Denver Waste No More Task Force

Meeting #6: Final Recommendations & Next Steps
September 14, 2023
# Introductions - Task Force Members

| **Ballot Sponsors** | Ean Thomas Tafoya, GreenLatinos  
Vann Fussell, Compost Colorado |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Labor</strong></td>
<td>Luis Ponce, SEIU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multi-family building resident</strong></td>
<td>Marguerite Harden, Resident &amp; HOA Member</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Special Events**  | Andrea Furness, Classic Events Co.  
Renee Ortiz, Eventful Productions |
| **Commercial & Multi-Family Buildings** | Jessy Aghababian, Unico Properties  
Peggy Panzer, Laramar Group/AAMD  
Stephen Shepard, Denver Metro BOMA |
| **Food Waste Producers** | Holly Adinoff, Sullivan Scrap Kitchen  
Allyson Gutierrez, Colorado Rockies Baseball Club  
Sonia Riggs, Colorado Restaurant Association  
Chris Woodburn, Denver Public Schools |
| **Small business**  | Chris Chiari, Patterson Inn |
| **Waste Haulers & Processors** | Erwin Galvan, Waste Management Recycle  
Clinton Sanders, A1 Organics  
Christi Turner, Scraps Ltd.  
TBD: Republic Services |
| **Construction Industry** | JW Houser, Taylor Morrison/Home Builders Assoc  
Maggie Nichols, Iron Woman Construction  
Anna Perks, Perks Deconstruction |
| **Environmental Advocate** | Ryan J Call, Eco-Cycle |
| **Multi-Sector**    | Joshua Jackson, NAACP  
Laurie Johnson, Circular Colorado |
| **City Council Members** | Jolon Clark, District 7 → Sarah Parady, At Large  
Chris Hinds, District 10 |
Agenda Review

● Welcome/Introductions
● Meeting Goals and Agenda Review
● Where We Are in the Process – What’s Happened Since the July TF Meeting
● Discuss Final Proposed Recommendations
● Breakout Groups – Top Priorities for WNM Education & Outreach
● Final Decision-Making on Task Force Recommendations
● What’s Next?
Consensus Decision Making

The Task Force will strive to make decisions that all members can accept or live with, or at the very least not oppose.

Options for final decision making (from Task Force Charter)

- Full consensus (support and/or non-opposition for all recommendations)
- ‘Consensus minus 1’ (after efforts made to address and resolve relevant concerns)
- Majority vote (to reach closure if 1+ members are not in support)

We will make a final decision today on the draft Recommendations!
Where We Are & August Recap
## Draft Work Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting 1 - March</th>
<th>- Intros + clarify purpose/scope</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Meeting 2 - April | - Review relevant **context**; ID where we can/can’t **account** for external realities  
- Discuss **timelines** + overall **requirements**  
- Set up **workgroups** |
| Meeting 3 - May   | - How do we ensure **under-resourced** communities/buildings are able to comply with/benefit from the ordinance?  
- What other **supports** could be made available to help buildings comply? |
| Meeting 4 - June  | - Consider **draft recommendations and enforcement mechanisms** – e.g., phasing, what’s required of whom, exemptions  
- Look-ahead to public engagement process; adjust Task Force timeline as needed |
| Meeting 5 - July  | - Discuss principles for universal **signage**, effective messaging and community buy-in  
- Confirm **overall proposals thus far**, e.g., timelines, communication protocols, materials requirements, funding, enforcement strategies  
- Provide input for public engagement process |
| Meeting 6 - Sept  | - Final Task Force Meeting  
- Incorporate public input + finalize recommendations |
What’s happened since July meeting?

- August Public Comment Period
  - Online Survey: 518 respondents, 1546 comments
  - 20 city-hosted focus groups
  - Virtual Town Hall
  - Strong public support for all recommendations
  - Pre-Meeting Briefing (9/6/23)
What’s happened since July meeting?

- FY 24 Budget Formulation (more details on next slide)
- Ordinance Writing
- Hiring for Support - 2 New CASR WNM Positions
  - Circular Economy Administrator
  - +1 for Waste No More Ordinance Implementation
FY 24 Budget for WNM & Zero Waste

- **$500,000** to implement a robust, citywide education and outreach effort to support Waste No More implementation.

- **$232,000** towards the development of an information technology (IT) solution to support the Waste No More requirement for covered businesses to submit Annual Recycling Plans.

