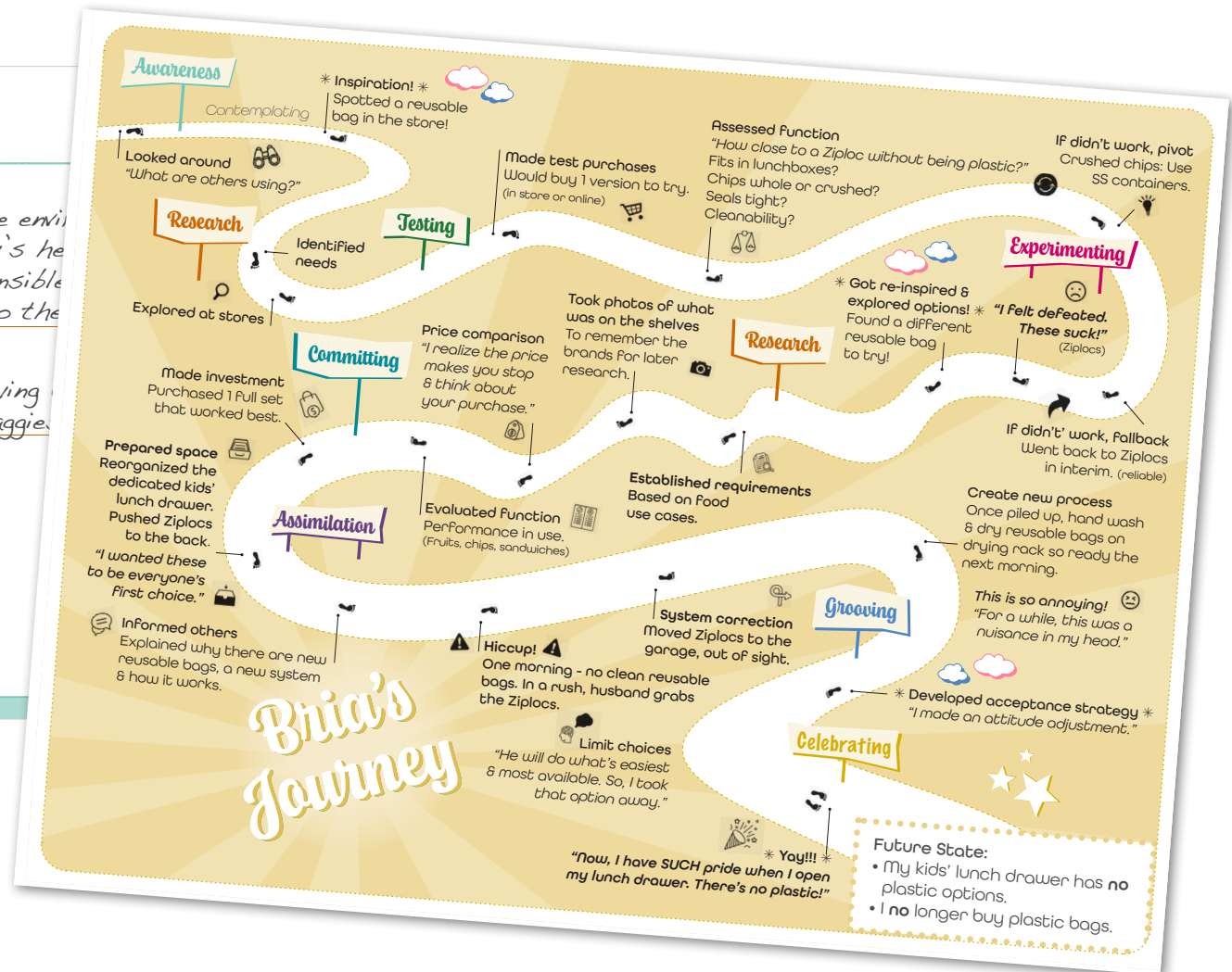
Bria's intention

Because

I will shift from *Buying baggies*

to *Finding & using a plastic-free, reusable alternative.*

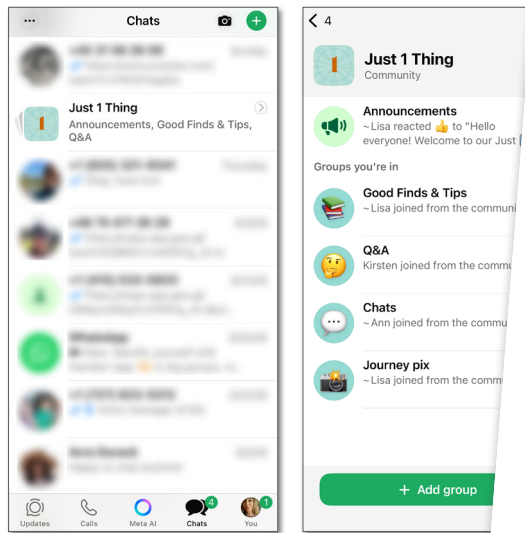
I care about the environment and my family's health. Also, I'm responsible for my kids & need to do the right thing.



