

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION
& SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

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April 6, 2026
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HELD AT: 250 Broadway-8th Fl. Hearing Rm. 3

B E F O R E: Justin E. Sanchez
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shahana K. Hanif
Ty Hankerson
Virginia Maloney
Kayla Santosuosso
Shanel Thomas-Henry
Sandra Ung
Inna Vernikov
Susan Zhuang

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Gregory Anderson
Commissioner of Department of Sanitation

Jennifer McDonnell
Deputy Commissioner of Department of Sanitation

Katherine Kitchener
Executive Director of Resource Recovery at
Department of Sanitation

Ryan Dougherty
Lead Budget and Policy Analyst at Independent
Budget Office

Brian Cain
Assistant Director of Housing, Environment and
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Elliot Jackson-Ontkush
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Dennis Schock
Uniform Sanitation Association Local 831

Rhonda Keyser
Cafeteria Culture

Matthew Civello
Chair of Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board

Marisa DeDominicis
Earth Matter

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Jenille Scott
ALIGN

Justin Wood
NYLPI

Eric Goldstein
Natural Resources Defense Council

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2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, ladies
3 and gentlemen. Welcome to the New York City Council
4 hearing for the Committee on Sanitation and Solid
5 Waste Management. At this time, I'd like to remind
6 everyone to please silence all devices, and at no
7 point during the hearing may you approach the dais.
8 If you want to testify at today's hearing, please see
9 a sergeant at the back of the room to fill out a
10 testimony slip. Chair, we are ready to begin.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: [gavel] Good
12 morning, everyone. Welcome to this beautiful Monday
13 morning. We have a lively, busy crowd with us, as you
14 can see. Well, good morning, everyone. Welcome to
15 this oversight hearing hosted by the Committee on
16 Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. Thank you. I
17 am Justin Sanchez, Chair of this committee. Thank you
18 to my colleagues and fellow members for your
19 attendance, if you're on Zoom. I would also like to
20 express appreciation for the time and energy spent by
21 the reps of the Department of Sanitation and IBO who
are joining us today, and formally acknowledge, the
city's newest Sanitation Commissioner, Mr. Gregory
Anderson. Round of applause. As you can tell by the
applause, it's a full room. I'd also like to express

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2 gratitude for the members of the public who have
3 taken their time out of their day to provide valuable
4 testimony. To minimize disruption, I do ask everyone
5 to please place your electronic devices on vibrate or
6 silent. The City of New York has drafted a proposed
7 Solid Waste Management Plan, AKA the SWAMP, for years
8 2026 through 2036, which will be the subject of
9 public comment up through January 16th of this year.
10 I want to be clear that public testimony provided to
11 this committee today will not be recorded as part of
12 the public comment on the draft SWAMP. Since the
13 close of the public comment period, DSNY has
14 submitted its proposed draft SWAMP to the State
15 Department of Environmental Conservation for initial
16 review. The Council was permitted to have a copy of
17 this revised proposed draft SWAMP. Thank you. And in
18 doing so, we were able to review public comments on
19 the draft. We have read and analyzed these comments
20 and reference some of the most apparent concerns in
21 our committee report. One unifying factor among these
comments is the proposition that the city must have
thoughtful and specific long-term plan for managing
its waste with actionable steps and timelines. The
purpose of today's hearing is to hear from the

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2 Department of Sanitation about their incorporation of
3 public feedback into its revised proposed draft SWMP
4 and to discuss their priorities for finalizing the
5 document. We also look forward to hearing from the
6 city's IBO on these— Independent Budget Office, in
7 case people are watching and don't know what these
8 acronyms are, apologies— on these matters, as well as
9 their recent reports on the city's efforts to
10 increase organic waste recycling. And last but not
11 least, we are eager to listen to testimony from the
12 public. We're also hearing two pieces of legislation
13 today, both sponsored by Council Member Sandy Nurse,
14 a former chair of this committee. These include Intro
15 Number 355 in relation to organic waste recycling by
16 city agencies and Resolution Number 125 calling on
17 New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor
18 to sign legislation requiring the establishment of a
19 composting program at dormitories, dining facilities,
20 and other facilities owned, occupied, or operated by
21 the State University of New York, the City University
of New York, and institutions subject to their
jurisdiction. First I'd like to recognize Council
Member Virginia Maloney for joining us. Good morning.
I look forward to the dialogue today. After our

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2 Committee Counsel administers the oath, we will move
3 to testimony by the DSNY, then testimony by IBO,
4 followed by testimonies from the members of the
public. Committee counsel?

5 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Good morning. From the
6 Department of Sanitation, Commissioner Gregory
7 Anderson, Deputy Commissioner of Solid Waste
8 Management Jennifer McDonnell, and Executive Director
9 of Resource Recovery Katherine Kitchener, please
10 raise your right hands. Thank you. Do you affirm to
11 tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
12 truth in your testimony before the council members
and to respond honestly to council member questions?
Thank you. You may begin.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Good morning,
14 Chair Sanchez and members of the Committee on
15 Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. I am Gregory
16 Anderson, Commissioner of the New York City
17 Department of Sanitation. I'm joined by Jennifer
18 McDonnell, our Deputy Commissioner for Solid Waste
19 Management, and Katherine Kitchner, our Executive
20 Director of Resource Recovery. Thank you for the
21 opportunity to testify today. I can't tell you what a
privilege it is to start my second tour here at

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2 Sanitation, and to be before you as Commissioner of
3 an agency that serves every single New Yorker by
4 collecting and processing 24 million pounds of waste
5 every day. As a young person coming to this
6 department at the start of my career, I thought I
7 knew what that entailed. I thought I knew what it
8 meant to pick up the trash, sweep the streets, fight
9 snow, and the topic of today's hearing, I thought I
10 knew what happened to it next. But back then, I was
11 like many New Yorkers. I had little idea of how much
12 work, how much meticulous planning, how many late
13 nights and early mornings go into every single part
14 of this operation. I quickly learned that strongest
15 is more than just a name, and that the people- and
16 that this department includes many people whose
17 strength goes well beyond the physical. The people of
18 DSNY are strongest in mind, in heart, and most
19 importantly, in care for their communities. And the
20 trash doesn't just disappear when they get it off the
21 curb. Collection is only the beginning of a
labyrinthine journey through transfer stations,
material recovery facilities, on trains and barges,
and on to final reuse, recycling, and disposal
facilities. I have often said that the parts of my

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2 career that I am most proud of are the times I've
3 been able to stand shoulder to shoulder with
4 sanitation workers, tradespeople, IT staff, and
5 everyone else at the agency. But the fact is, we have
6 so much more to do together. New Yorkers depend on
7 us, and they expect us to do more than just repeat
8 what has worked well enough for decades. The city is
9 changing, and we must change along with it, in both
10 the parts of our work that they see and the parts
11 that take place behind the scenes. So that's the goal
12 of this solid waste management planning process.

13 Though 2026 is far different from 1992 and 2006. In
14 the past, solid waste management planning in New York
15 City has been an exercise in crisis response. From
16 the 70s to the 90s, mayors and sanitation
17 commissioners tried to rapidly adapt to changing
18 regulatory landscapes and public perceptions around
19 outdated waste management approaches, including ocean
20 dumping, unregulated incineration, and barely
21 regulated urban landfills. These conditions led to
the 1992 Solid Waste Management Plan, or SWMP as
we'll call it from here on out, which included the
city's then-novel curbside recycling program, several
new material recovery facilities— never built— and

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2 the construction or retrofit of several modern
3 waste-to-energy facilities— also, thankfully, never
4 built. This plan served a single purpose: to extend
5 the life of Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island
6 into future generations, a goal that quickly changed.
7 The 1996 mandate to close Fresh Kills Landfill by the
8 end of 2001 created another, more significant crisis,
9 one that led to the 2006 SWMP. Fresh Kills Landfill
10 was the last option for in-city disposal for the
11 millions and millions of pounds of waste generated in
12 homes, schools, businesses, and elsewhere in New York
13 City every day, and its closure was catastrophic for
14 other parts of the city. This waste had simply
15 nowhere else to go. In just a decade, over 100
16 transfer stations opened in a handful of marginalized
17 and disadvantaged communities in the South Bronx,
18 North Brooklyn, and Southeast Queens, that together
19 saw thousands of new daily truck trips, and the
20 health and safety challenges that come along with
21 them. The closure of Fresh Kills Landfill, a
well-intentioned endeavor to be sure, created one of
New York City's most significant environmental
injustices of the 20th century. That 2006 SWMP was a
groundbreaking attempt to correct this wrong and

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2 create a sustainable, reliable, and resilient
3 residential waste management system in the, the
4 post-Fresh Kills era. It called for the conversion of
5 older, outdated marine transfer stations into modern
6 facilities to containerize waste for long-haul
7 transport by barge and rail. It also called for
8 several new enclosed rail-based transfer stations
9 that would use the city's then-flagging freight rail
10 network, called for the construction of a
11 state-of-the-art material recovery facility that
12 would accept much of the city's recyclables by barge
13 and export many of the sorted products by rail. These
14 new facilities would stabilize a beleaguered
15 recycling program, substantially reduce the number of
16 trucks that traveled through overburdened
17 neighborhoods, and create a reliable, though costly,
18 forward-looking program for waste management. Unlike
19 the 92 SWMP, the 2006 SWMP has been largely
20 implemented to plan. Its implementation required over
21 \$1 billion in new capital investments and the siting
of very controversial new facilities. It took a
decade and a half, three-quarters of the plan's
planning horizon to realize. And in my 10 years with
the department previously, much of my time focused on

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2 realizing the goals of the 2006 SWMP. Building new,
3 more modern facilities despite intense opposition,
4 reducing transportation capacity in overburdened
5 neighborhoods, and expanding recycling programs and
6 driving diversion rates upward. Today, our solid
7 waste management system continues to face challenges,
8 including rising costs, the existential threat of
9 climate change, dwindling regional waste disposal
10 capacity, and global forces that dictate trends in
11 waste generation and markets for reclaimed materials.
12 However, our waste management system today is sound.
13 It is reliable. It is resilient. It is not perfect,
14 but it is far more sustainable than those of the
15 past. We have one of the most inclusive curbside
16 recycling programs in the country, and the Sunset
17 Park MRF continues to innovate on sorting and
18 reclamation technologies. We are among a handful of
19 cities in the U.S. that can claim true circularity in
20 our paper economy, as recyclable paper and cardboard
21 is remanufactured into new cardboard products right
here in Staten Island. We have the largest mandatory
curbside composting program in the nation, and one
with tremendous growth potential. We export the
majority of residential curbside trash collections

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2 not by truck, but by rail and barge, the only major
3 city in the country to do so. In sum, New York City
4 has some of the most comprehensive and sustainable
5 residential solid waste programming in the country,
6 and we are implementing hard-fought comprehensive
7 reform of our commercial waste industry. A process
8 that will be completed next year. That's the context
9 in which we started four years ago to create the next
10 iteration of New York City's Solid Waste Management
11 Plan, what we're calling SWMP26, the very plan we're
12 here to discuss today. So just a little context-
13 state laws and regulations lay out a pretty strict
14 regulatory framework that governs the creation of a
15 new SWMP, and this document has been carefully
16 tailored to meet these requirements and guidance from
17 the New York State Department of Environmental
18 Conservation. It has been 20 years since the last
19 time New York City submitted a solid waste management
20 plan, and in that time, the waste stream and waste
21 management industry have noticeably evolved, and the
state has clarified and updated requirements for
solid waste management plans. So I would like to
emphasize two points. First, the regulatory
requirements that have evolved significantly since

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2 2006 now require a 10-year planning period rather

3 than 20. And second, while the SWMP provides a

4 framework for diversion and efficient waste

5 management systems, the city can and must pursue

6 specific programs that are not contemplated in this

7 document. This is, by design, a beginning of the

8 process rather than an end. And our record here

9 speaks for itself. Neither universal curbside

10 organics collection nor commercial waste reform were

11 laid out in the 2006 SWMP, and yet the city took

12 historic action to move both policies forward in

13 partnership with the City Council. This is

14 particularly relevant to keep in mind as we discuss

15 SWMP26. DSNY's rich history of evolution, continuous

16 improvement, and innovation lays the foundation for

17 this next solid waste management plan that we are

18 proud to put forth to guide future progress in waste

19 reduction and resource recovery for the next decade.

20 With over 24 billion pounds of waste generated by

21 hundreds of thousands of businesses and millions of

residents across the five boroughs every year, the

2026 Solid Waste Management Plan is a flexible

framework focused on the areas that have the greatest

potential impact. This SWMP was built upon an

2 extensive analysis of current conditions. The first
3 chapters document in detail who generates how much of
4 what materials, where they go, and what end-of-life
5 options exist for managing them. From that
6 foundation, coupled with DEC's alternative analysis
7 requirements, the SWMP identifies eight key program
8 areas to achieve continued progress in waste
9 reduction, increased recycling, and a path towards
10 zero waste. Of the progressive and ambitious
11 commitments, organics diversion remains a top
12 priority, most importantly continuing to increase
13 participation and recovery rates from generators
14 citywide. We will investigate how we can leverage new
15 equipment to better separate contamination from
16 collected organics, encourage the donation of edible
17 food, and plan strategically for future processing
18 capacity. In addition to the full implementation of
19 the commercial waste zones program by the end of next
20 year, 2027, the SWMP dedicates an entire program to
21 the reduction, diversion, and recovery of
construction and demolition debris, a first for this
waste stream. And most importantly, waste reduction
is the leading program, the area with the most
potential to truly reduce the amount of material

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discarded and the associated costs and logistics of managing it. Finally, underpinning these future-focused goals is an unwavering commitment to the robust and resilient system in place today. The future DSNY envisions with the SWMP is one where all the resources in the city are managed responsibly and to the best value. Whether it's advancing textile-to-textile recovery, turning food scraps from our diverse cuisine into biogas to support our clean energy transition, or developing new ways to reuse materials in future manufacturing industries, this Solid Waste Management Plan is designed to facilitate the steady transformation of materials management citywide. We began the formal outreach for this SWMP in 2024, starting with city agencies that, in partnership with Sanitation, make up the planning unit responsible for implementing SWMP26. DSNY has conducted outreach with elected officials, including current and former members of this committee, borough presidents, and engaged with dozens of interested parties and stakeholders, including the borough Solid Waste Advisory Boards, or SWABs, the New York City Climate Leadership Group, the EJ Advisory Board, and the Transform Don't Trash Coalition, among many

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2 others. In response to requests from stakeholders and
3 members of the council, DSNY extended the public
4 comment period to 105 days, 60 days beyond the 45-day
5 review period required by DEC. And this public
6 comment period ended in January 2026. Through this
7 public comment process, DSNY received more than 800
8 individual comments in 62 submissions that cover
9 around 300 topic areas. DSNY has made multiple
10 updates to the draft plan based on these comments,
11 additional input from collaborating agencies, and
12 some corrections and clarifications identified
13 internally. Following these updates, DSNY submitted a
14 revised draft to DEC for review last month, and
15 Sanitation is working with our agency partners to
16 provide written responses to every comment received,
17 which will be included as a further attachment to the
18 plan later this month. Looking ahead, we will make
19 another round of edits to the plan based on DEC
20 feedback, which we expect to receive around July of
21 this year. We plan to submit the final plan to DEC
this fall before moving on to what is the real work—
implementation. The work of implementing the plan
will double down on the collaborative approach that
Sanitation has taken in creating it. The 124

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2 initiatives identified in the draft SWMP require the
3 creation of at least six standalone stakeholder
4 committees or working groups that will persist well
5 beyond the final approval of the SWMP. Moreover, I
6 personally commit to an inclusive, responsive, and
7 adaptive approach to the implementation of this plan.
8 My door is always open to any and all parties with
9 interest, ideas, and criticisms related to planning
10 for waste management in New York City. Turning now
11 briefly to Intro 355, sponsored by Councilmember
12 Nurse, which would expand composting by requiring
13 DSNY to adopt a rule to require city agencies to
14 source separate organic waste produced through meal
15 service or institutional feeding. DSNY strongly
16 supports this bill and other efforts to continue to
17 increase the amount of organics separation happening
18 throughout the city. Thank you so much for your
19 interest in the Solid Waste Management Plan and for
20 scheduling this hearing. I'm thrilled to be back in
21 front of a much changed Committee on Solid- on
Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. Thrilled to be
in this fancy new room for the first time, and I look
forward to answering your questions.