- **$500,000+** of Disposable Bag Fee funds to launch new zero waste programming designed to bolster citywide litter abatement efforts and to study the local impacts of single-use plastic pollution.
Survey Demographics

- **1,546 Total Comments**
- **518 Total Respondents**
  - 61% identify as women
  - 27% identify as men
  - 12% identify as non-binary or other
- **96% of respondents live and/or work in Denver**
10/13 Recommendations have >80% Support (Agree or Minor Concerns)

- Building Compliance Timeline – 79%
- C&D Compliance Timeline – 77%
- C&D Refundable Deposit – 84%
- Permitted Events Phasing – 41%
- Annual Diversion Plan – 86%
- Clarify Education – 90%
- Definitions – 94%

- C&D Definitions – 94%
- Articulate Enforcement – 88%
- Financial Supports – 84%
- Education Support & Best Practices – 92%
- City Purchasing Requirements – 91%
- Reduce Regulatory Barriers – 92%
Common Themes

**Time:** 288 Comments: frustration with ongoing delays, that our goals are not aggressive enough, and the potential for dilution of the true intention of voters.

**Infrastructure:** 184 Comments: concerns that there isn't sufficient recycling & organics processing capacity, unavailability of hauling services, lack of ample physical space for containers, and administrative capacity.

**Compliance, Education & Enforcement:** 477 Comments: concerns about which entities are required to comply, how CCD will implement and enforce requirements, whether there will be sufficient education to manage contamination, and how to incentivize behavior change.

**Cost:** 174 Comments: concerns about increased financial burden on businesses, funding for financial incentives and technical support, whether requiring recycling will impact the cost of housing/rent, and the impact of increased costs for new construction projects.
We’ve Been Busy

FOH Organics Discussions
Special Events Discussions
Public Comment Period Recap & Pre-Meeting Briefing
Opportunity to Submit Final Comments via Email
Temperature Check Poll
Ordinance Drafting
Hiring
Final Recommendations
Recommendation Updates (since July meeting)

- Education Best Practices & Supports
- Definitions
- Annual Recycling Plans
- Create Financial Supports & Incentives
- Policies to Support Solid Waste Infrastructure
- Compliance Timeline for Permitted Events
Ensuring Success in the Organics Stream Pt. 1

**Education**
- Promote food waste reduction and donation to a significantly higher degree
- Promote controlled-access to containers as a best practice
- Promote best practices for front-of-house implementation versus back-of-house in food service businesses
- Create a best practices "how to" guide for haulers and businesses to manage contaminated streams
- Promote single-use plastic reduction

**Definitions**
- More clearly define "Access" in the Ordinance and/or Rules and Regulations
- Elaborate upon the multitude of ways businesses can provide access in educational materials

**Annual Recycling Plan**
- Design the annual diversion plan platform to guide businesses towards zero waste alternatives to provide more flexibility for compliance
Ensuring Success in the Organics Stream Pt. 2

Financial Supports & Incentives
- Establish non-competitive food waste systems and containers grant for businesses
- Consider provision of tax credits as an incentive for donation zero waste businesses
- Establish reuse and food donation grant programming
- Consider provision of zero-interest loans for emerging, small businesses
- CASR to partner with other CCD Departments to leverage opportunities for further financial support/incentives

Infrastructure
- CCD to identify ways to establish more local organics recycling options with an emphasis on organics screening, pre-processing (sortation), and transfer infrastructure

Technical Assistance
- CCD to conduct an ongoing study to measure citywide contamination rates in years 1-3
- Data collection will be used to continuously inform education and outreach strategies
Phased Implementation for Permitted Events

Based on the composite feedback received from the survey and focus groups, city staff recommend Option 4.