Community Support



WhatsApp Community with Groups



Journey support

story

sharing

Ah Ha! Sessions

How do I make
informed purchase
decisions?

What to do
with the plastic I
already have?

Shop-a-longs

What resources
can I trust?

How can I have
productive dialogue

with

others?

How much
will this cost?

How can I detox
from plastic?

and more!

Spring 2026

Takeaways



Target group

- Informed people wanting to shift away from plastic, but need support

What's working

- ✓ In-person gatherings
- ✓ Support: Community bonding, over time
- ✓ Honesty in progression
- ✓ Grace: Progress not perfection
- ✓ Celebrating tiny wins

What doesn't work

- Talking at people.
Giving too much information
- Passive (dis)engagement
- Forced participation
- Shaming



Zero Waste Packaging



*"Creating more waste while creating
a dream business don't go together."*

– Maria Clementi

Dooryard Provisions Chef & Owner

Packaging Research



ELEVATE PACKAGING

2.8MIL Clear Compostable Laminate - (EFX807vEL40)

- Produced from 100% Certified Industrial Compostable Materials
- High Oxygen and Moisture Barriers
- Excellent Sealing Properties
- Excellent Fat & Oil Resistance

Applications:

- Coffee & Tea
- Nutraceuticals
- Confections
- Food Supplements
- Grains & Rice
- Snack Foods
- Body Care (Excluding Lotions and Oils)

Properties:

	Nominal	MIL	Range
75g Cellulose Film (lb./3000sq.ft)	16.9	0.75	7%
Adhesive (lb./3000sq.ft)	0.68	0.05	15%
2.0mil Polymeric Sealant Film - Med. Slip (lb./3000sq.ft)	38.8	2.0	10%
Total Yield (sq.in./lb.)	7,662		8%
WVTR(g/100si/d@100F/90%RH)	0.37		Flat sheet
O2TR(cc/100si/d/a@73F/0%RH)	0.20		Flat sheet
Heat Seal (g/in)	1,200		Minimum

- Marin Sanitary Service Tour
- Marin Sanitary Service Interviews
- Sonoma Recology Interview
- Compostable Packaging Producer Interviews

- Restaurant Supply retailer research
- Standards & Certifications research

Takeaways

Compostable Packaging Material Guidelines

4

PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS

The compostable packaging must adhere to and comply with the San Francisco Bay Area's municipal waste systems to ensure it can be successfully composted, recycled or both. And, that the consumer is guided accurately and appropriately.

Performance

Maintains integrity of the food product for 1-3 months, until the consumer opens the package. To include:

- Freshness
- Intended flavor
- Original shape of brittle products
- Oils from food product are contained within the package and do not seep out

Compostability requirements

The following requirements refer to all elements of the packaging material including adornments such as fasteners, seals and label materials.

- Suitable for organic OMRI-certified compost in the San Francisco Bay Area's municipal waste systems
- Composting breakdown time (60 days) should be known and communicated on the package
- Consumer, waste collectors and sorters may quickly and easily identify the packaging material to direct it to its intended waste stream. If not an immediately identifiable fiber- or plant-based material, marked with the following:
 - Biodegradable Products Institute: BPI certification number
 - Green stripe with the words "Certified Compostable"

COMPOSTABLE MATERIALS

Material wall thickness thin enough to be organically compostable within 60 days. Suitable material options, such as and not limited to:

Fiber-based

- Tree
- Sugarcane (bagasse)
- Bamboo - derived from the leaves, not the rough stalk
- Rice

Plant-based

- Mushroom (mycelium)
- Hemp
- Pineapple
- Algae
- Seaweed
- Corn
- Potato
- Tapioca
- Soy

PROHIBITED MATERIALS

- Plastics, plastic additives, plastic "waxes" and bio-plastics (ex: PLA)
- Chemical adhesives

Target group

- Small business owners (food)

What worked

- ✓ Deeper knowledge of product end-of-life process
- ✓ Curious, committed & willing business owner

What's needed

- Standardized, regional POV & info on compostable plastics
- Simplify & remove individual's burden – standardized, regional sorting requirements
- Clear municipality guidance, education & information
- Food packaging purchase guidelines
- Zero waste packaging incentives

Community Events



Screening - We're All Plastic People Now, 2025



Marin Sanitary Service - Customer Appreciation, 2025

Yes, you can shop plastic-free!