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2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much,
3 Commissioner. I do want to say that we are welcomed
4 by our Councilmember Susan Zhuang. Commissioner, I do
5 want to take the time once again to congratulate you
6 on your appointment as the new Commissioner. I know
7 that you've been in public service for a long time,
8 and I'm looking forward to the work that we can
9 accomplish together. To start the conversation, I do
10 want to give you the opportunity to also just
11 introduce yourself again to folks, and to have on the
12 record just more about you, your vision for the
13 department in general, any- how you view your role in
14 helping to carry out the agency's work, and any waste
15 management policy and programs you hope to see the
16 department prioritize under this administration. Um,
17 and before I let you get started, I want to also say
18 that we have been welcomed by my colleague, Council
19 Member Ty Hankerson. Oh, and, please let us not
20 forget Council Member Inna Vernikov.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Great, thank you,
Chair. Yeah, so, as I said last week at roll call,
this is really a homecoming for me, and the
Department of Sanitation really does truly feel like
home. The men and women of the department who work

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2 tirelessly are more like a family than a job. And,
3 you know, I spent 10- almost 10 years with sanitation
4 previously, starting as Chief of Staff, finishing as
5 Deputy Commissioner, and I'm so excited to be back
6 here and back working with this agency and working on
7 behalf of the people of the City of New York. Um, I
8 did spend the last 2.5 years in the governor's office
9 as the Deputy Director for state operations. So
10 helping to manage the 70+ agencies, authorities,
11 offices, commissions, et cetera, that make up New
12 York state government. So I have, you know, I think
13 an interesting new perspective on the work that we
14 can achieve. I have an interesting new perspective on
15 the solid waste management planning process, having
16 managed DEC directly. So that's kind of fun. And, you
17 know, come back to New York City, I think even more
18 focused on delivering real results for New Yorkers.
19 Some of the things that I really wanna prioritize,
20 first and foremost, making sure that we actually
21 achieve the promise of our curbside composting
program. So driving up participation, driving up
diversion, giving all New Yorkers the tools to be
able to participate in the way that's right for them.
You know, there- that does mean leaning on

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2 enforcement at some point. Doesn't mean that
3 enforcement is going to be the first tool in our
4 toolbox. So looking forward to working with all of
5 you to make sure we can get the word out and educate
6 New Yorkers about how to participate. Second, you
7 know, one of the things that I was proud of, most
8 proud of my first tour at Sanitation was working with
9 then Chair Antonio Reynoso and the whole committee
10 and a legion of advocates to pass commercial waste
11 zones, comprehensive reform of the commercial waste
12 industry. We are in the process of implementing that
13 now. That process will be completed next year, but
14 the work there will never stop. So I'm very excited
15 to dig in on that industry to continue to roll out
16 the commercial waste zones program and to make sure
17 that we're achieving the goals that we set forth
18 there around safety, around sustainability, around
19 customer service for businesses. I think there's— the
20 department has done a lot of really good work and I
21 look forward to digging in there. And then the last
thing that I'll focus on here is probably hundreds of
things that I'm excited to work on, but the last
thing I'll say here is really digging into the work
around waste containerization. I think there's— I've

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2 already had some really good conversations with staff
3 of the department around how that's going and where
4 we go next. And hopefully we will be talking about
expansion soon.

5 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: I know I have kind
6 of a little idea of where you could go next, just
7 like a slight- it's- it reminds what- it starts with
8 a B, ends with an X. So, let's talk about the 2006
9 SWMP. So we have had 20 years since the new SWMP.
10 What is the current status? And I know a lot of this
11 is outlined in the SWMP already, but for folks that
12 have not read it, can we get some highlights on the
13 current status of some of the major infrastructure
14 projects outlined in the 2006 SWMP, including the
15 Marine Transfer Station, and waste processing
16 facilities? Also, what delays, if any, have affected
implementation of the 2006 SWMP, and what steps is
DSNY taking to get it back on track?

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Absolutely. So the
18 work of implementing the 2006 SWMP was largely
19 completed in 2019 with the opening of the East 91st
20 Street Marine Transfer Station. That was the last of
21 four- what the SWMP calls converted marine transfer
stations, but it's not really converting an existing

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2 facility. It's transforming those facilities into new
3 modern waste management facilities. So starting in
4 2015 through 2019, department opened the four new
5 MTSs. It also worked with its private partners in
6 waste management to open rail-based transfer stations
7 in the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn, as well as a
8 department-managed rail transfer station in Staten
9 Island. So those facilities together make up our
10 waste management network. All trash is containerized
11 into sealed containers for transport by barge and
12 rail or just rail to final disposal destinations with
13 the exception of the west side and southern half of
14 Manhattan that goes directly to Newark, New Jersey
15 for disposal. You know, that was an incredibly
16 arduous process to get those facilities built and
17 operating. There was pretty substantial community
18 opposition in neighborhoods where we were converting
19 marine transfer stations to the new facilities we
20 have today.

17 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Yeah.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: But I'm proud that
19 we got through that opposition. And, you know, I
20 think largely the communities that host those
21 facilities would say that we are good neighbors and

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2 the- I think some of the most serious concerns about
3 potential impacts have not been realized. The other
4 main focus of that, of the 2006 SWMP, was the
5 construction of the Sunset Park MRF, which was
6 completed and opened, I think, around 2013. That
7 facility remains, you know, among the most
8 state-of-the-art in the country. We continue to work
9 with the operator there to make investments in new
10 sorting technology. We're looking increasingly at
11 robotic technology to be able to better sort material
12 that we deliver there. And we are going to continue
13 to work with them on improving the quality of the
14 recyclables that they're able to generate and sell
15 into market. So that's sort of the comprehensive
16 picture of the SWMP. There are a few things that have
17 changed since 2006. One marine transfer station that
18 was not constructed on the Gansevoort Peninsula in
19 Manhattan, I think we could get into whether or not
20 that's- that facility would, would even still be
21 relevant today, but largely the SWMP was implemented,
as written, although on a much longer timeline than
originally projected.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great, thank you.

I'd like to also mention that we've been welcomed by

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2 Council Members, Gale Brewer and Shanel Thomas-Henry.

3 So there were a number of public comments, and I want

4 to thank the team for extending the comment period,

5 because it did bring in a number of new comments. I

6 know that was a lot of more work for you, but thank

7 you very much. How many entities did submit a comment

8 to DSNY on its proposed SWMP before the January 16th

9 deadline? And did DSNY receive any comments after the

10 deadline? And if so, how many?

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so we

12 received 800 individual comments that were packaged

13 in 62 submissions. So some of those were submissions

14 that represented comments from multiple individuals

15 sort of put together. Those covered 300 topic areas,

16 and we did receive a couple after the 5:00 p.m.

17 deadline that day. I don't think it was a significant

18 number.

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: How many staff were

20 involved in reviewing the public comments, and

21 approximately how many cumulative hours were spent

performing this work?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So we had two

staff that were primarily responsible for reviewing

the comments. Obviously, we have, you know, teams of

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2 subject matter experts who got into the detail on the
3 comments received. So, you know, in total it was
4 dozens and dozens of individuals, but two staff
5 primarily responsible. I don't have a total number of
6 hours, but it did take about a month's time to go
7 through all the comments and identify, both sort of
8 sort them and categorize them, and then identify
9 potential changes that would be made to the draft
10 plan as a result.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Understanding that
12 the public comment period is over, does the agency
13 plan to host any future public meetings on the SWMP?
14 And if so, do we have an understanding as to when
15 these meetings will take place? We don't have
16 anything planned immediately. As I said in my
17 testimony, we do plan to do a significant amount of
18 stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the
19 solid waste management plan, and there are six
20 specific stakeholder working groups or taskforces
21 that are identified in the plan, probably many more
that will come out as we actually do the work. But we
are— we're very interested in engaging with the
public, engaging with stakeholders, engaging with

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2 advocates as we actually move toward implementation
3 of this.

4 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: I do want to talk
5 about the stakeholders in the future, but I'm just
6 going to stick to the comments for now, but know that
7 I'm coming back to that. When the— when does the
8 agency plan to publish its responses to the public
9 comments?

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So we are working
11 on a detailed response to each of the comments or
12 each of the comment areas that will be submitted as
13 an attachment to the draft SWMP. We expect that to be
14 done later this month. The revised draft SWMP is
15 posted on our website, and we will post those
16 responses to comment on our website as well.

17 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: When was the revised
18 draft posted to the website?

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: It was was posted
20 on Friday at my request.

21 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. Awesome,
thank you. And have you— I know it is still early,
but have you received any feedback from the New York
Department of Environmental Conservation on the
proposed SWMP thus far? And if so, can you describe

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2 the nature of the comments? Not that you can tell us
3 exactly what they said.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so it's
5 been a very iterative process with DEC throughout the
6 planning for the Solid Waste Management Plan, so
7 we've gotten feedback from them consistently
8 throughout. We haven't gotten formal comments on the
9 most recent submission from March 2026, and we expect
10 to, you know, in two months or so, but, you know,
11 we'll continue to be in touch with their staff as we
12 move through the process.

13 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: And what is the
14 expected timeline for engagement with DEC to finalize
15 the proposed draft SWMP?

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so under
17 their regulations, they have a 120-day review period.
18 That 120-day review period ends late summer-ish. We
19 will get their comments, assuming their comments are
20 not incredibly substantive in nature. If they are,
21 you know, we may have to sort of take another look at
the document and make substantial revisions. If they
are not, we will make whatever revisions are
appropriate and then submit the final SWMP for their
approval.

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2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: And on this
3 timeline, has DEC expressed permission for the city
4 to continue its work to finalize the SWMP beyond
5 October of this year?

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: We haven't had to
7 make that request yet, and we don't expect to on
8 base- based on the timeline that we're currently
9 operating under, but you know, we know that if we had
10 to, they would be open to it.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: What type of
12 engagement can we at the Council expect from DSNY as
13 you revise the proposed draft SWMP?

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So I think we'll
15 certainly keep you fully in the loop on where things
16 stand from a process perspective. I'm very encouraged
17 by the fact that we're having this hearing today,
18 which is the second hearing in six months on this
19 topic which is, I think, great. And as we move
20 through the process, we'll keep you informed and
21 involved, and if there's a need for another oversight
hearing in the future, we're happy to be there.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. I have a
lot of other questions, but I'm going to turn it over

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2 to my colleagues so you get some fresh air. I will
3 turn it over to Council Member Zhuang.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thank you, Chair,
5 and very nice to meet you, Commissioner. I have
6 actually a waste transfer station in my community. On
7 page 10, the report claims that having the Southwest
8 Brooklyn Marine Transfer Station transfer- transport
9 commercial waste overnight could not result too much
10 noise or other hard effect on this community. But
11 this environmental impact assessment was done in
12 2005, 20 years ago. How do you explain that? And
13 today it's too much- so much shipping, many more
14 delivery vehicles, and the result, more trash. How
15 can you justify using an impact report from 20 years
16 ago to make a decision today?

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so I think
18 that your point there is actually fully aligned with
19 where we stand on using the MTSSs for commercial
20 waste. We think that one, we should fully implement
21 commercial waste zones next year. Let the industry
stabilize a bit, and then take a really thoughtful
and measured approach to accepting commercial waste
at the marine transfer stations, exactly because
neighborhoods have changed, the context has changed,

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2 the waste industry has changed. And so that's
3 something that after we complete the implementation
4 of commercial waste zones next year, we will look
5 forward to working with the Council on going forward.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: And also, my
7 community is probably 70 percent immigrants. How are
8 you assured the burden of waste management doesn't
9 fall mostly on poor communities? For example, the
10 waste transfer station in my neighborhood, which is
11 largest immigrant, but many other waterside location
12 in richer community doesn't have those. How do you
13 balance this?

14 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: So I think that's
15 the- that was one of the key tenets of the 2006 SWMP,
16 was to sort of spread the waste management network
17 over a larger share of neighborhoods. Historically
18 there were four community boards in South Brooklyn-
19 or sorry, South Bronx, North Brooklyn, and Southeast
20 Queens that had hundreds of transfer stations that
21 were all truck-based, relatively dirty and polluting
facilities. We have, because of the construction of
the marine transfer stations, including the marine
transfer station, on the Upper East Side of
Manhattan, we have been able to reduce the capacity,

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2 the permitted capacity at those other private
3 transfer stations by more than 10,000 tons per day,
4 which is a substantial reduction and has reduced the
5 number of trucks going through those historically
6 overburdened districts.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: If you come to my
8 neighborhood, you can smell that waste transfer
9 station from far away. If you go through Belt- even
10 you go from Bay Ridge area, when you pass the, like,
11 exit- pass Exit 20, and when I go on the way home
12 around Exit 2, there you can smell how terrible it
13 is. And then you- the city's decision seems like want
14 to bring more garbage to our neighborhood. And then,
15 you know, the roads in my neighborhood, it's not
16 paved properly on time. The people drive vehicles
17 have to have extra expense living in our
18 neighborhood. How do you balance that?

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: I was actually just
20 out at the Southwest Brooklyn MTS on Friday. I
21 didn't notice any odors, but I'm happy to come out
and meet you and, you know, we can walk the
neighborhood ourselves and get to see what the real
impacts on the ground are. And you know, as far as

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2 the condition of the roads, happy to talk to DOT
3 about how to make real investments there.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: And then my
5 neighborhood has the highest asthma rate in the city
6 because the waste transfer station there. It was a
7 incinerator there for 30 years. And the people living
8 in the neighborhood has higher chance to get cancer.
9 And then now, later on, the community fight against
10 the waste transfer station for 10 years, finally
11 built. A lot of garbage brought to the neighborhood,
12 and the pollution brought to the neighborhood. We
13 haven't seen more results there. Now the condition is
14 what we hear today is, oh, we're going to bring more
15 garbage to your neighborhood. And this is a majority
16 immigrant neighborhoods. I just want to give you
17 background. A lot of people even doesn't speak
18 English at all. People doesn't know where to get
19 their voice heard. I'm proud to represent them, but
20 it's not right to put more burden in those immigrant
21 community. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Thank you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thank you, Chair
20 Zhuang. Now I'd like to bring up, Council Member
21 Maloney.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Thank you, Chair,
3 and thank you, Commissioner, for being here. I want
4 to talk about minimizing waste. There are some
5 laudable goals around zero divertible waste of 30
6 percent by 2030, but much of this is dependent not
7 just on DSNY and the DSNY infrastructure, but human
8 behavior around residents and businesses. So could
9 you speak to the investments that you're specifically
10 making in education and outreach to try to change
11 that behavior?