Option 4: All events, no phasing (original ordinance language)

- All events, regardless of size, must comply within 24 months from the adoption of the rules but no later than **January 1, 2026**
Additional Improvements

● Adding **budgetary** estimates for all recommendations where resources are needed for implementation
● Creation of **educational** guides and toolkits for non-regulated entities
● Incorporate additional **policy** considerations to ensure long-term success
Additional Resources needed

Education Best Practices

- Annual recurring budget in the range of $800k-1.6M

Financial Supports & Incentives

- Annual recurring budget of $3-6M
- Offsetting Container, Signage, & Education Costs - 30%
- Subsidize Hauling Service Costs for Affordable Housing & Small Businesses - 30%
- Supporting On-Site Reuse & Organics Recycling Systems for Food Service Businesses - 20%
- Zero Interest, Small Business Loans for Emerging, Zero Waste Startups - 20%
Finishing Touches

Thank you to those of you that reached out since 9/6 and proposed final changes and edits! We’ve incorporated your valued feedback:

- Education Best Practices
  - Even greater focus/emphasis on contamination
  - Supports for Unions, Green Workforce Development
  - Education and Supports for Denver Public Schools
  - Incentives & Supports for Early Adoption for Special Events
Before we proceed...

Any final questions or comments before we move into decision-making on the recommendations?

*We assume you have reviewed the 9/6 public comment briefing and/or read all of the recommendations.
Breakout Groups: Priorities for 2024 WNM Outreach & Education

What would SUCCESS look like to you at the end of 2024?
Recommendation Approval

Consensus Process
Task Force Decision-Making

Please scan this QR code to access the Task Force Recommendation Consensus Spreadsheet on your mobile device.
Recommendations

1. Clarify annual recycling plan requirement
2. Add definitions to the Waste No More Ordinance
3. Develop compliance and enforcement system to encourage voluntary compliance with the WNM Ordinance
4. Clarify Education Section of the Ordinance
5. Phased Implementation for Permitted Events
6. C&D Phasing
7. C&D Clarifications
8. C&D Compliance
9. Compliance Timeline for Residential Buildings
10. Compliance Timeline for Non-Residential Buildings
11. CCD Purchasing Requirements of Finished End-Products to Establish Local Markets
12. Policies to Support Solid Waste Infrastructure & Private Sector Investment
13. Additional support and best practices for education and outreach
14. Create Financial Support Programs
Next Steps
Next Steps

- September Final Task Force Meeting
- Ordinance Writing
- Legislative Sessions w/ Public Testimony
- Mayor's Office Briefing
- Task Force Check-in Meeting
- Rules & Regs Process w/ Public Comment
Next Steps + Final Action Items

- Mayor’s Office Briefing
- City Staff to draft ordinance revisions guided by TF recommendations
- Task Force Check-In (TBD)
- Focus Group with Marketing Firm to Inform Citywide Campaign
- City Council Legislative Hearings (TBD)
  - Comments from Councilmembers Hinds & Parady
- Quarterly Stakeholder Working Groups - 2024-2025
  - Organics Recycling
  - Construction & Demolition (C&D)
  - Solid Waste Infrastructure
  - Education & Enforcement
- Rules & Regs Public Comment (likely in early to mid 2024)
City staff works with Marketing Firm to develop communication campaign for regulated entities, businesses, and residents.

**Months 1-3**
- City staff works with a technology consultant to develop online reporting portal.
- CPD staff revise C&D permit requirements.
- City staff determine staffing and budget needs for full implementation.

**Months 4-6**
- City staff submit budget requests for the following fiscal year.

**Months 7-9**
- Online reporting portal needs to go live 3 months prior to first compliance deadline.

**Months 10-12**
- City staff monitor online reporting portal for progress.

**Compliance Date 1**
- City staff will pursue reporting requirements and respond to complaints following TF’s guidance re: graduated process.

**Reminder: Timeline from Passage to Compliance**

Note: This timeline doesn’t assume specific months in case the timeline to passage by City Council doesn’t end in December 2023.

Any regulated entity that does not have its diversion plan filed OR does not have recycling and compost receptacles as specified in the ordinance by this date is out of compliance.
Thank You!!!!!
Happy Hour
Appendix:
Waste No More
Public Comment Summary
Recommendation Survey & Focus Group Findings
September 6, 2023
Agenda

• Summary of outreach efforts
• Respondent data & demographics
• Survey response overview
• Common themes
• Proposed recommendations
• Next steps
Outreach Efforts

- Survey published open 8/1/23 - 8/31/23
- Social Media Campaign & Share Kit
- Partner Newsletters
- 1 Virtual Town Hall
- 20 Stakeholder Meetings and Focus Groups
- 3 Local News Articles: Axios, Westword & Denverite
Public Comment Results