Home & Cleaning

- Brushes, Scrubbers & Sponges
- Cleaning Liquid, Powder & Oil
- Cleaning Vinegar (10-30%)
- Dish & Dishwasher Soap
- Facial Tissue
- Funnels
- Glass Cleaner
- Spray Bottles
- Surface & Toilet Cleaners
- Toilet Papers
- Towels

Laundry

- Laundry Soaps & Brighteners (Liquid, Powder, Sheets)
- Stain Removers
- Wool Dryer Balls

PlasticFreeMarin

Personal Care

- Bandages
- Body, Hand & Shave Soaps
- Body Lotions & Oils
- Dental Floss & Toothbrushes
- Deodorants
- Facial Masks
- Glitter & Face Paint
- Hair Ties, Brushes
- Makeup
- Mosquito Repellent
- Shampoo & Conditioners
- Sunscreen
- Toothpaste

Food Products

- Beverages
- Canning
- Storage Containers
- Water

Food

- Beans (Dried)
- Cereals & Granolas
- Cheeses
- Coffee & Teas
- Condiments

Where to shop plastic-free

Marin County

09/2026

Grocery Stores

Good Earth Natural Foods

(Mill Valley & Fairfax)

- Food (Extensive Selection)
- Food Prep & Storage
- Home & Cleaning
- Laundry
- Personal Care

Harvest Market

(Novato)

- Food (Bulk Dry Goods)

Mollie Stones

(Sausalito)

- Food (Bulk Dry Goods)

Sprouts Farmers Market

(San Rafael)

- Food (Bulk Dry Goods)

Whole Foods Market

(many locations)

- Food (Bulk Dry Goods)

Specialty Foods

Amphora Nueva

(San Anselmo)

- Food (Bulk Olive Oils & Vinegars)

Farmers Markets

(many locations on various days)

- Food (Bulk Produce, Liquid & Dry Goods)
- Prepared Food (Many support BYO Containers)
- Personal Care

Refilleries

Hohm Pantry

(Novato)

- Extensive Food
- Home & Cleaning
- Laundry
- Personal Care

Sustainable Exchange

(San Rafael)

- Food (Some Bulk Dry Goods)
- Home & Cleaning
- Laundry
- Personal Care

PlasticFreeMarin



Takeaways



Target group

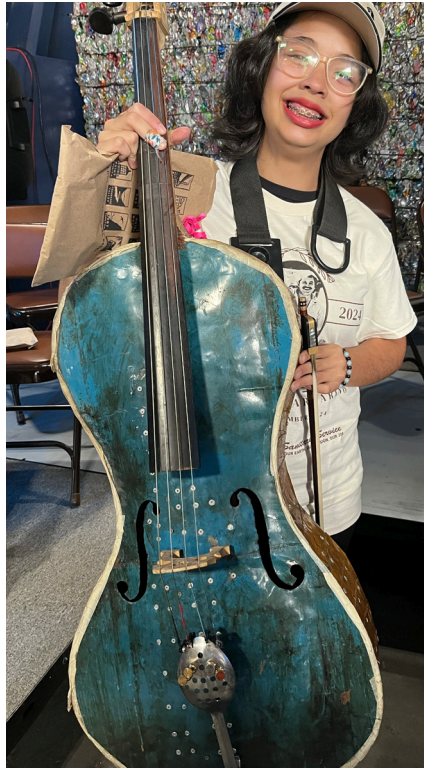
- Community members

What's working

- ✓ In-person gatherings
- ✓ Showing examples of what's possible
- ✓ Providing actionable resources
- ✓ Creative & inspiring reuse
- ✓ Engaging children (can engage parents)
- ✓ Revealing process

What doesn't work

- One-size-fits all approach
- Not learning about who is attending
- Not leveraging the early adopters
- Not tailoring messaging for the spectrum of attendees & needs
- Doom & gloom news



Marin Sanitary Service - Customer Appreciation, 2025

Knowledge Exchange

How do you...

- Learn about **different target demographic groups** to understand their needs and how to best reach them?
- **Customize** messaging and initiatives per group needs?
- Know when to leverage **"why", "what" or "how"** messaging?
- **Simplify** messaging, initiatives (ex. incentives), systems (ex. sorting), etc. on the front end?
- **Engage** vs. tell?
- **Leverage** people who are **already practicing** zero waste to help?
- Lead from a **positive, inspiring** place (not fear-based or shaming)?