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Absolutely, and,
13 you know, I would say the most important thing we can
14 do to reduce waste is actually change the sort of
15 economics of the waste industry. And that starts from
16 the packaging and products industry that eventually
17 creates waste. So we support a bill at the state
18 level. It's called Extended Producer Responsibility.
19 It's— the bill itself has gone through a dozen
20 different names over the course of the last 10 years.
21 But basically what that means is the producers of
packaging that make the things that are difficult to
recycle, or that, you know, have an expense to
recycle, those producers would have to pay for the
end of life management of those products. It also

2 incentivizes the reduction in the amount of
3 packaging. It incentivizes them to use more
4 recyclable packaging, to not have, you know, several
5 different types of materials all together in one
6 product. So that's something that we strongly
7 support. I know that the Council has also voiced its
8 support for that in the past. We're working with the
9 mayor's office and state legislative affairs to try
10 to get that through in the legislature this year.
11 That's the most important thing we can do. That also
12 unlocks a new funding stream that we can use to
13 really dramatically expand our outreach and education
14 programs. Right now we do have an outreach team. We
15 do education programs. We have a marketing campaign
16 that we're running right now on the curbside
17 composting program, specifically focused on people
18 who live in apartments who want to participate, but
19 their buildings aren't participating. And so we would
20 love to do more and more of that, to do it in- across
21 many different channels, to do it in as many
languages as possible. And having a new funding
stream from EPR would allow us to do that.

COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: And how do you
measure the success of those marketing initiatives?

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2 And do you also deploy your resources based on areas
3 where you see a lack of- where you need more
4 enforcement efforts or based on density, or how do
5 you prioritize the limited personnel you have?

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so we have
7 a remarkable amount of data around how much waste is
8 generated, where it's generated, and where it goes. A
9 lot of that is in the Solid Waste Management Plan as
10 part of what's called the Current Conditions
11 Assessment. But we are on a daily basis looking at
12 waste generation, looking at waste diversion, and
13 using that to tailor our programs to specific
14 neighborhoods. The campaign that I just mentioned
15 that we're running right now is focused on people who
16 live in apartment buildings. And so it's running on
17 the subways, it's on buses, particularly in
18 neighborhoods that have more people that live in
19 apartments. And what we're encouraging folks to do is
20 if your building doesn't participate in, composting,
21 call 311. We'll send out outreach staff to the
building to remind them of their obligation to
participate. And if that doesn't work, then, you
know, we'll take the enforcement route.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: And do you have
3 any data on how successful that's been in increasing
4 compliance?

5 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, we're at
6 the, b-the very beginning of week three of that. So,
7 we don't have a sort of full read on that. I think
8 it's going to run for six weeks. So once it concludes
9 in a couple weeks, we're happy to, to come back to
10 you and, and fill you in on the results.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: My last question
12 is, as we look at the new initiatives that are, that
13 are proposed in the management plan, uh, do you have
14 adequate budget and staff to ensure high levels of
15 compliance and the appropriate level of education and
16 outreach?

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, I think we
18 have adequate funding and staff for the programs that
19 we operate currently. A lot of the initiatives in the
20 SWMP talk about developing new programs, talk about,
21 working with stakeholders to identify new
opportunities. Obviously new programs require new
resources, so that's something that as we go through
that process, we'll continue to advocate for
resources for, but at the moment we have more than

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2 enough resources to operate the programs that we run
3 today. I will say that there are some opportunities,
4 I think, to identify new resources or potentially
5 even make money off of the products that we collect.
6 You know, the paper that we collect, for example, we
7 actually get paid for. And so the more we can divert
8 material away from landfill, the— you know, the
9 better the economics get.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you, Council
12 Member Maloney. I just want to piggyback off of
13 Council Member Maloney's question. So Local Law 88— I
14 hope I have that number right— yes, Local Law 88
15 requires community reuse and community recycling
16 programs and community engagement programs. I'm
17 curious, how do you accomplish this? This is done
18 through the department? Is it done through
19 collaboration with Sanitation Foundation or other
20 partnerships? And then when was the last time that
21 you had these events, particularly in environmental
justice districts?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so I'll
answer briefly and then hand it over to, to Kate
Kitchener to address the specifics of those events,

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2 but our goal is to have as many events as possible in
3 as many communities as possible. And, you know, I
4 think the key there is having partners like city
5 council members, like community gardens and other
6 community organizations who are really invested in
7 bringing people to the events and, and making them
8 really successful. So we absolutely would love to
9 work with all of you to have as many outreach and,
10 and waste collection events as we can possibly hold
11 and make sure that they're successful. But Kate can
12 speak to the specifics there.

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KITCHENER: Yeah,
14 thank you, Commissioner. So yeah, we, in compliance
15 with Local Law 88 of 2023, we have 59 recycling
16 events, one in every community district every year.
17 You can go to nyc.gov/recyclingevents to see the
18 upcoming schedule because it's Earth Month, we have
19 tons of events happening, and so at those events
20 right now, we're collecting both electronics and
21 textiles for recycling, and we have- the department
has a contract with the Lower East Ecology Center to
conduct those events, and we often partner with
elected officials to host the events in their

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2 neighborhoods. And always happy to work with any of
3 you to host an event in your neighborhood. Thanks.

4 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. Curious
5 to know if you have this granular data, but how do
6 diversion rates, you know, given the EJ communities,
7 how do diversion rates differ in EJ communities
8 versus non-EJ communities?

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I think what we,
10 what we really see is, is that diversion rates marry
11 pretty well to density, more than anything else. In
12 part because people that have single-family homes
13 that have yards that generate a lot of yard waste,
14 that yard waste is so unbelievably easy to divert
15 properly. You're already generating it outside.
16 There's no reason to commingle it with the rest of
17 your trash. You can just put it in your brown bin and
18 set it out for collection. So especially starting
19 this time of year when people start gardening and
20 spending more time outside, we see a lot of diversion
21 in the organics program. In denser neighborhoods
where you have multiple steps that the waste has to
go through, it, you know, has to be sorted properly
in the kitchen and then it has to stay sorted
properly in the trash room or the basement, and then

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2 it has to be set out properly for collection. There's
3 obviously more opportunity for things to go wrong or
4 something to get commingled. And so, in those
5 neighborhoods we do send- tend to see lower diversion
6 rates.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Is there not-
8 curious to know if there is any highlights in a
9 difference, like for example, in a community like
10 mine's versus a community like Gale's? Given we have
11 very similar densities. But are there any different
12 diversity- diversion rates that are, you know, that
13 we can see?

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, the
15 diversion rate is certainly higher in the Upper West
16 Side than it is in Hunts Point at this moment, and
17 that's something.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: So because if we're
19 doing it based on density, you know, I would consider
20 the Upper West Side very dense, and so just trying to
21 understand what- if there are any things that we can
see based on the differences given the density seems
to be kind of similar.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah. And I think
that's something that in our last waste

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2 characterization study, which came out— 2023. Okay. I
3 don't remember exactly what—, when that was, but I
4 remember working on it. One of the things that we
5 looked at was sort of the stratification by both
6 density and by median household income in the
7 districts that we were sorting the waste from. It's
8 something that— I don't have the details in front of
9 me, but I'm happy to go into detail with you at a
10 later date. And as we look to the next waste
11 characterization study for residential waste, which I
12 think is required by '28, we will certainly continue
13 that work and see if anything's changed since 23.
14 Hopefully things have, but you know, I would love to,
15 to work with you on how to increase diversion. In, in
16 your neighborhood.

17 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. And
18 speaking of Council Member Brewer, I will turn it
19 over.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
21 much. I have lots of questions. First of all, I want
22 to say thank you to a rock star. His name is James
23 Lederer [sp?]. And then also want to thank
24 Superintendent Baldwin because he's great. And I had
25 to deal with the East Side transfer station when I

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2 was borough president. That was hell. So I just want
3 to say we did it.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: We were there
5 together.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: So anyway,
7 service- I just have a question. One of the
8 problems-, I call it service substitution. I know
9 that also, I want to thank you for mentioning the
10 Solid Waste Advisory Boards. I worked hard to get
11 Manhattan to be as strong as it is now when I was
12 borough president, and they are doing a great job.
13 One of the problems is that I think if you could
14 switch from more organics collection and then pick
15 what you wanna do less of, be it recycling or
16 something else. One of the problems is that the
17 buildings, the large ones that are not complying,
18 complain they have to keep the organics too long. Can
19 you think about switching so you have organics- I'm
20 making this up- two or tree times and then recycling
21 or something else less? Have you thought about that?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So I wouldn't
want to decrease the frequency of recycling
collection.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Whatever. I mean,
3 pick something.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: because it's,
5 it's already just once a week--

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [interposing] But
7 organics needs to be picked up more often. Is that
8 something that you're considering?

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: It's something
10 that we can certainly take a look at that would
11 require additional resources to do. So, but it's
12 something that we're happy to take a look at.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay. Because I
14 think one of the problems is they keep it too long
15 and then they complain in the buildings that it's
16 causing a problem. So that would be something to
17 think about. Second is when you do your education
18 efforts, do you go for those that are persistently
19 low participation? Is that where you focus? How do
20 you focus where you're going to do your education?
21 Picking up on some of the earlier questions.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, absolutely.
We do focus our education on places that have lower
diversion rates. We also, in the past, have done
targeted education and outreach to buildings that

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2 have received multiple enforcement violations for
3 failure to recycle or failure to compost. I think
4 that's something that we'd like to stand up again,
5 particularly as we are looking to expand the
6 participation in the composting program.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: In terms of
8 schools, I don't- maybe- I listened to your testimony
9 on the cell phone. I don't think you mentioned the
10 schools. How is their rate doing? In the past, what
11 we would do is give certificates to those schools
12 that are doing well because they do need some kind of
13 support. It's not easy to do- low staff numbers, low
14 pay for the kitchen staff, etcetera. I work with all
15 my schools trying to make sure that they do it, but
16 it doesn't always happen. How are you working with
17 the schools?

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so we work
19 very closely with the schools, both to train the
20 building staff, the staff in kitchens and the porters
21 that actually collect the trash, as well as the
22 teachers that are educating the kids, and provide
23 programming for the kids that are learning in schools
24 themselves. So it's a two-pronged effort. I think
25 it's something that we can certainly spend more time

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2 on. I would like to bring back some of the programs
3 from the past that focused on really celebrating the
4 wins and celebrating schools that have done—

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [interposing]

6 Could you get back to the committee the data on
7 schools that are doing well, schools that are not,
8 and that kind of information? My understanding is
9 there's low on staffing in the kitchen for obvious
10 reasons, and recycling goes out the door. I'm just—
11 that's my experience. So I'd love to see the numbers.

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, we can
13 provide you whatever we have.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay. Rikers
15 Island, if it closes, which I hope it does, what four
16 waste treatment plants will close to be able to have
17 a brand new one there? Do you know which ones? My
18 understanding is it's four.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I think you're
20 referring to wastewater treatment plants.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I am, yeah. But
not— I know that's the DEP and not you, but do you
have any import— into that at all?

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2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I don't. And, you
3 know, we would love to see a composting facility on
4 record.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: That's what I'm
6 saying. Could you also— that would be something that
7 you would consider?

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Absolutely.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: And then in terms
12 of NYCHA, that's an issue. How are you dealing with
13 NYCHA? It's an ongoing issue. The chutes are small. I
14 know the issues. What is the— what are you doing with
15 NYCHA?

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so we are—
17 we continue to engage with NYCHA. Obviously there
18 have been challenges around waste management at NYCHA
19 for many, many decades now, and we haven't found a
20 sort of great set of solutions to be able to solve
21 all of them at the same time. But we work with NYCHA
on a regular basis. I think first and foremost to
make sure that we are keeping— or that we and they
are keeping the developments clean.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Do you have any
3 pilots that are working with NYCHA?

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: We've done
5 several pilots in the past with NYCHA. Kate or Jen,
6 do you want to-

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [interposing]
8 Usually it's just going door to door with residents.
9 That's not necessarily sustainable.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MCDONNELL: Hi,
11 Council Member. Yes, NYCHA was very engaged in the
12 development of the draft Solid Waste Management Plan.
13 They're one of the stakeholder groups that's
14 contributed to specific initiatives, and we do have
15 some particular things we commit to working with them
16 over time. They've been particularly innovative with
17 a mattress recycling pilot that we have stayed in
18 touch with them about and are considering expanding.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I see mattresses
20 on the street, but okay.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MCDONNELL: Yeah,
these are from the developments. They've also done a
lot with redesigning their waste yards to look at how
can they collect recyclables separately that links in
with the diversion rate. So areas where they

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2 consolidate waste on their different campuses. And
3 one of the things they've focused on, to the
4 Commissioner's point, is the paper stream and how do
5 they really extract the paper and cardboard that has
6 value to the city. So we'll continue to work with
7 them on all of those things.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Could we get some
9 data on NYCHA also, again, back to the committee?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MCDONNELL: Certainly.
11 And we also include some specifics on them in our
12 biennial reports on the SWMP that are posted on the
13 DSNY website.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you, Council
16 Member Brewer. I just want to continue piggybacking
17 off of first on NYCHA and then into organics. So one
18 in 17 New Yorkers live in NYCHA, and I'm curious to
19 know what is the buy-in, or if you have that data
20 specifically diversion rates on NYCHA properties and
21 NYCHA campuses as compared to the rest of the city.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, we don't
have that data specifically for NYCHA because they're
collected on this— on the same household routes that
collect the surrounding neighborhoods. But I would

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2 say, to the point you were making earlier, that parts
3 of the city that have higher concentration of NYCHA
4 developments tend to have lower diversion rates. I'm
5 not saying that's because of NYCHA, but that is a
6 correlation there. We have studied NYCHA waste in the
7 past. I think one of our prior waste characterization
8 studies included a subsort for NYCHA, and, you know,
9 I think there are— I'm not going to beat around the
10 bush— there are some very real challenges around
11 waste management generally. And, you know, our
12 priority with NYCHA is keeping their facilities clean
13 and having them be places that, you know, really
14 support the residents that live there. I think we
15 should also focus on recycling, but keeping
16 developments clean is our number one priority.

17 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: And when you say
18 keeping developments clean, can you just elaborate
19 what that means from the DSNY standpoint when it
20 comes to NYCHA?

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, I think
just making sure that residents understand how and
where to put out their trash and are doing so
properly. In the past, there have been a lot of
issues with people just not knowing how to do it. As

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2 Councilmember Brewer mentioned, a lot of the chutes
3 are like this big. You can't fit anything in a chute
4 that big. And so then people are forced to bring
5 their trash bags downstairs. Do they put them by the
6 door? Do they put them by the fire hydrant on the
7 street? I think NYCHA has done a much better job now
8 of being very specific with residents about what to
9 do with the trash that doesn't fit in the chute, what
10 to do if the chute's broken, which happens pretty
11 frequently. And so I think that's gotten better, and
12 that has been for the past few years where we have
13 focused a lot of our efforts is being very clear
14 about documenting and educating residents around what
15 the proper waste management practices are, and then
16 working with NYCHA staff and sanitation workers to
17 make sure that that's being implemented across the
18 board.

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: So I want to be
20 clear that the- you know, I am a fan of composting
21 and organics. However, when you're looking at
situations like NYCHA where you see, or the city in
general, where you're seeing diversion rates with
recycling are going down year after year after year
after year, I'm curious why organics waste and- the

2 organics waste diversion such a priority for the
3 admin, when our recycling diversion rates are
4 abysmal?

