

Denver Waste No More Implementation Task Force Meeting #3

May 4, 2023

Hosted in person by the Regional Air Quality Council with option to attend via Zoom
Summary Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI)

For all Task Force meeting materials, including meeting schedules, agendas, and presentations (including today's presentation slides), please [visit the website at this link](#).

Meeting in Brief

The 26-member Task Force held its third monthly meeting to develop an equity lens and criteria to help guide their recommendations. The Task Force also brainstormed supports and incentives to promote WNM compliance, which was then used to refine the options for the phased roll-out of the WNM ordinance. The Task Force also provided input on the framework being developed to evaluate all recommendations.

Recap, Where We Are in Process and Work Group Updates

Grace Rink, Executive Director of CASR, shared a recap of the last meeting which covered the current realities of the market and regional infrastructure, the guiding principles for implementation, roll-out options, and the beginning of work groups. Each work group then provided an update of their discussions since the last Task Force meeting.

The three work groups that met in April – Licensees/Events, Buildings, and Construction and Demolition (C&D) – provided an update of their discussions since the last Task Force meeting. A representative from each group shared how their discussion aligned with the following three topics: 1) phasing/rollout of the ordinance, 2) suggestions for additional ordinance requirements, and 3) initial ideas on support/ incentives. A recap of their presentation can be found on slides 10-12 of the presentation on the [City's WNM website](#).

Task Force comments included the following, related to C&D:

- After recycling the materials, operator permits should require them to get a receipt regarding where/how/and how much they recycled and be taxed or fined accordingly. Contractors tend to over-order on projects, which has financial incentives, and this would help on the back end to prevent excess waste.
- Certified deconstruction is a successful plan from other cities; increased city support around what C&D recycling entails, also similar to other groups, encourage alignment regionally.

Equity and Waste No More

The Equity Work Group met in April to discuss what an equity lens should look like for WNM. Grace shared that Denver's Office of Social Equity and Innovation (OSEI) guides all City agencies on how to incorporate equity into everything they do. The City defines equity as a reality in which race and social identities can no longer be used to predict life outcomes. OSEI

provided a set of sample questions to help shape Task Force discussions. The Equity Work Group discussed who the ordinance should affirmatively help/support (and not financially harm) and what the proposed process should be to ensure the lens is applied throughout. Supports and incentives will help us define how we can provide support and reduce harms. The work group’s initial brainstorm of the ‘who’ is captured in Question 1 of the Rubric below.

WHAT SHOULD BE OUR EQUITY LENS & PROCESS?

Grace and the work group walked through a draft Equity ‘Evaluation Rubric’, using frameworks developed by OSEI’s Equity Assessment and CASR’s Sustainability Advisory Council (SAC). They explained this can be used to guide and structure discussions and evaluate recommendations to ensure they have considered questions of equity in a comprehensive and meaningful way. OSEI also recommended convening focus groups of affected communities at some point in the process to provide input on Task Force recommendations, such as residents of affordable housing and non-English speakers.

The Task Force then broke into small groups to address the following questions:

1. Who else needs to be prioritized in WNM evaluation?
2. To what extent is the proposed equity evaluation complete and usable, to ensure we are applying an equity lens throughout the process?

The input from the small group discussions is summarized in the chart below as it corresponds to different parts of the Evaluation Rubric.

WNM Draft Evaluation Rubric with Task Force comments

Questions	Impact	Task Force Comments
<p>1. Does this recommendation address barriers to success, or provide support or incentives, that have been identified as needed for particular groups at risk of greater burden, specifically, people of color or Indigenous people, communities where most residents have low incomes, or under-resourced businesses or special events (“the beneficiaries”)?</p>	<p>___ Yes ___ Somewhat ___ No</p>	<p><u>Who ELSE should potentially be prioritized in WNM implementation?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People with disabilities (physical/mental) ● Non-voters (children) ● Undocumented people ● Non-English speakers ● Elderly folks ● Volunteer operators ● Certain non-profits (e.g., tenants/ events, food bins/pantries, community-based orgs, non-profits as liquor license beneficiaries) ● Group homes ● Under-resourced/financially distressed bldgs ● Affordable condensed housing (to avoid passing WNM costs onto them) ● People who don’t live here (i.e., visitors) ● Disadvantage Business Enterprises (DBE) ● Tenants as a whole ● Small haulers – as things are being stream-lined, they are being priced out <p>For purposes of enforcement, others may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food trucks and food carts ● Exemptions for businesses that are unable to get a permit