1,546 Total Comments

518 Total Respondents
- 61% identify as women
- 27% identify as men
- 12% identify as non-binary or other

96% of respondents live and/or work in Denver
City Council Distribution

1: 14%
2: 4%
3: 5%
4: 12%
5: 9%
6: 9%
7: 11%
8: 9%
9: 8%
10: 17%
11: 2%

Spanish-Speaking Focus Groups

DENVER
CLIMATE ACTION, SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY

CONNECT WITH US 311 | POCKETGOV | DENVERGOV.ORG | DENVER 8 TV
f/@DenverCASR | y/@SustainableDen | o/@denvercasr
Executive Summary

10/13 Recommendations have >80% Support
(Agree or Minor Concerns)

- R1: Building Compliance Timeline – 79%
- R2: C&D Compliance Timeline – 77%
- R3: C&D Refundable Deposit – 84%
- R4: Permitted Events Phasing – 41%
- R5: Annual Diversion Plan – 86%
- R6: Clarify Education – 90%
- R7: Definitions – 94%

- R8: C&D Definitions – 94%
- R9: Articulate Enforcement – 88%
- R10: Financial Supports – 84%
- R11: Education Support & Best Practices – 92%
- R12: City Purchasing Requirements – 91%
- R13: Reduce Regulatory Barriers – 92%
Common Themes: Survey

**Time**

288 Comments: frustration with ongoing delays, that our goals are not aggressive enough, and the potential for dilution of the true intention of voters.

**Infrastructure**

184 Comments: concerns that there isn't sufficient recycling & organics processing capacity, unavailability of hauling services, lack of ample physical space for containers, and administrative capacity.

**Compliance, Education, & Enforcement**

477 Comments: concerns about which entities are required to comply, how CCD will implement and enforce requirements, whether there will be sufficient education to manage contamination, and how to incentivize behavior change.

**Cost**

174 Comments: concerns about increased financial burden on businesses, funding for financial incentives and technical support, whether requiring recycling will impact the cost of housing/rent, and the impact of increased costs for new construction projects.
Recommendation 1: Building Compliance Timeline

Recommendation 2: C&D Compliance Timeline

- 45% of respondents are concerned that compliance timelines for Buildings and C&D projects are too slow or not aggressive enough.
- 21% of respondents are concerned that there is not sufficient infrastructure to support the proposed timelines.
- 10% of respondents are concerned about the additional cost this will impose on their business and/or living expenses.
- 9% of respondents are concerned about education needed to support compliance and avoid contamination.
Recommendation 4: Permitted Events

The Waste No More Ordinance as written requires compliance by all (100%) of the permitted events as of June 1, 2022. The Task Force recommends phasing-in compliance based on the estimated number of attendees and in alignment with current city event permitting tiers.

Option 1: Large events first, three phases = 25%
- Events with over 10,000 attendees: January 1, 2025
- Events with over 3,000 attendees: January 1, 2026
- Events with over 350 attendees: January 1, 2027

Option 2: Large events first, two phases = 27%
- Events with over 3,000 attendees: January 1, 2025
- Events with over 350 attendees: January 1, 2026

Option 3: Small events first, two phases = 7%
- Events with 350-3,000 attendees: January 1, 2025
- Events with over 3,000 attendees: January 1, 2026

Option 4: All events, no phasing (original ordinance language) = 41%
- All events, regardless of size, must comply within 24 months from the adoption of the rules but no later than January 1, 2026
Recommendation 4: Permitted Events Phasing

- 47% of respondents have concerns that the timeline is too slow, calling for universal implementation ASAP

- 9% of respondents have concerns about additional costs for small events

- 8% of respondents have concerns about contamination & education for event-goers

- 5% of respondents have concerns about proper infrastructure to support diversion
Themes from Focus Groups

City Staff hosted 20 focus groups meetings in August
Residents

- Residents are passionate about doing this right but also quickly
- Concerns about illegal dumping & contamination
- Education should focus on schools, use symbols/photos as much as possible, partner with non-profit organizations to reach communities
- Preference for residential property management to receive fines for not providing access
Businesses

- Large buildings & venues are comfortable and are already planning for Jan 2025 implementation
- Concerns about hauler capacity, container logistics, adequate space, vermin control
- Concerns with customer education & potential FOH contamination
- Concerns about additional cost and penalties for non-compliance
- Requiring food trucks to provide on-site access will be overly burdensome and could pose health risks. Most of the recyclable and compostable materials utilized by food truck operators are already covered by the ordinance for other responsible parties, so on-site requirements should not be required for standalone food trucks.
Construction & Demolition