5 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So I don't think
6 our recycling diversion rates are abysmal. We're
7 capturing around 50 percent of the material that
8 could be recycled on any given day. The reason that
9 we're focused on organics diversion is because our
10 capture rate on organics, which is a program that has
11 been in effect for a much shorter period of time, is
12 much lower. We are not capturing nearly 50 percent
13 right now. We think that we can get some really
14 substantial increases in both participation capture
15 and diversion in, you know, short order. And so
16 that's where we're focused. There's also, just from
17 the perspective of the climate and greenhouse gas
18 emissions, that's really where the largest impact is
19 of the waste stream on greenhouse gas emissions is in
20 organic waste. And so if we can maximize diversion
21 there, we can have a greater impact on reducing
climate change.

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: You said- I just
20 want to make sure that I have the data properly. You
21 say that we're capturing 50 percent of our diversion,

2 but on the revised draft SWMP, the waste projections
3 on Table ES9, it says that our diversion rate, if we
4 stick to business as usual, will be 19.6 percent of
5 DSNY managed waste, but if we implement the proposed
6 programs, it'll be 20.6 percent. But you're saying
7 that we have 50 percent diversion rate. Can you
8 explain for everyone that might be looking at this
9 what- where the difference is, where it comes from,
10 and how we can-

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so the
12 difference is that I was referring to the capture
13 rate. So that's specifically for designated
14 recyclable materials, things like comingled paper,
15 cardboard in one stream, and then metal, glass,
16 plastic, and containers and cartons in the other
17 stream. Those materials together make up 32-33
18 percent of all of the waste stream. When we look at
19 just that 32 or 33 percent, we are capturing about-
20 it's usually just under 50 percent of that share. And
21 so 50 percent of 33 percent, roughly 16.5 percent,
that's the sort of traditional recyclable share of
our overall diversion rate.

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2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. So you see,
3 everyone, they're not lying to you. The math works.
4 Okay, going into—

5 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: [interposing]
6 we'll have to do like a whiteboard explainer video.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Yes, please. I'm
8 happy to pull it out. So according to the 2023 Waste
9 Characterization Study, approximately a third of
10 residential waste is organic matter, suitable
11 suitable for composting. What resources would the
12 department need to divert all organic waste from
13 landfills and incinerators? Is there a specific— is
14 there a need for specific facilities, authority, or
15 staffing resources?

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So I think the
17 number one thing that we need is New Yorkers to
18 participate, and that's where our focus is right now,
19 is increasing participation, increasing diversion,
20 and getting more collected material. We have at this
21 moment processing capacity for substantially more
material than we currently collect, so that is not a
constraint on us at this moment. If we were to
collect 100 percent of the organics that are out
there in the waste stream, we would obviously need

2 more capacity, and that's where facilities like a
3 potential future Rikers compost facility would come
4 in. And as we have the good problem of New Yorkers
5 separating too much organic waste, we will work with
6 City Council on identifying where and how to build
those facilities.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: What are the major
8 obstacles that the department encounters when trying
to improve diversion rates?

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I think the enca-
10 I think the challenges that we encounter are, you
11 know, pretty obvious. There's, I think, just general
12 apathy around, you know, doing the right thing. And I
13 think that's something that we've struggled with the
14 most. There are much more solvable problems, which is
15 giving people the tools to do the right thing,
16 telling them how to do it. And we have focused a lot
17 on those areas in the past, making sure that, for
18 example, every apartment building out there has their
19 required recycling receptacles in the required
20 places, making sure that they have a brown bin and
21 they're using the brown bin. That's sort of the first
step. But, you know, actually changing behavior and
getting people to stop and think about what should I

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2 do with this thing that I want to throw away? Which
3 bin does it go in? And why do— why should I do that?
4 I think that's the more challenging area and that's
5 somewhere that we have more work to do.

6 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: And you just
7 mentioned the brown bins. Given that organics make up
8 a third of our waste, do you think that the brown
9 bins that we currently have are appropriately sized
10 to capture all of the organics suitable for
11 composting in a household?

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So we have in the
13 past given out free brown bins to both single-family
14 homeowners all the way up to apartment buildings.
15 That's not something that we currently do, because
16 buildings are required to buy their trash cans. They
17 should also be required to just buy their brown bins.
18 You can go to Home Depot today and get
19 department-branded NYC bins in various different
20 sizes for your organics. You can have one, two,
21 three, four and take whatever approach is right for
you.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Can the agency
provide a timeline for when it would be able to
achieve 100 percent or close, you know, a suitable

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2 number of organic— of diversions of organics from
3 landfills and incinerators? Or is there an organics
4 diversion rate that the agency anticipates that we
5 can hold you accountable for in 10 years?

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I think we would
7 love to get to a capture rate that's similar to
8 traditional curbside recyclables. I think if we were
9 able to do that over the course of the next few
10 years, that would be a win.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. And how
12 specifically does DSNY plan to increase organics
13 recycling access for NYCHA residents?

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So we've done a
15 lot of work with NYCHA to make sure that they have
16 brown bins that residents can use. We have cited our
17 orange bins, the smart composting bins at NYCHA
18 developments in many cases, and done specific
19 outreach to NYCHA residents to make sure that they,
20 you know, can download the app on their phone, that
21 they know how to use it, that they— that, you know,
everyone who has a smart bin in their neighborhood
knows what they're there for. I actually compost
personally with a smart bin because I find it super
easy to just drop it in on the way to daycare in the

2 morning. So that's been, I think, our number one
3 approach. We also work with NYCHA a lot on the amount
4 of yard waste that they generate. So things like
5 leaves, grass clippings, and other plant material.
6 They have actually an incredible amount of green
7 space. And if we can capture the yard waste that
8 they're generating, that can make a really big
9 impact. And so we focused a lot on their leaves
10 during leaf season, making sure that they're bagging
11 them separately and that we're actually picking it up
12 separately.

13 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Curious, has there
14 been any dedicated outreach to NYCHA residents about,
15 you know, being a groundskeeper or a, you know,
16 organics lead or a recycling lead? Is there any
17 conversation or any programs that exist like that?

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Nothing that I'm
19 aware of that currently exists. I am just a week back
20 into this, so, you know, I will dig into that more,
21 and if there aren't programs like that, I'm happy to
work with you to set them up. Oh, and we do have—
Kate reminds me, a program that we set up a few years
ago called the Clean Buildings Training, which is
specifically focused on giving people the tools to

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2 basically set up their building recyclables properly.
3 So we do work with NYCHA staff to host that training.
4 At the end of the training, everyone gets a
5 certificate that I sign myself that, you know,
6 certifies them as a trained clean buildings employee.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Okay, cool. I would
8 love to see an expansion of these programs to really
9 see NYCHA residents get a true workforce development
10 program from DSNY with NYCHA residents. Something
11 that I have seen in my own community is if you
12 empower the local NYCHA residents with things to do,
13 the other community members end up really falling
14 behind, especially if you have your TA leaders or
15 your presidents doing that. So if you can connect
16 folks, you know, I think we can see an increase,
17 hopefully, knock on wood, in diversion rates if we
18 really start integrating local community. You have
19 mentioned Rikers Island. Curious, outside of Rikers
20 Island, are there any plans to construct additional
21 composting facilities similar to Fresh Kills, and if
22 so, would these facilities be designed to accept both
23 commercial and residential organic food?

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So right now we
25 operate just the Staten Island Compost Facility,

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2 which is next to the former Fresh Kills Landfill. We
3 don't have sites identified at this time for
4 additional food and yard waste composting facilities.
5 We would love to work with City Council to identify
6 where those could go. It's not particularly easy to
7 site and permit a new facility, waste management
8 facility. Even though these are compost sites, they
9 are waste management facilities, and there are a lot
10 of requirements under both the state regulations and
11 local zoning that apply there. And so if we can work
12 together to identify where those sites could be,
13 we're happy to do so.

14 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. And then one
15 of the things that I have been very curious about and
16 reading through the SWMP is, if I'm not mistaken,
17 restaurants have a four percent organics diversion
18 rate, which seems absolutely outrageous to me. Are
19 there any initiatives understanding why the diversion
20 rate is so low when it comes to restaurants? Are
21 there any initiatives to increase that? And are
there any plans that have been seen either in New York or
in other cities in the US or around the world that
have been able to work with restaurants and really
dive into the circular economy?

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2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so I think
3 commercial waste zones first and foremost will have a
4 big impact there, because one of the requirements is
5 that carters charge less for composting and recycling
6 than they charge for trash collection. So there's a
7 direct financial incentive for businesses to separate
8 more, both traditional recyclables and food waste.
9 One of the things that I think has held us back here
10 is that the sort of legal framework is very
11 complicated. There are requirements around which
12 restaurants are required to separate organic waste.
13 It's a square footage requirement. It's not easy for
14 restaurants to know, am I supposed to do it? Do I
15 have to do it? Am I not required? So one of the
16 things we'd love to work with the council on is just
17 streamlining that and making it so that every
18 food-related business has to separate their organic
19 waste. We think that's a pretty straightforward thing
20 to do, and you know, timing it around the rollout of
21 commercial waste zones, I think would be the right
way to go forward.

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Luckily, I have my
20 legislative director right in the front row, just
21 taking copious amounts of notes.

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2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: We're happy to
3 work with your office and with the Committee Counsel
4 to get that moving.

5 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: And speaking about
6 these partnerships, has the DSNY considered
7 public-private partnerships to help construct
8 composting facilities? And if so, can you describe
9 the type and construct of partnerships demonstrating
10 opportunities for success?

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so many of
12 our recycling and composting facilities are
13 public-private partnerships. They're either
14 facilities on public land that are built by private
15 entities like our Sunset Park MRF, or they're
16 facilities that are operated by public- or by private
17 entities like the Staten Island Compost Facility. So
18 there's a lot of precedent there for public-private
19 partnerships, and it's something that we are
20 certainly dedicated to expanding. We also did just
21 last Thursday, cut the ribbon on a new composting
facility, more community scale. Although, you know,
certainly larger than your average community garden
compost facility. This is in Gowanus at the new Salt
Lot in partnership with Big Reuse and Gowanus Canal

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2 Conservancy. I think that model of sort of mid-scale
3 compost facility, I think is great because it allows
4 people to get hands-on with the material. They can
5 see the food waste and the yard waste going in on one
6 end. They can see the finished compost coming out the
7 other end, and really participate in composting in
8 real time. And so I think we would like to explore
9 ways to expand that.

10 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: I have never heard
11 something more Gowanus in my life. What specifically
12 will DSNY do to ensure that our waste management
13 practices do not intensify the burdens associated
14 with biosolids derived from sewer sludge that is
15 produced via the digestion processes?

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So, I think first
17 and foremost, DEP is responsible for the biosolids
18 management program. The SWMP does account for
19 biosolids. We are required to under the DEC
20 regulations, but we did a lot of engagement with DEP,
21 but they are the sort of lead there. So we just
22 incorporated their planning and approach in the plan.
23 Jen, anything else you want to say there?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MCDONNELL: I will say
25 that that is one section that we updated post-first

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2 draft, both based on public comment and input and

3 also DEP's revisions to this section, as the

4 Commissioner mentioned. Though, that portion of the

5 plan was updated to reflect some of the concerns

6 expressed through the comments, but also the changing

regulatory landscape for that material.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. My last
8 question in organics: if we do increase the organics,
9 waste tonnage by 20 percent, how would this impact
existing contract obligations and costs?

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So I think, you
11 know, as I said before, we have sufficient capacity
12 to increase the amount of organics that we are
13 diverting by a good share. You know, I will say just
14 very bluntly that, you know, the organics processing
15 is not cheaper than disposal. So, simply moving food
16 waste from the trash stream into the organic stream
17 doesn't in and of itself save money. I think as we
18 expand the program and as we achieve greater and
19 greater diversion, there could be some economies of
20 scale that we generate there, and you know, to the
21 extent that we can use city facilities to manage our
organic waste, obviously that's something that can
save us money.

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2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you, and I
3 would like to welcome Council Member Hanif, and also
4 turn the mic over.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you, Chair,
6 and welcome, Commissioner Anderson. It's really great
7 to see you, and I'm super excited by the salt lot
8 opening up and Big Reuse, Gowanus Canal Conservancy
9 operating that composting facility. All good stuff. I
10 want to continue the line of questioning around
11 organics. How is the department ensuring
12 accessibility of the program for seniors and people
13 with disabilities?

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So, you know, the
15 program is today available citywide. Every single
16 residential property in New York City has once a week
17 curbside collection, and as we rolled the program
18 out, we did offer free brown bins to every resident
19 who wanted one. So we gave folks the opportunity to
20 sort of request the bins, and then we delivered the
21 bins ahead of the rollout of that program. So I think
that's the sort of top thing that we've done. Our
focus right now is on people who live in apartment
buildings and making sure that their building
management is giving them the opportunity to

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2 participate, and if they are not, anyone can call
3 311. We'll send out outreach staff and if necessary
4 enforcement.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: And has there been
6 anything more specific to ensuring that seniors and
7 folks with disabilities have bin access, are
8 compliant with their building?

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: We haven't had any
10 specific programs focused on seniors, but I'm happy
11 to work with you on what that could look like.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Got it. And then
13 the same for, like, in terms of outreach to seniors
14 and people with disabilities, would be very curious
15 what the engagement has been.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, I think
17 there's definite opportunity there to do outreach,
18 particularly through our senior centers and older
19 adult centers, but to my knowledge, we have not
20 specifically done that at this time.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Okay, good to know.
In my district, we partnered with Techfin, a
nonprofit that collects laptops from corporations.
They also collect desktop computers. They repair the
machines and then distribute them to low-income

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2 households. We distributed laptops to our adult
3 literacy classes and would really love to know what
4 opportunities are currently underway with the
5 commercial sector to create a more circular economy
6 for valuable materials like hardware, used hardware,
7 rather than condemning materials to simple e-waste
8 collection?

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I think that's
10 something that we would love to do more on. I think
11 once we have commercial waste zones fully rolled out,
12 we'll have a much better picture of the material that
13 commercial businesses are actually generating. And we
14 will have a much closer relationship with those
15 businesses because we'll have only three carters per
16 zone who are offering service rather than several
17 dozen. So I think there's definitely a potential and
18 a captive audience there, and we'd love to
19 collaborate on expanding something like that.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: And then does the
21 department see an opportunity to expand commercial
waste circularity from e-waste to furniture?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I think there is
certainly a potential there. We, wherever possible,
it's better to reuse durable goods than to just

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2 recycle them. So, certainly we would want to work
3 with the reuse entities like Goodwill, like Big Reuse
4 and others to try to maximize the amount of material
that is reusable that is getting reused.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: And then on
6 construction and demolition waste- so, the draft SWMP
7 includes several proposals to increase reuse and
8 recycling of construction and demolition waste,
9 estimated at two million tons of material per year.
10 Could you share if the department has considered
11 comprehensive reform of this industry by setting
12 rigorous standards for working conditions, safety,
13 recycling, and community impacts?

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So we- I mean, we
15 certainly have considered it in the past. It's never
16 been something that we've sort of put pen to paper on
17 as far as drafting legislation. And, you know, I- my
18 focus currently is on completing the implementation
19 of commercial waste zones by the end of next year.
20 After we get that done, I think we would be very
21 interested in turning to the construction demolition
collection and processing industry. You know, we do
have for the first time ever, a number of initiatives
in the SWMP around C&D material, and, you know,

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2 we're- I think it's an area that we're excited to do
3 more with. And yeah, I think more conversations to
4 come, and we're happy to sit down with you and talk
through what that could look like.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Wonderful, thank
6 you.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much.
8 And thank you for bringing up C&D. I want to know- so
9 C&D is responsible for approximately half of the
10 city's overall waste production, and we know with the
11 current admin, the former admin, and just the general
12 housing crisis that we in- that we are in, it's all
13 about building. And when you build, you're going to
14 have construction and debris. And we just approved a
15 brand new project in the South Bronx that's going to
16 even bring more construction, construction
17 everywhere. And so I would like to know- you know,
18 even though it's regulated by the city's Business
19 Integrity Commission, from the agency's perspective,
20 can you describe some of the most effective ways to
21 reduce C&D waste production? And what, if at all,
will be the agency's role in trying to implement
these programs?