<p>2. Have representatives of the beneficiaries of this recommendation been involved in its development?</p>	<p>___ Yes ___ Somewhat ___ No</p>	<p>Distinguish between consultation via Task Force reps vs. other outreach during process; and between consultation during Task Force process vs. future outreach and education</p> <p>Acknowledge that 'beneficiaries' are <u>not</u> a homogenous group (useful to note who has or hasn't been involved)</p>
<p>3. What level of impact is this recommendation expected to have for the beneficiaries?</p> <p>Benefits: <i>Example</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A program that subsidizes recycling and composting services for affordable housing protects low income residents from high costs <p>Improved Outcomes: <i>Example</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidizing diversion service costs enable affordable housing providers to focus on education and outreach to tenants, improving diversion rates. 	<p>___ High ___ Medium ___ Low</p>	<p>Define 'impact' – can be both helpful/positive and harmful/negative. And need to define what we mean by 'harm' (e.g., costs, vulnerability to penalties).</p> <p>Distinguish as relevant between short- and long-term impacts.</p> <p>Acknowledge 'beneficiaries' are <u>not</u> a homogenous group; differentiate as needed so we don't benefit one underserved group at the expense of another.</p>
<p>4. Does the recommendation encourage the City to conduct a public engagement process with the intended beneficiaries to determine the targets and goals, and/or to engage local stakeholders to better understand their needs?</p>	<p>___ Yes ___ Somewhat ___ No</p>	
<p>5. Did the development of the recommendation include the use of an Environmental Justice or Equity mapping index tool to prioritize the target beneficiaries (e.g. CDPHE's EnviroScreen, Justice40 EJ Scoring, CASR's Building Equity Index)?</p>	<p>___ Yes ___ Somewhat ___ No</p>	<p>It is useful and important to rely on objective metrics such as these tools.</p>
<p>6. Does this recommendation provide an opportunity for workforce training leading to quality jobs for members of under resourced communities?</p>	<p>___ Yes ___ Somewhat ___ No</p>	
<p>ALL QUESTIONS</p>		<p>Consider adding a "not applicable" option as relevant – i.e., yes, somewhat, no, not applicable</p>

Additional Task Force Comments about the Process

- We need to clarify (e.g., at the June meeting) **how and when we will address Task Force comments**, after considering the Recommendation concepts and Evaluation forms, in revising the recommendation concepts or otherwise.
- Some Task Force members felt they didn't have a lot of experience putting equity evaluation criteria into action; once they consider in a real-life scenario, they'll likely have more feedback.

Supports and Incentives (Using an Equity Lens)

Grace again emphasized the difference between which of the Task Force recommendations will be incorporated into Ordinance language (and corresponding City Rules and Regulations), versus those that will fall outside the Ordinance to help ensure its successful and equitable implementation.

Contextualizing Supports/Incentives (versus Ordinance language)

Grace explained the topics in the left column are being actively considered by the work groups, based on Task Force input from the April meeting. The work groups will propose initial recommendations for Task Force consideration at the June meeting. The questions on the right are for initial consideration today.

The Ordinance (and Rules/Regs) will include recommendations relating to:	Recommendations that fall outside the Ordinance will include topics such as:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Who</u> is being regulated? ● What are the <u>requirements</u>? ● What <u>exemptions</u> are allowed? ● What are the <u>penalties</u> for non-compliance? ● <u>When</u> is compliance required? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Financial supports</u>: loans, grants, etc. ● <u>Technical supports</u>: assessments, info desk, help with compliance, etc. ● <u>Incentives</u>: early adopter, rebates, etc. ● <u>Other policies</u>: zoning code, building code, licensing code, noise ordinance, etc.