• Concerns about potential impact for increased costs for projects
• How will the weight/volume of what needs to be recycled be determined in the beginning? How will these req's work in practice?
• Is there sufficient processing capacity and for all covered materials?
• Is the 80% goal by 2030 attainable given the current landscape?
• What is the role of deconstruction long-term?
Permitted Events

Concerns:
• Customer education & FOH contamination
• Even if the ordinance does not penalize for contamination, what happens if haulers fine or terminate contracts for contamination?
• Impact and increased costs
• Hauler capacity to service the volume of Denver events

Special considerations needed for:
• Night and weekend pickups
• Varied locations and no standing waste service contracts
Permitted Events Exemption Clarifications

De minimus:
• Only 52% of respondents agree with lowest permit tier for volume exemption. Instead, suggest exempt by permit type (see below).
• Picnics, Block Parties, and Processions utilize existing residential or public receptacles instead of hauler contracts.

Reusable service ware:
• Clarify how much reusable service ware would warrant exemption.
• Majority of respondents suggested 50% or more.

Events not serving food:
• Clarify to events not serving food or beverage.
• 71% agree with this clarification.
Permitted Event Stakeholder Feedback

Permit Holders Survey
- 52% prefer Option 4: All events, no phases
- 24% prefer Option 1: Large events first, 3 phases
- 16% prefer Option 3: Small events first, 2 phases
- 8% prefer Option 2: Large events first, 2 phases

Permitted Events Focus Group Poll
- 66% prefer Option 4: All events, no phases
- 15% prefer Option 1: Large events first, 3 phases
- 13% prefer Option 2: Large events first, 2 phases
- 6% prefer Option 3: Small events first, 2 phases

Participation:
- 25 organizers responded to the survey, less than ⅓ of survey respondents attended the focus group
- 32 organizers attended the Focus Group on 8/9
Any questions?
Proposed Updates for Recommendations to Address Concerns & Gaps
Ensuring Success in the Organics Stream Pt. 1

Education
• Promote food waste reduction and donation to a significantly higher degree
• Promote controlled-access to containers as a best practice
• Promote best practices for front-of-house implementation versus back-of-house in food service businesses
• Create a best practices "how to" guide for haulers and businesses to manage contaminated streams
• Promote single-use plastic reduction

Definitions
• More clearly define "Access" in the Ordinance and/or Rules and Regulations
• Elaborate upon the multitude of ways businesses can provide access in educational materials

Annual Diversion Plan
• Design the annual diversion plan platform to guide businesses towards zero waste alternatives to provide more flexibility for compliance
Ensuring Success in the Organics Stream Pt. 2

Financial Supports & Incentives

- Establish non-competitive food waste systems and containers grant for businesses
- Consider provision of tax credits as an incentive for donation zero waste businesses
- Establish reuse and food donation grant programming
- Consider provision of zero-interest loans for emerging, small businesses
- CASR to partner with other CCD Departments to leverage opportunities for further financial support/incentives

Infrastructure

- CCD to identify ways to establish more local organics recycling options with an emphasis on organics screening, pre-processing (sortation), and transfer infrastructure

Technical Assistance

- CCD to conduct an ongoing study to measure citywide contamination rates in years 1-3
- Data collection will be used to continuously inform education and outreach strategies
Phased Implementation for Permitted Events

Based on the composite feedback received, city staff recommend Option 4.

Open to questions, concerns or discussion prior to our TF meeting on 9/14

Option 4: All events, no phasing (original ordinance language)
- All events, regardless of size, must comply within 24 months from the adoption of the rules but no later than January 1, 2026
Additional Improvements

• Adding budgetary estimates for all recommendations where resources are needed for implementation

• Creation of educational guides and toolkits for non-regulated entities

• Incorporate additional policy considerations to ensure long-term success
Broader Q&A
Next Steps for Task Force Members

• Look out for an email tomorrow Thursday, 9/7 with a link to the recording of this presentation + links to updated recommendations

• Review the survey results and updated recommendations

• Schedule/attend conversations with City Staff by Tuesday, 9/12 as needed

• Email all comments, concerns or suggestions by next Tuesday, 9/12

• Come prepared on Thursday, 9/14 to discuss finalization of Task Force recommendations
Thank You