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2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so I think,
3 you know, there are- there are both builders and
4 haulers out there right now that do a really good job
5 of sustainable deconstruction and recycling of
6 construction demolition waste. There's a C&D
7 processing facility/material recovery facility in
8 Brooklyn that I think is certainly at the top of the
9 pack here in New York City. There are also many
10 facilities that, you know, simply take in material.
11 They pull out, you know, whatever metal products that
12 they can, and a lot of the rest just goes to
13 landfill. That's certainly not what we want to see.
14 But we don't have a great regulatory framework at
15 this moment around, you know, capturing more of the
16 material that can be recycled. So I think that's
17 something that we are sort of starting to look at in
18 this SWMP and will continue to refine as we move to
19 implementation.

20 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: C&D was left out-
21 was exempt from Local Law 199. I'm curious as to the
appetite to bring it into compliance. If not, or were
there specific policy reasons from the agency's
perspective in which leaving C&D out of 199 is for a
particular reason?

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, I think that
3 the focus of Local Law 199 was on the sort of
4 curbside collection, curbside and containerized
5 collection of waste generated inside of businesses.
6 It's a much more predictable stream because those
7 businesses are open all year long. They're putting
8 out waste several times a week. With construction
9 demolition debris, it's a much more sort of itinerant
10 type of generation where, you know, you may have a
11 building that's going up for a few months or a few
12 years in one location, and then that generation stops
13 once the building's done. There's no more
14 construction demolition waste. So, the sort of zoned
15 model didn't necessarily apply as easily to the
16 construction industry. But it's something that we're
17 happy to dig into more with you. I will say because
18 it's a place that has so much emphasis from- both
19 from the mayor's office and from the City Council as
20 far as building affordably. We want to be very
21 careful about introducing new regulations that
increase the cost of construction. And so I think
that's something that we will be very attuned to as
we explore these options going forward.

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2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Appreciate it. I
3 think a lot of the costs are associated more on the
4 maintenance and the insurance cost for buildings, not
5 necessarily the construction piece. And speaking of
6 construction a lot of what we're trying to do with
7 C&D is talking about how we recycle and reuse
8 materials. I'm curious, has there been any research,
9 or if you can share with us the research on the use
10 of these recycled materials and their lifespan as
11 opposed to other materials, how they shape up
12 compared to other building materials, if you have
13 those? I know you're not DOB. So I'm very aware of
14 the limitations you might have. But as we're looking
15 at these reuse and recycle rates, have we been
16 looking at the data further before we, you know, move
17 full steam ahead in doing all of these, you know,
18 great reuse and recycle ideas? But, will that make
19 our buildings worse off?

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah. So I know
21 we've participated in industry working groups around
a couple different products specifically. I know
we've done some work around concrete. We've also done
some work around gypsum wallboard, and that's
something that Kate and her team have been involved

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2 in. Kate, I don't know if there's anything specific
3 you want to add there. But that's, I think, an area
4 that the industry is really putting a lot of work
5 into. We are, you know, more a stakeholder there
6 rather than the primary convener. But, you know,
7 certainly hear the point you're making, and we'll
8 take that into account. We also have a waste
9 characterization study for the commercial waste
10 industry that is-

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: [interposing] My
12 next question.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: that is currently
14 scheduled for 2032.

15 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: We have an update
16 where we are on that? Have you guys started the
17 process yet, or you just-

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: [interposing] We
19 have not. We have a residential waste
20 characterization study in between that's due in 2028,
21 so that will be our first focus, and then we'll shift
to the commercial study after that, but that will
look at both the commercial waste zones commercial
waste as well as the construction demolition waste.

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2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much. I
3 would like to now turn it over to Council Member
4 Chanel Thomas-Henry.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Thank you,
6 Chair. How are you doing today? I have a couple of
7 questions surrounding illegal dumping. Are there any
8 new ways of catching individuals? I know you have the
9 cameras and you can catch the license plates, but in
10 my district particularly, we have a lot of dumping
11 where individuals are literally- they may not be
12 driving the car, they're taking it from their homes
13 and just dropping them in places. Is there any way to
14 crack down on those type of offenders? And how
15 successful has the program been with capturing the
16 license plates?

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so the
18 illegal dumping camera program, which largely ramped
19 up under my predecessor, Jesse Tish in 2022, has been
20 very successful. I don't have the camera numbers in
21 front of me, but, you know, we have a couple hundred
cameras across the city. We have really increased the
amount of enforcement that we're able to do on
illegal dumping. We also worked with you all in the
City Council to increase the penalties for illegal

2 dumping, which I think has had a big impact on
3 encouraging folks not to do it in the first place. So
4 I think there's a lot of good news there, and we're
5 happy to share more with you on how that's gone. One
6 of the things that we're looking at now is how do we
7 make the cameras more adaptable? Because right now,
8 you know, you spend a lot of money, you put a camera
9 up in one place, once that camera is there and people
10 know it's there, they're going to avoid it. So we're
11 looking at ways that we can use mobile cameras, and
12 you know, really increase the sort of breadth of that
13 program without spending a lot more money. Yeah, 334
14 cameras citywide. As far as the other kind of
15 dumping, which we technically refer to as improper
16 disposal because it's not done with the vehicle, it
17 doesn't have the higher \$4,000 penalty, you know,
18 that is very challenging for us to enforce, because
19 we either have to see someone doing it or we have to
20 very manually open up the bags, see if there's any
21 identifying information inside, like a piece of mail
or an Amazon box or something like that. We certainly
do that, and do write tickets based on that, but it
is much more laborious than the illegal dumping
cameras.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: So with the
3 illegal dumping award program, are individuals who
4 actually catch people, be it the individuals who may
5 not be in a vehicle, are they able to testify and do
6 the affidavit if there is no vehicle involved?

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So if there's no
8 vehicle involved, currently no.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: But that's
11 something that I would love to expand both the
12 affidavit program for illegal dumping from vehicles
13 as well as other citizen enforcement programs. I
14 think there's a great model at DEP that has been very
15 successful on commercial idling that I'd love to
16 explore how we could bring that into the sanitation
17 sector.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Okay. And
19 last question- with the fine, like I know with the
20 award program, half the fine would go to the person
21 who helps- who captures it. Currently when the
cameras catch someone, does half- do half the award
go into more sanitation pickups in that particular
district or additional cleanups, or how is the- how

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2 are the funds dispersed? Do they go into a general
3 pot?

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah. So right now
5 those fines that are paid are going into the general
6 fund.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So they're not
9 being reinvested specifically in the areas that have
10 the cameras, but it's something that I think we would
11 love to have a conversation with you about and with
12 OMB about how we could potentially stand something
13 like that up.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much.
16 And I'd like to turn it over back again to Council
17 Member Zhuang.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thank you, Chair
19 and Commissioner, in my district I have a lot of
20 seniors coming to my office saying they are not able
21 to go to buy those garbage bins city required. And
then they order online last year, they still never
get it. In the same time, they get tickets. And my
office helped them to find those garbage bins in Home
Depot, but they don't deliver. Is any- city has any

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2 program to help those seniors, probably some disabled
3 people too, with those needs? My office actually had
4 a constituent service person went to the store with
5 the constituent, bought that thing, bring to his
6 home. For our office to do that for every single
7 constituent, that's impossible. Is Sanitation has any
8 program to help those people?

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so first, I
10 know prior to when I started, there were some issues
11 with the NYC bins and with the contractor making
12 deliveries that they were required to. I'm happy to
13 say that every single order that was placed before
14 the online orders were suspended last fall has been
15 made as of March 30th of this year. So all of those
16 orders have been fulfilled. The new model going
17 forward is that they are available at retail at Home
18 Depot. We're also happy to work with you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: They don't
20 deliver.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I'm going to get
there in one second. We're also happy to work with
you if there are other community hardware stores or
other facilities that want to sell the bins, we're
happy to make them available through those retailers.

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2 And then the last thing is they are available via
3 delivery through online delivery partners that Home
4 Depot has partnered with, things like Uber and
5 Instacart, and I think there's a third one. I, you
6 know, I'm on day eight here, and you know, have not
7 been super pleased by how this program has sort of
8 evolved over the last six months, and so would be
9 happy to dig in with you on if there are specific
10 ways that we can make bins available to your
11 community members, particularly seniors and people
12 with disabilities.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Yeah, seniors,
14 probably they need the most. And also for Reso 125,
15 what's the cost of this? And can this- can this
16 institution shoulder it for Reso 125?

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: We don't have a
18 specific cost for the resolution, but you know, I'm
19 sure we'd be happy to work with CUNY and SUNY on what
20 that cost would look like.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Okay, because, I
think it's a good idea, but I worry the cost is too
big. And also for-

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: [interposing]
Yeah, and I'll just say that we already have curbside

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2 collection in every neighborhood in New York City so
3 that there isn't really a substantial cost for
4 sanitation to provide the service, but there would be
5 some cost on the CUNY and SUNY side just as far as
6 making sure that they're- that they have the bins
7 that they need, that they have the training that they
8 need in order to be able to separate properly.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: So in the- before
10 we talk about the West Transfer Station, we will have
11 the commercial waste transfer- waste come to, like,
12 all the waste transfer stations, especially the one
13 near me. What's the measurement you guys have to make
14 sure those commercial trucks follow rules? And how-
15 if they don't follow the rule, what's the penalty
16 there? How the community monitor that?

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so, as I
18 mentioned before, we do not have explicit plans today
19 to accept commercial waste at the MTSs. It's
20 something that we are going to start exploring once
21 Commercial Waste Zones is fully rolled out at the end
of next year, and as we explore what that could look
like, we're happy to work with you and other
community stakeholders to do that in a way that works
for the community. I will say that under Commercial

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2 Waste Zones, we have an incredible amount of
3 regulatory authority over the private haulers. We
4 actually receive their, like, minute-by-minute GPS
5 pings. We know where all of their trucks are at every
6 time of the day. We can really crack down on unsafe
7 driving, crack down on emissions, crack down on
8 failure to separate recyclables and all kinds of
9 things that previously it's been very difficult for
10 the city to enforce. And so I think that's the real
11 promise of the commercial waste zones program and one
12 that I'm excited to realize at the end of next year.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Will that increase
14 the cost for small business owners?

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: We've actually
16 seen that the rates have not gone up as a result of
17 the implementation of commercial waste zones and in
18 some cases have actually decreased because we're
19 implement- implementing a system that is incredibly
20 efficient with only three carters operating in each
21 zone. The carters can have much more efficient routes
and operations. And so they're passing along those
savings to businesses.

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thank you.

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2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you, Council
3 Member Zhuang. Briefly touching on street
4 cleanliness, can the agency conduct a pilot to
5 install multi-stream recycling stations throughout
6 the city to improve recycling opportunities for
7 people navigating city streets like they have in
8 Paris? If so, when could that program— type of
9 program be carried out, or do you see that as not a
10 part of the New York City scope of sanitation
11 services?

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So when we have
13 had public space recycling programs in the past, just
14 to be very frank, they have not been successful in
15 places where we have had public recycling litter
16 baskets next to regular litter baskets. The material
17 in both baskets looks exactly the same, and so, you
18 know, I think that's just because of the sort of
19 budget constraints and operational realities, the
20 department has moved away from those public space
21 recycling receptacles. I think it's, you know— I
think there's more work to be done here, but litter
baskets make up such a very small share of the amount
of waste that we collect in total that I don't know

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2 that it's where I'd focus our limited resources if I
3 had to pick and choose.

4 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. And passing
5 it back over to Council Member Brewer.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you. Just
7 two quick questions. One is just to describe the
8 incinerator. I know there are people in the audience
9 who will bring it up. Where does it make sense? Where
10 does it not make sense? I know in the past we're just
11 not ready for massive incinerators in our kitchens,
12 and so I wanted to understand commercial,
13 residential, etcetera. And second, batteries-
14 obviously when you have your Union Square event, it's
15 the biggest event of the year and we bring our
16 batteries. But generally, I know I work with Lower
17 East Side, and Christine [sic] can't take the
18 batteries, etcetera. So I just want to know what- I
19 think people just throw them in the wrong place. I
20 wanted to ask about that. And then just finally, the
21 company that used to take cartridges for computers no
longer does. So you can bring them back to the store,
but I do think that's something that should be looked
at. I have a horrible feeling some of the cartridges
are also going in the wrong place.

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2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so on the
3 first piece, I think you were referring to the
4 in-sink aerators, the food disposers in your sink.
5 Yeah. So those are- on the residential side, they are
6 perfectly legal in New York City. I think DEP has
7 some thoughts on whether or not they should be the
8 sort of broad-based solution.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: They do. They do.

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: And I can't speak
11 to DEP's opinions there, but if a resident wants to
12 have an- I don't know the non-brand name for them,
13 but an in-sinkerator in their house, they certainly
14 can. You know, I think there are always concerns
15 around the sewer system and its capacity-

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [interposing]
17 Correct.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: and fatbergs [sic]
19 and things like that that we have to be mindful of.
20 And so even if you have an in-sinkerator, you
21 shouldn't put grease down your sink, for example. But
you know, I'm not going to sort of weigh in on
whether that's a thing we should expand. Remind me
what the-

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [interposing]
3 Batteries, batteries.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Batteries, yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Cartridges and all
6 that.

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yep. So, for
8 batteries and e-waste, generally those are regulated
9 under state law. The battery law was updated last
10 year, I think, in part to address some really
11 significant safety issues and concerns around fires
12 both in our trucks and at the recycling facilities. I
13 think there's more work we can do there around
14 giving-- around making the people who manufacture and
15 sell batteries be responsible for the end of life of
16 those batteries and offer convenient collection
17 options. The same is true with all kinds of e-waste.
18 You know, that state law went into effect in 2015 and
19 has not been updated since then. I think it's time
20 for a fresh look at that state law to make sure that
21 we are giving New Yorkers enough opportunity to
recycle their e-waste properly.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, because I
just would--

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2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: And that should
3 be the responsibility of the people who make the
4 product.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yeah, I mean, with
6 the batteries, I'm very conscious of the batteries.
7 They're, you know, blowing up in your homes and in
8 the trucks. But then you also have the batteries for
9 the flashlight and so on. And I'm just letting you
10 know, in general, the battery issue could use some
11 help so that people don't put them in the wrong
12 place. And I think they are. We can't take them to
13 the normal Lower East Side Ecology Center. They don't
14 accept them, understandably. So I'm just saying we
15 need to think about that. And also this cartridge
16 store that used to take back cartridges no longer
17 does. Something to keep working on. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Okay.

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Yes, just piggyback
20 off of that, we just had a massive battery fire on
21 Saturday with a number of families homeless right in
the part of the district. So this is a really huge
issue that we're seeing all around the city. Speaking
about residential, MSW, our favorite. Has DSNY
studied the feasibility of a save-as-you-throw or a

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2 pay-as-you-throw mechanism for the collection of
3 residential waste? Oh, and before I continue on with
4 my questions, I am so sorry, I want to make sure that
5 I am acknowledging, our Council Member Ung. So, has
6 the DSNY studied the feasibility of a
7 save-as-you-throw or pay-as-you-throw mechanism for
8 the collection of residential waste? If so, what were
9 the findings, and what are the greatest obstacles?
10 And then has- in addition to that, has DSNY consulted
11 with other municipalities on their program
12 frameworks? And if so, which locations have you
13 consulted and what programs do you think are most
14 applicable to New York City?