What Supports/Incentives Should be Considered for WNM?

The **Supports/Incentives Matrix** below was compiled to show what has already been shared and discussed over the past two meetings, work group discussions, and any separate conversations.

The Task Force broke into small groups to explore each of these categories – financial supports, technical support, incentives, and other potential policy changes – and **identify key gaps** and/or additional ideas that should be considered. It was noted that discussions about the ordinance roll-out/phasing and other key requirements are currently happening in the work groups, based on initial input provided by the Task Force in its April meeting.

	Financial Support	Technical Support	Incentives	Policy
DENVER WIDE	<p>Developed before 5/4 Mtg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City-funded access to bins for one-off uses, either through city rental program or grant funding to orgs ● Programs that allow space-challenged businesses to share resources <p>Additional Task Force ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Onsite processing ● City-funded signage ● City lent carts for residential and commercial events ● Positive reinforcement for correction ● Funding more building reuse ● Green janitorial programs ● Grant assistance 	<p>Developed before 5/4 Mtg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How-to/guidance documents on setting up effective sorting systems, tips for contract terms ● Workforce training (janitorial, drivers, haulers, sorters) ● City-provided best practices/guidance for community events that want to comply but aren't required to under the ordinance ● Certified deconstruction contractors program <p>Additional Task Force ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guidance on communication feedback loop, i.e., contamination ● List of accredited Zero Waste Trainings / Certified resources i.e., a vetted list of contractors for different sectors ● Standardization of volunteer training and education ● Tool for calculating waste on a permitted project ● Ensure correct types of collection infrastructure ● Expansion of Certifiably Green Denver Program, coordinate WNM with other sustainability initiatives ● Pilot Programs to create best practices ● Diversion calculator to help show benefits of program 	<p>Developed before 5/4 Mtg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial incentives for any regulated entity ● Recognition or incentives to achieve compliance early or go above and beyond minimum standards <p>Additional Task Force ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Additional bid points granted to C&D who have a good compliance record ● Businesses should be incentivized for education of staff on best practices ● Incentives for outside infrastructure businesses (processors, haulers, transportation, etc.) to come to Denver ● Recognition of overperformance, i.e., certain diversion percentage ● Incentivize on-site processing 	<p>Developed before 5/4 Mtg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoning code use specific to compost processing ● CCD purchasing requirements for compost, use of recycled material in construction (i.e., aggregate) ● Regional collaboration on processing facilities and end markets <p>Additional Task Force ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage City Parks Department to buy more compost ● Allow haulers to report contamination and repeat offender to the City ● Haulers to provide education/communications for sorting, contamination mitigation, etc. ● Expand land use and land access for more infrastructure ● Use City owned land for processing and facilitate cross-municipal engagement
EQUITY TARGET	<p>Developed before 5/4 Mtg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City sponsorship of a group-buying program for hauling services i.e., group contracts for small businesses ● Subsidies/grants for under-resourced households, buildings that serve under-resourced households, under-resourced businesses and events <p>Additional Task Force ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prevent small haulers being pushed out of group buying ● Cost analysis for what this will cost city, small 	<p>Developed before 5/4 Mtg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peer educators/food scrap collectors in pilot low-income MFUs <p>Additional Task Force ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Language translation accuracy for City and Private sector communications ● Ensure City sponsored best practices are collaboratively developed ● Education resources for employees, tenants, etc. providing a 360 suite of available documentation 	<p>Developed before 5/4 Mtg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial incentives and grants for under-resourced buildings and businesses 	<p>Developed before 5/4 Mtg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exceptions and/or fee waivers for special populations

	<p>businesses, residents (private sector)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shared resources for not only space challenged businesses 			
--	---	--	--	--

Additional Task Force comments included:

- It will be important to see how the WNM supports and incentives interact and to ensure everyone in Denver gets the same message.
- We should also know how WNM plays into the Solid Waste Master plan and update that accordingly.