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So no, we have
16 not formally studied save-as-you-throw or
17 pay-as-you-throw model for New York City. We have,
18 particularly in the context of expanding waste
19 containerization, have been in touch with many, many
20 cities across the United States, across South
21 America, Europe, Asia, etcetera, and in the course of
those conversations have talked about both
containerization and sort of fee models for waste
collection. You know, I think there are- there's a
broad spectrum of how different cities deal with this

2 issue. Cities like New York City have the entire
3 waste collection model built into city tax levy.
4 There are many, many other cities that do that as
5 well. Some cities, particularly in the US, if you
6 think of more like sunbelt cities like Houston and
7 places like that where there isn't the same density
8 and everything is collected in containers, they
9 charge a per container fee for waste collection
10 services. And so I think there's a lot of different
11 approaches that folks take, but we have not at this
12 point formally studied, save-as-you-throw model for
13 New York City.

14 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Are there any
15 opportunities to leverage competitive bidding or
16 alternative disposal methods to reduce the average
17 cost per ton?

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I think there are
19 certainly opportunities for bidding. But, you know,
20 with the both increasing regulation and decreasing
21 regional capacity for waste disposal, I don't think
that our disposal costs are going to decrease anytime
soon.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Speaking of the
cost, does— what role, if any, does the waste volume

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2 play in contract pricing? And then how are contracts
3 structured to account for potential fluctuations?

4 Like, for example, any contracts that we may or may
5 not have, will that be the same in terms of tonnage
6 when we have the World Cup coming with all these
7 people?

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so our
9 contracts are built with a tremendous amount of
10 flexibility in them so that, you know, in the case of
11 Hurricane Sandy, for example, which created hundreds
12 of thousands of tons of unexpected household waste
13 and demolition debris, our contracts were able to be
14 able to take that material, and we were also able to
15 stand up emergency contracts as well to be able to
16 take additional material. So, you know, we have the
17 ability if we need to, to manage the waste that New
18 Yorkers are generating. But, you know, on a
19 day-to-day basis, we can, you know, when big events
20 happen, we have certainly enough capacity to be able
21 to handle those big events. As far as how the
contract pricing is structured, nearly all of the
contracts have a sort of a two-tiered pricing
structure. There is a fixed rate that is-- that sort
of accounts for the things that don't change as the

2 amount of waste changes. That's contractor staff
3 operating the cranes at the MTSS. That's the sort of
4 capital cost of purchasing the rail cars and the
5 containers and things like that that have to be
6 purchased up front and don't really fluctuate. Then
7 there's separately a volume-based charge, or variable
8 rate, that's charged on a per-ton basis, and that
9 covers actually disposing of the material at the
10 final disposal location.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: And can you- if you
12 have this readily available, can you compare the cost
13 per ton in New York compared to other major cities
14 that follow our similar tax levy model? It'll be
15 unfair if you're talking about Houston or something?

16 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Yeah, I don't have
17 cost per ton in front of me for other cities. I think
18 to be very blunt, the model that we have here in New
19 York City is not cheap, but it is not cheap because
20 we've designed it to be incredibly resilient and
21 reliable and to containerize waste. You know, putting
trash in a sealed shipping container and moving it by
barge and rail is a more expensive option, but it's
one that we've deliberately chosen because it is the

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2 more sustainable option than trucks in overburdened
3 neighborhoods.

4 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. And
5 speaking of waste diversion, one of the most
6 effective ways the city can address the various
7 impacts of our waste is to reduce the overall amount
8 that becomes waste. So what are the most important
9 steps that the agency will take to minimize waste
10 produced by residents, institutions, and businesses
11 over the next 10 years?

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so again, I
13 think a statewide EPR program is the best step we can
14 take to reduce the amount of waste that we're
15 generating. The EPR program as proposed in state
16 legislature would require companies to both reduce
17 the amount of packaging that they generate, make it
18 more recyclable, and would provide funding for
19 recycling outreach and education programs so that we
20 can do even more work to educate New Yorkers about
21 how to recycle and the importance of recycling.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Can you speak more
about when specifically the department will be
carrying out this work? Are there any identified
timelines?

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2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so I— much
3 of the work is already ongoing. These are programs
4 that the department operates on a regular basis, and
5 many of the new initiatives in the SWMP are sort
6 tailored to identifying new opportunities, developing
7 new programs, taking on pilots. So that will start as
8 soon as the final SWMP is approved by October.

9 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Can the agency
10 commit to a non-renewal of contracts for the
11 incineration of waste?

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: No.

13 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: What does the agency
14 perceive as obstacles to making this commitment?

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So I think that
16 the greatest obstacle we have is that New Yorkers
17 continue to generate waste and we have an obligation
18 to deal with it. So, you know, I think it would be a
19 failure on my side if we collected waste and didn't
20 have somewhere to put it. You know, the reality of
21 waste disposal is that there are two options in the
United States. Those two options are either
waste-to-energy facilities or landfills. Neither are
good options, to be clear. Both have— the facilities
that we use today, both have some amount of energy

2 capture that happens, either from landfill gas or
3 from waste energy which generates electricity. But,
4 you know, I think we would love to live in a world
5 where we don't rely on those, but as long as New
6 Yorkers create trash, we are going to have to
continue disposing of it.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: And how does the
8 agency reconcile the health and environmental impacts
9 of incineration with the city's present reliance on
waste incineration?

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: You know, I think
11 we, number one, hold our contractors accountable to
12 meeting their regulatory obligations and the permits
13 in the state that those permits are issued, whether
14 that's New Jersey or Pennsylvania or New York or
15 Virginia or South Carolina. So, you know, where we
16 have had instances that individual disposal
17 facilities have not met their permit requirements, we
18 have really pushed the contractors to get back in
compliance and have worked with the regulators to get
them there.

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: What methods has the
20 agency identified as the most effective for diverting
21 waste from incineration? And is there a plan to carry

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2 out this diversion within the next 10 years? Yeah, I
3 think the most effective tools that we have are
4 already in place. That's a mandatory curbside
5 recycling program and a mandatory curbside composting
6 program. The- you know, the next step that we have to
7 take is to work with New Yorkers and educate them on
8 how to participate and make sure that we are actually
9 doing it.

10 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Curious if you
11 performed any analysis or studies of the public
12 health costs of waste incineration incurred by the
13 city, as compared to waste export and incineration,
14 and also compared to a potential 100 percent
15 diversion of waste from incineration. If so, were
16 there any findings?

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So we haven't
18 operated incinerators in New York City since, I
19 think, 1992. So, you know, the specific public health
20 costs here in New York City, I think, are zero. As
21 far as the impact of waste-to-energy facilities
elsewhere, I don't think that's sort of in our remit
as the Department of Sanitation.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. I was
born in 91, so I'm very happy that in my first year

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2 of life we stopped incineration. We were the Chair of
3 Sanitation from the beginning. What is the DSNY's
4 current curbside and containerized diversion rate for
5 full fiscal year '26, based on the 19.4 percent
6 diversion rate from the first four months? And how
7 does it compare to the 28 percent original target?

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so the
9 current curbside and containerized diversion rate is
10 19.8 percent.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Do you know-

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: [interposing] For
13 the first four months.

14 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: For the first four
15 months.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: [inaudible]

17 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: And sorry, I had
18 you at 0.4. Apologies. 19.8.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I think that
20 might- I think that may have been the FY25 final.

21 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Okay. And then do we
know where we see the FY26 final to potentially be?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, I think
we're going to land somewhere around that 19 or 20
percent.

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2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: That's what we've
4 seen so far. And, you know, clearly we'd like to
5 increase that number as much as possible. We think
6 that curbside composting is the place that has the
7 most potential to increase that number, but also
8 would love to see more recycling as well.

9 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Okay, great. Now
10 back to- I don't have any more. Back to commercial
11 waste. Can you provide an update as to when do you
12 think the department expects to complete
13 implementation of all 20 commercial waste zones?

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: End of next year.

15 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: End of next year.
16 December next year, or an earlier, or by the end of
17 December 31st?

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: It will be done in
19 advance of the 31st of December, but we are still- we
20 have not yet promulgated the rules for the last
21 several commercial waste zones, and we expect to do
so in the next couple months.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Okay, so by December
29th, I'll be looking at you. Does DSNY have the

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2 adequate resources and staff to implement the CWZ
3 system citywide?

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: At this time, we
5 do.

6 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great.

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: And we continue to
8 evaluate as the program grows, but at this moment we
9 have the staff we need to continue implementation.

10 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: With this current
11 staff and with the current fees and the pay schedule,
12 do you think that the budget and the admin fees
13 currently paid by the CWZ awardees are sufficient
14 enough to enforce the environmental justice, safety,
15 and workers' rights goals of the program?

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: We think they're
17 appropriate for the program that we have today. I
18 think one of the things that as we continue to
19 implement more zones, I think we will be paying a lot
20 of attention to the enforcement resources in
21 particular. And you know, this is not a space that we
have done a lot of enforcement in before. That was
previously the responsibility of the Business
Integrity Commission. So as we take on those

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2 enforcement responsibilities, I think it's something
3 that we'll be very mindful of.

4 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: So the Queens West
5 CWZ implementation phase is listed as TBD. Has the
6 department encountered any issues when planning for
7 this implementation?

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: We haven't
9 encountered any issues. I think there's some market
10 consolidation that's taking place in the commercial
11 waste industry that we are having to account for as
12 we roll out zones to make sure that we're still
13 offering businesses a choice of three carters per
14 zone. And so one of the things that we've been
15 looking at is how do we make sure that, you know, as,
16 carters participate in mergers and acquisitions, that
17 we are then bringing in other options for those
18 zones. And so that's something that's continuing this
19 year. And as we roll out additional zones, we want to
20 make sure that there are three carters available.

21 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Will the department
22 commit to requiring commercial waste data and
23 publishing it on Open Data in the same way data on
24 residential waste is currently published?

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. Can you
3 please outline the steps the department will take to
4 ensure that when recyclable commercial waste is
5 collected, it is routed to a final destination where
6 it can be ultimately reused or recycled? Yeah, so,
7 uh, I think two, two great innovations of commercial
8 waste zones that we've never had before are
9 individual tracking of individual trucks. So, in the
10 GPS system that we have, they're required to not only
11 track the trucks, but tell us what kind of material
12 those trucks are collecting. Second, we have
13 individual dump ticket level data for the first time
14 ever for commercial waste. So we're going from having
15 a very hazy 30,000-foot picture of the commercial
16 waste industry to a very granular, uh, picture of how
17 much material is being generated by whom and where
18 it's going.

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Wow, new eyes on the
20 ground with Sanitation. Has— thank you. Has DSNY
21 worked with any other city or state agencies to
identify methods to reduce the impact of commercial
waste truck traffic on communities surrounding the
waste transfer stations? If so, what methods were

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2 identified and which of these could be feasibly
3 implemented and when?

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, I think
5 we've done a lot of work with the Vision Zero Task
6 Force led by DOT and the Mayor's Office of
7 Operations, in particular around commercial,
8 commercial waste trucks generally, but very
9 specifically, those three parts of the city that I
10 mentioned earlier, South Bronx, North Brooklyn, and
11 Southeast Queens. We also have worked very closely
12 with the Business Integrity Commission, for example,
13 to roll out the requirement for side guards on
14 commercial waste vehicles, to roll out the
15 requirements for emissions retrofits on commercial
16 waste vehicles, both of which were implemented last
17 decade, and as we continue to roll out commercial
18 waste zones, there are requirements there around
19 investments in cleaner trucks, investments in safer
20 trucks, additional safety technology. I think like
21 lights, cameras, cameras, things like that, makew
trucks safer.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: One of the things
that I would love to see, and I have heard that as,
the MTA has transitioned to their electric trucks,

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2 the breakdown times of the trucks, uh, have increased
3 substantially. So before, you know, a lifetime of a
4 bus would be— they wouldn't break down for 10, 15
5 years. Now they're, you know, have to do a repair
6 after two, three years. Has there been any studies
7 looked at into— as we're, you know, increasing the,
8 uh, greenness of our trucks, if you will, the
9 electrification of our trucks. Have there been any
10 studies or understanding on how that transition has
11 affected other cities around the country, or in other
12 countries, and how that factors into any of the new,
13 you know, contracting or procurement that you're
14 doing for new vehicles?

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, I think what
16 we have seen , as we've, uh, implemented more
17 sustainable fleet technologies over the course of the
18 last 20 years is that the more components you put on
19 a truck, the more components that could potentially
20 break. So, you know, I think 15 or, or so years ago,
21 we were rolling out diesel particulate filters for
our trucks. We realized that you have to PM the
diesel particulate filters themselves. Otherwise,
you'll have to down the entire truck when the filter
gets clogged. So I think that's something that— it's

2 a learning curve. It's not necessarily something that
3 makes the trucks less reliable, just an additional
4 step that you have to make sure you're taking. Uh,
5 for electric vehicles, what we've largely seen is
6 because there are fewer moving parts, they actually
7 tend to have better uptime than other vehicles. But
8 then you also do have to take into account things
9 like charging time and other things that are- make
10 them more operationally complex.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Sustainable fleet
12 technology, that's a much nicer way of saying that.
13 As you can tell, I only had one cup of coffee today.
14 What alternative- I want to focus on waste export.
15 What alternative waste management strategies is the
16 department exploring to mitigate rising export costs,
17 uh, and what are the projected savings?

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so again,
19 the best thing we can do to mitigate rising export
20 costs is to divert more waste or reduce the amount of
21 waste we generate entirely. We think that the
extended producer responsibility program currently
being considered by the state legislature is the best
way to do that, and that would also generate

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2 dedicated revenue source for recycling programs and
3 for outreach and education.

4 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: What role do you see
5 organics diversion programs playing in reducing the
6 volume of waste requiring export, and how, if at all,
7 is this reflected in the SWMP cost projections?

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So the organics
9 makes up a third of the waste that we generate today.
10 Um, you know, today we're capturing a small share of
11 that as we increase the share that we capture. Then
12 obviously we're sending less trash to final disposal.
13 I will say at the moment, organics processing is not
14 cheaper than disposal, although again, as we achieve
15 economies of scale, as we continue to expand
16 programs, we hope that dynamic changes in the future.

17 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: How has the SWMP's
18 reliance on borough-based waste management facilities
19 impacted the overall cost of waste export, and what
20 adjustments are being considered?

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So, you know, the—
as I've said a few times, the approach of the 2006
SWAMP was not one sort of crafted around cost as the
primary factor that we were solving for. It was
reducing the impact of waste facilities and waste

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2 trucks on overburdened communities and creating a
3 reliable resilient system that would not be sort of
4 it is certainly not the, the cheapest option we could
5 have taken. It would have been much cheaper to just
6 have, you know, very poorly regulated transfer
7 stations that used truck export and had, you know,
8 material impact on the surrounding communities, but
9 we as a city made a decision that that was not the
10 approach that we wanted to take.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: We're going to get
12 some transportation questions right after this, but
13 my last question on waste export- I want to know what
14 percentage of waste export contracts include price
15 adjustment mechanisms tied to inflation or fuel
16 costs, and how much have these adjustments been added
17 to the city's annual costs?

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so the
19 contracts do include a number of different inflators
20 for various costs, including fuel costs, including,
21 CPI and things like that. So there's an annual, sort
of calculation of what the, the new, both fixed and
variable costs is for each contract. That's a process
that Deputy Commissioner McDonnell's team goes
through every year. And you know, they do fluctuate

2 with market prices. Obviously we have not yet taken
3 into account the current fuel prices that we're
4 experiencing because of the geopolitical situation in
5 the Middle East. But we expect that that will have an
6 impact as well.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. And your
8 favorite topic from 2006, marine waste transfer
9 stations. How has the utilization of marine transfer
10 stations evolved since the 2006 SWMPs adoption, and
11 what operational challenges or efficiency emerged?

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so we think
13 the marine transfer stations have been remarkably
14 successful. They operate really well. They have- you
15 know, there have been some learnings around how those
16 transfer stations were constructed. For example, we
17 had a certain method of constructing the floor at the
18 transfer stations that, you know, I don't think took
19 into account the amount of wear and tear that driving
20 large FELs around would have. And so we had to
21 rebuild the floor at two of the marine transfer
stations because of that. But, you know, I think they
have worked really well. I think in general, what we
hear is that there has been relatively little impact
of the operation of those facilities on the

2 surrounding communities. And where there are impacts,
3 we have done an incredible amount of work to try to
4 mitigate this.

5 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: How has the
6 environmental footprint of waste export changed with
7 the increased reliance on MTSS, and what metrics is
8 the department using to track this?

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so it's from
10 a sort of greenhouse gas emissions perspective, it's
11 much more sustainable to rely on barge and rail
12 transport than it is to use diesel-based truck
13 transport. So that's, I think, the primary indicator
14 that we're looking at is just the overall greenhouse
15 gas footprint of the waste export system. And that
16 has decreased substantially since we started building
17 the rail and barge network 20 years ago. And, you
18 know, I think the more important factor is the burden
19 that these facilities place onto New York City's
20 communities, and I think we have been able to
21 successfully reduce that burden pretty substantially.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: How does the
department evaluate the cost-effectiveness of
marine-based waste export compared to truck-based or
rail-based methods?

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2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So, you know, we
3 don't necessarily evaluate it. We just- we know what
4 the cost of one is versus the other, and we've made a
5 decision that we want to go with the more
6 sustainable, more reliable option.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: What is the current
8 budget allocation for maintaining and upgrading MTSS,
9 and how does this align with projected needs?

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So we have both
11 capital funds for major facility upgrades as well as
12 a dedicated O&M staff at the transfer stations. I
13 don't have the specific sort of total dollar value of
14 that in front of us, but for example, we do have \$59
15 million in capital funding for capital upgrades,
16 equipment, and system replacements at the MTSS over
17 the next five years. So that's, I think, illustrative
18 of the fact that we are investing in those
19 facilities.

20 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. And are
21 all of the existing city-owned MTSS operating at
their full capacity? If not, what are, if any, cost
implications stopping this?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so they-
many of them are not operating at full capacity. The

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2 North Shore and Hamilton Avenue MTSSs, which are in
3 Northeast Queens and Western Brooklyn respectively
4 are probably closest to full capacity, but we don't
5 have any regular capacity constraints at those
6 facilities.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Given that there are
8 no capacity constraints, what can be done to increase
9 capacity at the MTSSs?

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So again, those
11 two--

12 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: [interposing] At the
13 city-owned--

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so those
15 two, North Shore and Hamilton Avenue are operating
16 closer to capacity. So they already operate on
17 multiple shifts and are receiving waste and
18 processing waste on multiple shifts. Other
19 facilities, for example, the East 91st Street MTS,
20 receives waste on multiple shifts but only processes
21 that waste out and actually puts it in boxes, puts
those boxes on barges on one shift a day. So if we
were to see more waste go through that facility, we'd
have to run more shifts in order to accommodate that.

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2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Okay. And of the
3 DSNY-managed waste particularly that is processed
4 through an MTS, what percentage is tipped at
privately owned MTS versus a city-owned MTS?

5 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So there are no
6 privately owned marine transfer stations. There are
7 one, two, three privately owned rail transfer
8 stations. I don't have the exact split in front of
9 me, but- just do the math in my head. It's roughly
10 50/50 between the private rail transfer stations and
the publicly owned marine transfer stations.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Has DSNY performed a
12 cost-benefit analysis of permitting CWZ awardees to
13 tip at one more of the MTSSs, including the cost
14 savings for avoiding unnecessary tolls, labor costs,
and fuel costs? If so, what were any findings?

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so we
16 haven't done a detailed cost analysis yet. Again, we
17 are focused first on implementing the full commercial
18 waste zones program by the end of next year, before
19 December 29th, which is our new deadline. And once we
20 have that implemented and sort of see the industry
21 stabilize, then we will look to the potential for
commercial waste at the MTSSs.

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2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Has the department
3 studied any of the specific savings and costs that
4 both private waste collectors and the city could
5 incur by utilizing the East 91st MTS for commercial
6 waste collected in Midtown? If so, what did the
study reveal?

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Again, we have
8 not. I mean, I think there are one, the cost to- the
9 disposal cost at our facilities is higher than the
10 disposal cost at private facilities. Again, because
11 of the the complexity of the system and the amount of
12 reliability and resiliency that's built into that
13 system. But obviously, you know, it is closer to
14 Midtown than transfer stations in Northern Jersey or
15 North Brooklyn. And so there could be operational
savings on the carter side. We would have to work
with the carters to understand those.

16 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Just getting my
17 notes in order. Okay, let's quickly move into the
18 legislation. Great. And then I'll end with some final
19 questions. But with the legislation, can you describe
20 any operational challenges the city would encounter
21 implementing Intro Number 355?

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2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: No, as I said, we
3 already have curbside compost collection on every
4 street in New York City. So, as additional city
5 facilities join the program and set out waste, we are
6 happy to collect it. There should be little to no
7 operational impact for us. That said, our partner
8 agencies will have to bear some, I think, pretty
9 small startup costs around acquiring bins, acquiring
10 signage, training staff, and just making sure that
11 they have the right systems in place to manage that
waste. But that's mostly a one-time cost and
shouldn't have a really substantial recurring basis.

12 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Speaking of our
13 lovely sister agencies, are they— can you list, or do
14 you know any of the city agencies that are currently
15 known to source separate their organic waste? And can
16 you list the agencies that engage in meal service
that you understand to be covered under this bill?

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so I don't
18 have a full list in front of me, but agencies that
19 are already doing it today— the New York City Public
20 School system separates organic waste at every
21 facility, the Department of Corrections separates
food waste at Rikers Island, and they actually have a

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2 compost facility that we run on Rikers Island for
3 their waste. There are other entities that separate
4 their organic waste as well. There- I can think of
5 off the top of my head a couple of firehouses, a
6 couple of homeless shelters that participate today or
7 have participated at some point in the past. When
8 this bill is implemented, it would cover additional
9 facilities like ACS, senior centers that serve food.
10 Who else? Additional homeless shelters, Health +
11 Hospitals, DYCD, etc. We don't have sort of a full
12 list of everyone who would be in because we have to
13 go agency by agency and understand who's doing that
14 kind of institutional feeding or providing meals. But
15 I think that's what we would focus on over the course
16 of implementation.

14 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: For clarification,
15 when you say New York City Public Schools, is it just
16 our district schools, or are charter schools also
17 included in that as well?

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Charter schools
18 that are in DOE buildings would be participating in,
19 in composting.

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: The camera's not on.
20 Just, you know. Public schools. Can you- what
21

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2 percentage of the city's agencies' workspace is
3 located in a building or location that is owned by
4 the city?

5 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I don't have that
6 number off the top of my head.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: So, for programs
8 like composting, recycling, even in a building like
9 250 Broadway, these buildings do not have the
10 facilities to properly adhere to those regulations
11 that we have set out, making it much difficult for
12 institutions like ours to comply with regulations.
13 What are some of the most common challenges
14 encountered by agencies in buildings like this, and
15 in implementing their recycling programs and their
16 composting programs?

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so I think
18 the- just to use this building as an example, we are-
19 this building is operated by a private landlord. The
20 City Council is a tenant of that landlord. This is a
21 building that I think will benefit greatly from the
rollout of commercial waste zones, and the Lower
Manhattan zone is actually rolling out right now. We
opened up the implementation period on April 1st. It
runs through the end of May. So as this building

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2 identifies their commercial waste zone hauler, that
3 hauler is required to provide information about how
4 to recycle, is required to provide recycling service,
5 to offer composting service. And so we would expect
6 that the building does participate. We will also have
7 a lot more information about which buildings are
8 participating, how much recyclables are being
9 collected so that we can tailor our enforcement and
10 outreach appropriately.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: That's really great.
12 Looking right at the camera at 250 Broadway, I'm
13 looking at you. Has the department taken any
14 additional assistance to help agencies implement
15 organic waste recycling programs where the agency's
16 workspaces are not located in city-owned buildings?
17 Is there a proper planning method, you know, a
18 handbook, a guide?

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so agencies
20 are actually required under a local law from many,
21 many years ago to submit recycling plans to the
department, and we do follow up with them to make
sure that they are submitting those plans. Whether
that's— whether they're in a building that they own
and manage, a building that's owned and managed by

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2 DCAS, or a private facility, they're all required to
3 recycle the same way. Well, actually, they're not
4 required to recycle the same way. In city-collected
5 facilities, it would be separate paper and MGP
6 recycling. In many private buildings, it's
7 single-stream recycling, and so that would be a
8 difference there. But the requirement to recycle is
9 the same.

10 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: So I want to turn to
11 environmental justice, and I will take a point of
12 personal privilege and talk about the Bronx, which if
13 you look at the map- I forget exactly what figure it
14 was. Basically, where you show the environmental
15 justice communities, the entire Bronx is blue,
16 basically. Also on page 30, I believe it was, I have
17 a huge mistake that needs to be corrected. Throgg's
18 Neck is spelled with one G. It is two G's. I refuse
19 to let the Department of Transportation remove our
20 double G's, so I humbly request-

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I think that's
actually the MTA.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: I humbly request- I
don't care what agency it is, we are fighting on

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2 behalf of the Bronx. Please add the extra G to
3 Throgg's Neck.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: We'll make that
5 correction, yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. I'm
7 curious to know how the Department of Sanitation is
8 evaluating its programs and policies for compliance
9 with the Fair Share Act and the CLCPA, the Climate
10 Leadership and Community Protection Act, especially
11 regarding greenhouse gas emissions, waste
12 incinerations, and landfilling, and the placement of
13 waste facilities.

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so we have a
15 long history of being out in front in the siting of
16 facilities, and you know, the sort of core principle
17 of the 2006 SWMP was borough equity so that every
18 borough would be responsible for managing its own
19 waste. We have largely achieved that principle for
20 our residential waste stream, which is something that
21 we're very proud of today. You know, when we are
siting new facilities, we go above and beyond the
requirements of both local and state law around
environmental review, around ensuring that those
facilities are not presenting a new burden for our

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2 local communities, and that's something that we plan
3 to continue.

4 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Speaking of which,
5 in the— go to a few different things. One, Patterson
6 Houses implemented a three-bin compost program, and I
7 wanted to know if there were any updates on how that
8 program is doing or coming along.

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: I don't have
10 updates on that specific program, but I'm happy to
11 find out and get back to you.

12 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great, thank you. I
13 also wanted to know how do we put folks in touch to
14 partner as community retailers for the waste baskets
15 and how we can get our local businesses informed.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so you can
17 reach out through our office and and we're happy to
18 connect the manufacturer of the bins with those local
19 retailers and make sure that they can supply them.

20 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. So I— the
21 Bronx has a number of waste management transfer
station plants, and I'm curious, when are these
contracts contracted until, if we have those dates?

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2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MCDONNELL: The Harlem
3 River Yard transfer station is the primary facility
4 that DSNY contracts with, and that's through 2034.

5 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: 2034. Also, so there
6 is a— the trash that goes from Queens and Brooklyn
7 does a detour into the Bronx, and then transfers from
8 the Bronx to Selkirk. I'm curious if you know what
9 that transfer time looks like on average, how long
the trash or the containers are staying in the Bronx
before they're transferred to Selkirk?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MCDONNELL: We don't
11 know specifically for those trains, but we can find
12 out. It certainly is dependent on time of year and
13 other materials that are moving by rail. We share
14 sometimes a locomotive with other cars. So they get
combined when they're at that yard.

15 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: That would be great,
16 just because I know, and having grown up there my
17 entire life, every summer the smell from the train
18 yard, you know, it's summertime. So, it's curious
19 just to know what that looks like. I'm also curious
20 to know, with the city's waste needing to be
21 transported on water, and given our waterfront
resiliency efforts, especially communities like mine

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2 where I have Hunts Point and entire swaths of the
3 waterfront. How is the agency prepping for climate
4 changes and coastal changes, and has it begun to
5 identify potential issues due to these climate
6 changes?

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so, you
7 know, with a waterfront transportation network,
8 there's obviously concerns around sea level rise and
9 coastal flooding. Where we could, we took into
10 account the new flood maps in the construction of
11 facilities. Obviously for facilities that were
12 constructed before those flood maps were issued,
13 we've had to take other resiliency approaches, either
14 to put like deployable type technology in there or
15 other operational methods to try to protect the
16 facilities in the event of flooding. We do also have
17 our private contractors, both on the MGP and the
18 paper side. Both rely on the water to transport a lot
19 of the product that they process for us. And so
20 that's also a consideration on their side.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. And this
19 is something very personal to me, given that it's not
20 only my district, but this is where I grew up. My
21 childhood memories are here. Third Avenue, the hub, I

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2 have to thank Frank Latera and the entire Sanitation
3 team and Department for all the great work that they
4 have been doing there. I credit the last
5 administration for adding 21 sanitation workers for
6 constant just support in an area that is heavily
7 needed. The city has now just approved another
8 construction project in the middle of the hub, in
9 addition to all the other construction projects that
10 we have. It is a hotspot of development, both
11 construction but also dealing with a number of drug
12 overdose issues, just regular cleanliness in general
13 given the fact that this area, which I don't have to
14 tell you guys, is the most visited place in New York
15 City after Times Square on a daily basis. Yet we have
16 a lack of resources to actually deal with pedestrian
17 traffic and obviously the sanitation needs that come
18 with that. I'm curious what the new admin's plan is
19 for these 21 workers, and given the new construction
20 and everything that has just been approved last week
21 by this new admin, if there's any commitment to
keeping those workers providing the services that
they need to make sure that, you know, the Bronx is
being centered and kept clean in our number one
hotspot area.

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2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so those
3 additional resources are still in place today.
4 They've been continued by the new administration, and
5 we are continuing to evaluate the resource allocation
6 across the entire city as we go through the executive
7 budget process. So I think that's- that's sort of
8 where things stand today.

9 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Is there any way
10 that we can get a commitment or some understanding
11 that the workers and the service- or at least the
12 service of delivery that the workers provided at this
13 level will be sustained throughout this new
14 administration?

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So we are
16 providing that service at that level today, and we're
17 evaluating resource allocations across the city.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Okay, I would like
19 to make sure that we get that on record, especially
20 as, you know, we are still- we have it because we're
21 still in this fiscal year. But I know once the fiscal
year ends, we are not guaranteed. And I would really
love to see a firm commitment by the administration
and really uplifting, you know, EJ communities like
mine that really need the additional support, and

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2 that without the support that you have already done,
3 are— we don't know where we would be. And knowing
4 with the new construction that's being approved by
5 this admin, specifically in this area, the additional
6 help that we will need in addition to the 21 folks
7 that we already have. Finally, but definitely not
8 least, I want to talk about the leadership.