Decision Making Process

As discussed above, the City has developed, and will refine, an Evaluation Rubric for all recommendations using WNM guiding principles, the Sustainability Advisory Council (SAC)'s framework, and the Office of Social Equity and Innovation (OSEI) equity lens guidance questions. Grace shared an example of taking one WNM policy requirement, the Annual Diversion Plan, through this Recommendation Evaluation Rubric, to see what it will look like. At this point, Grace explained, the Task Force has provided significant high-level guidance; the next step is to start writing and refining draft recommendations to determine what will be presented to the public and ultimately to City Council. We will start reviewing draft recommendations, based on Task Force and work group guidance, at the June meeting.

Wrap Up & Next Steps

The next Task Force meeting will be **Thursday, June 1, 2-5 pm:**

- **Location** – Denver Foundation, 1009 Grant Street (with option to attend remotely, though Task Force members are strongly encouraged to attend in person).
- **Topics** – consider draft recommendations (i.e., for phasing/roll-out, what's required of whom, and exemptions), what compliance will look like, and the public engagement process
- Timeline and Phasing: deliberate options

Other Task Force homework and next steps:

- **Workgroups.** Stay tuned for upcoming work group meetings, including meeting days/times, Zoom links, and topics. All Task Force members are welcome to attend all work group meetings.
- **Engaging networks.** Please continue to engage your peer community to ensure they're aware of the WNM process and to bring their input and questions to Task Force discussions. Let them know they will have more in-depth opportunities to provide input during the public engagement process later in the summer. Please reach out to Grace Rink at the City if you need help with this.
- **Tours.** Watch for information on upcoming tours of DADS (Denver landfill), Waste Management MRF, and the A1 Organics facility.

Meeting Attendees

The meeting was attended by the following Task Force members and City staff:

Task Force Members

Present	Last name	First name	Affiliation
X	Adinoff	Holly	Sullivan Scrap Kitchen
X	Aghababian	Jessy	Unico Properties
X	Berry	Christopher	GFL Environmental
X	Call	Ryan J	Eco-Cycle
X	Chiari	Chris	Patterson Inn
X	Clark	Jolon	District 7
	Furness	Andrea	Classic Events Co
X	Fussell	Vann	Compost Colorado
X	Galvan	Erwin	Waste Management Recycle America (via proxy, Sarah Leidtke)
X	Gutierrez	Allyson	Colorado Rockies Baseball Club
X	Harden	Marguerite	Resident & HOA Board Member
X	Hinds	Chris	District 10
	Houser	JW	Taylor Morrison/Homebuilders Association
X	Jackson	Joshua	NAACP
X	Johnson	Laurie	Circular Colorado
X	Nichols	Maggie	Iron Woman Construction
X	Ortiz	Renee	Eventful Productions Inc
X	Panzer	Peggy	Lamar Group/AAMD
X	Perks	Anna	Perks Deconstruction
X	Ponce	Luis	SEIU (via proxy, Alejandra Aguilera)
X	Riggs	Sonia	Colorado Restaurant Association
X	Sander	Clinton	A1 Organics
X	Shepard	Stephen	Denver Metro BOMA (via proxy, Brennan Wahlgren)
X	Tafoya	Ean Thomas	Green Latinos & Waste No More Petitioners
X	Turner	Christi	Scraps Ltd
X	Woodburn	Chris	Denver Public Schools

City of Denver

CASR: Grace Rink, Taylor Moellers, Anna Erikson, Tom Gleason, Cory Manning

CPD: Jill Jennings-Golich

DDPHE: Gregg Thomas

DEN: David Fridland, Alexa Rosenstein

DOTI: Nina Waysdorf, Jessica Lally, Mary Gearhart

DPR: Scott Gilmore

OSE: Katy Strascina, Rose Watts, Megan Sullivan

Public Attendees

Andrew Brandes

Ben Wells

Erin Meyer

Nate Hayden

Steve Derus

Steven Morris

Stuart Hayden

Tate Carpenter

Lauren Mattingly