9 Throughout the SWMP there was a number of times that
10 the SWMP set out to establish the department as the
11 leader in the circular economy and urban resource
12 recovery. I really want to talk about what that
13 leadership means to you. I see one of the first
14 projects was to convene a roundtable of folks. And so
15 I want to see what leadership means to you. How do
16 you define leadership in this sense? And what we
17 should be looking at— how we should be looking at
18 you— the city's leadership role in comparison to the
19 rest of the country and the rest of the world.

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah, so I think,
21 leadership to me means being incredibly inclusive,
and that means not only inviting folks to the table
but making sure that their voices are heard at that
table, and that includes everyday New Yorkers who
just care about their neighborhood and want to live

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2 on a clean, beautiful street. That also includes
3 stakeholders and advocates who have been doing
4 incredible work in this sector for many, many
5 decades. And so I think my commitment as far as
6 leadership is to bring those voices to the table,
7 make sure that they're heard, and make sure that
8 we're actually acting on what folks are saying. You
9 know, I think for a very long time, people have
10 looked to other cities for innovation in the waste
11 management space. I think what we have shown with our
12 containerization programs, with our mandatory
13 curbside composting program, is that we actually are
14 a leader, and not only are we doing it better and
15 earlier than other cities, but we're also doing it at
16 a scale that other cities couldn't possibly imagine.
17 And so we will continue doing that. And, you know,
18 when, when we look back in 10 years at the, the
19 results of this Solid Waste Management Plan, I think
20 we will see that that New York City is not only a
21 leader, but is also sort of setting the direction for
cities globally in the waste management space.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you for that.

And, you know, a lot of the conversation and
discussion today have revolved around what I think is

2 also, you know, culture and community and society.

3 And a lot of the programs from organics to recycling
4 to a lot of the work that the department does really
5 comes from community buy-in from the culture that we
6 set and the tone that we set. And so I'm curious to
7 see for our programs to reach a success rate and a
8 diversion rate where I think we'll all be happy about
9 and that we really need it to get to, to build a
10 sustainable community that we want to live in and
11 thrive in. We need to have a culture shift. And so
12 how, if at all, has the agency had this conversation
13 about what a culture shift would entail, and have you
14 had this conversation or continue to have this
15 conversation with the majority of New Yorkers, what
16 their culture, you know, what trash culture means to
17 New Yorkers and how we develop our trash culture to
18 meet our actual culture, or how we are shifting that
19 culture, and what we have to do to plan for either a
20 buy-in into this culture shift, or how do we work
21 around it? So just your general thoughts there.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah. So I think
19 that's- I've never heard it sort of framed that way.
20 And I really appreciate that framing, because, you
21 know, New York is such a blending of cultures, both,

2 you know, the fact that we're a city of immigrants
3 and that, you know, people bring their sort of
4 thoughts and approaches and history of waste
5 management with them to New York City. But also, you
6 know, we have so many different neighborhoods and
7 every neighborhood has a, you know, a different sort
8 of feel and vibe and energy. And so we have to not
9 only sort of listen and understand what sort of- what
10 people sort of bring to the table, but also, you
11 know, be adaptable as we roll out programs. We can't
12 take the same program in the Upper East Side and in
13 the South Bronx and expect it to be successful in
14 both places.

15 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: And to close this
16 off, I turn it back to you. Are there any questions
17 that I have not asked that I should have asked that
18 you are curious, or that I should be curious about?

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: No, I think you
20 have covered- you and your colleagues have covered
21 certainly the breadth of issues related to the Solid
Waste Management Plan and many, many other sanitation
issues. I would say that I just look forward to
working with you over the course of the next many,
many years that we have these chairs together and

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2 make New York City a cleaner, healthier place for the
3 future.

4 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much,
5 and I apologize that 2.5 hours wasn't enough for
6 testimony. I thank you everyone— oh, there's no one
7 else here. I thank you all for your time. We will
8 take a five-minute break and move on to our next
9 panel. Thank you so much.

10 [break]

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: [gavel] We are back.
12 Can we have our next panel up? We were bringing up
13 the Independent Budgeting Office.

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Hi, good morning. I'm
15 the Committee Counsel. I'll be swearing you in. Brian
16 Cain, Assistant Director for Housing, Infrastructure
17 and Environment, Ryan Dougherty, Lead Budget and
18 Policy Analyst, and Elliot Jackson. Jackson— excuse
19 me, Ontkush, I'm sorry— Assistant Data Manager, could
20 you please raise your right hands? Thank you. Do you
21 affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and
nothing but the truth in your testimony before the
council members, and to respond honestly to council
member questions?

UNIDENTIFIED: I do.

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2 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes, I do.

3 Thank you. You may begin when ready.

4 RYAN DOUGHERTY: Good afternoon, Chair
5 Sanchez. I am Ryan Dougherty, Lead Budget and Policy
6 Analyst at the New York City Independent Budget
7 Office. I'm joined today by Brian Cain, Assistant
8 Director of Housing, Environment and Infrastructure,
9 and Elliot Jackson-Ontkush, Assistant Data Manager.
10 As you know, IBO is an independent, non-mayoral city
11 agency that conducts fiscal and policy research. I
12 appreciate the opportunity to discuss the city's
13 curbside organics collection program today. Last
14 Friday, IBO published a report titled Curbside
15 Composting: Current Trends in New York City's
16 Organics collection. My testimony will highlight key
17 takeaways from this research as it relates to today's
18 discussion on DSNY's Draft Solid Waste Management
19 Plan, also known as the SWMP. As already discussed
20 today, organic waste includes food scraps, yard
21 waste, and other compostable materials. Organics
represent roughly 36 percent of the city's
residential waste stream. Yet in 2025, organics
collections amounted to just 2.4 percent of
residential waste collected. IBO's analysis found

2 that the city's mandatory composting program launched
3 in October 2024 produced early progress, but the most
4 meaningful gains were driven by fine-based
5 enforcement. In April 2025, when fine-based
6 enforcement began, weekly organics collection tonnage
7 nearly tripled over the four-week. That sharp
8 response suggests that fine-based enforcement is an
9 effective tool to increase compliance. When
10 enforcement was effectively paused later that month,
11 momentum stalled for the rest of the year. From May
12 through December 2025, the final months of the Adams
13 administration, weekly organics tonnage declined by
14 43 percent. Interestingly, collections did not
15 immediately revert down to pre-enforcement levels.
16 This suggests that many residents continued
17 composting once the habit was established. Overall,
18 organics collections increased from 1.4 percent of
19 residential waste in 2024 to 2.4 percent in 2025, a
20 68 percent increase. However, the gradual downward
21 trajectory after the pause demonstrates that
enforcement was effective at encouraging compliance,
and without it, progress plateaued and then declined.
Under the Mamdani administration, some fines were
issued from January through March 2026. But it's been

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2 roughly three percent of the levels seen at this time
3 last year. As IBO highlighted in our testimony on the
4 Preliminary Budget, the organics processing budget is
5 underfunded. It decreases after fiscal year 2026 from
6 \$24 million to a baseline of \$19 million, despite
7 DSNY expecting program growth over time. Further,
8 there has not been a major mayoral announcement to
9 resume full enforcement and encourage compliance
10 under the new administration. Organic waste
11 collection has historically been more expensive per
12 ton than trash or recycling collections, largely
13 driven by the high cost of staffing trucks relative
14 to the tonnage collected on a route. Trucks
15 collecting organics compared with recycling or trash
16 have similar staffing and fuel costs but collect
17 fewer tons along their routes. This undercuts
18 collection efficiency. A past IBO report found that
19 in 2019, the average cost of organic collection was
20 \$602 per ton. By comparison, the cost of trash
21 collection was \$86 per ton and \$167 per ton for
recycling. Diverting organic matter from trash
streams can reduce costs by increasing the efficiency
of organics truck collections while reducing the
volume of trash to be collected. DSNY's 2026 Zero

2 Waste Report includes organic projections through
3 2036. The agency expects a linear increase of
4 collections roughly following the rate of annual
5 gains from 2023 through 2025. By 2036, this would
6 increase the current diversion rate of 2.4 percent up
7 to 11.5 percent for organics, or about one-third of
8 residential organic waste. DSNY's model used
9 information on New York City's recycling program and
10 curbside organic programs in places like Cambridge,
11 Massachusetts, and the state of Vermont to inform its
12 10-year projections. These other programs had little
13 to no enforcement in their early years. This suggests
14 DSNY's model similarly assumes little to no
15 enforcement for New York City's curbside organics
16 program. IBO's findings suggest that collections
17 could exceed DSNY's projections if full enforcement
18 is resumed to help build up initial sorting habits.
19 This would help reach the economies of scale IBO
20 estimates organics collections would need to reach
21 cost parity with recycling. Similarly, while the
draft SWMP mentions enforcement as a concept, it does
not expressly indicate whether DSNY will resume full
organics enforcement going forward. IBO's report also
provided a description of San Francisco's system.

2 They have the longest running and most successful
3 curbside organic system in the country. San Francisco
4 does not use fine-based enforcement. Instead, they
5 first launched into the— when first launched in 2009,
6 San Francisco properties paid for their trash pickup,
7 but not their recycling or organics. This made it
8 cheaper for properties to divert recycling and
9 organics out of trash bins. While different, San
10 Francisco's system and New York City's fine-based
11 enforcement both created a financial incentive to
12 divert organics with measurable results. IBO's
13 testimony here today is intended to provide further
14 information to the city council and the public. IBO
15 does not make policy recommendations and does not
16 take a position on the appropriate level of
17 enforcement. Ultimately, the goal is to build up a
18 culture of sorting organics, recyclable materials,
19 and waste properly. In line with DSNY's projections
20 to increase organics diversion rates, the evidence
21 from last year strongly suggests that fine-based
enforcement is an effective way to encourage
compliance. The trajectory of the city's organics
diversion rate will be heavily shaped by the
decisions made in the months ahead around outreach,

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2 education, and enforcement. We hope this analysis is
3 useful to the committee. IBO is happy to answer any
4 questions. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Be great to have my
6 mic on. Thank you so much. So, I understand that the
7 recent report on curbside composting states that IBO
8 will update earlier analysis on this issue. Your
9 report states that the 2025 organics diversion rate
10 was a mere 2.4 percent despite organics potentially
11 making up up to 36 percent of the waste stream. Very
12 sad. I'm looking at you, city. Very sad. How does
13 that play into the overall cost of residential
14 curbside organics programs?

15 RYAN DOUGHERTY: This is like it used to-
16 like you mentioned, this is something that IBO plans
17 to update as we get more data from the mandatory
18 program. So, it did just start last year. So we're
19 waiting for more before we can compare to when the
20 program was voluntary. However, as mentioned today,
21 when we reach economies of scale, we should see cost
savings.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. And when we
do get that, if when you do start writing the report,
if you can keep in the back of your mind what changes

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2 we could make to make curbside composting more
3 economical. Would really love to see that once we
4 have, you know,-

5 RYAN DOUGHERTY: [interposing] Absolutely,
6 yeah.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: a report. Can you
8 describe what some of the most prominent costs,
9 whether financial or otherwise, emotional, that are
10 attributable to the practice of landfilling organic
11 waste?

12 RYAN DOUGHERTY: Yes, so currently in the
13 city it costs approximately the same for an organics
14 truck to collect. It's the same salary or same
15 salary position. So whether it's an organics truck or
16 a trash truck, it's the same staffing on the truck.
17 So if the truck ends up not being full by the end of
18 the route, then you're spending a lot more money on
19 staffing for little waste collected. And that's
20 currently- since the city is not seeing the
21 participation rate that it was- you know, it's hoping
for, that's currently attributing to a lot of the
cost.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: And the report
mentions a pay-as-you-know [sic] collection system

2 providing financial incentives to residents for
3 reducing their refuse volume by recycling organic
4 waste. When y'all reviewed this type of program, what
5 did y'all identify as some of the obstacles to its
6 implementation, and how can New York City, if at all,
prepare itself for some of these potential issues?

7 RYAN DOUGHERTY: Right. So thank you for
8 that question. Just to reiterate, IBO does not make
9 policy recommendations as to which system is better.
10 However, when we were looking at San Francisco,
11 there's a key difference in that DSNY collects
12 residential waste. In San Francisco, it's a private
13 company that collects all of their commercial and
14 residential waste. So their incentive is to make
15 money and also reduce costs. So, they had initially
16 had this program where it was save-as-you-throw, but
17 the main finding in the report was that once they
reduced the incentive, they also saw declines in
their diversion rate. So, incentives were seen to
increase diversion rates for organic waste.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Human psychology.
19 Speaking of San Francisco, in your review of that
20 program, were you able to identify the effectiveness,
21 if at all, of any of their educational materials

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2 being left at residences that helped increase
3 diversion rates? How does this compare to the
4 effectiveness of our education and outreach programs?
5 And have you seen any other educational programs
6 either in San Francisco or elsewhere that have shown
to improve effectiveness?

7 RYAN DOUGHERTY: Thank you for that
8 question. So we did focus on San Francisco. We did
9 not look into any other educational programs.
10 However, San Francisco also tied incentives to- with
11 their educational programs. So it was a dual strategy
12 as DSNY is also trying to achieve at the moment.
They're both important. This is what the findings
show.

13 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. And now I
14 will turn this over to y'all. Are there any questions
15 that you thought I would ask you that I did not ask
16 you?

17 RYAN DOUGHERTY: I think that the hearing
18 before this was very informative, and I think a lot
19 of my questions that I had were answered. Do you have
20 anything you want to add? No, that was great. Thank
21 you.

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2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Well, thank you. I
3 appreciate it.

4 RYAN DOUGHERTY: Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: And you— this— you
6 guys can— what's a proper way to say this? I don't
7 want to— this panel is dismissed. Get out of here.
8 Sashay away. I'm sorry, my dears. Great. Alrighty
9 [sic]. I now open the hearing for public testimony. I
10 remind members of the public that this is a
11 government proceeding and that decorum shall be
12 observed at all times. As such, members of the public
13 shall remain silent at all times. You're allowed to
14 laugh. The witness table is reserved for people who
15 wish to testify. No video recording or photography is
16 allowed from the witness table. Further, members of
17 the public may not present audio or video recordings
18 or sing as testimony, but may submit transcripts of
19 such recordings or your songwriting to the
20 Sergeant-at-Arms for inclusion in the hearing record.
21 If you wish to speak at today's hearing, please fill
out an appearance card with the Sergeant-at-Arms and
wait to be recognized. When recognized, you will have
two minutes to speak on the legislation being heard
today or today's hearing topics: Finalizing the

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2 city's 2026 to 2036 Solid Waste Management Plan. If
3 you have a written statement or additional testimony—
4 if you don't finish and you wish to submit it for the
5 record, please provide a copy of that testimony to
6 the Sergeant-at-Arms. You may also email written
7 testimony to testimony@council.nyc.gov. Again, that
8 is testimony@council.nyc.gov within 72 hours of this
9 during. Audio and video recordings will not be
10 accepted. And now I'd like to bring up the first
11 panel. Can I have Dennis Schock? Can I have Rhonda
12 Keyser and Matthew Civello? I hope I said that
13 correctly. Is it Civello or Civello? Civello. Thanks.
14 Thank you. Great.

15 DENNIS SCHOCK: Good morning. Just— Good
16 morning, Chair Justin Suarez— Sanchez, I'm sorry. I
17 like to— I like to thank— take the opportunity to
18 speak today. My name is Dennis Schock. I stand before
19 you proudly representing Uniform Sanitation
20 Association Local 831, the men and women who work
21 tirelessly to keep the city clean, safe, and moving,
especially during the most challenging conditions.
I'd like to bring up some issues about equipment. One
is the skid steer. Skid steer would like— I would
like to address the skid steers. Are a multi— a force

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2 multiplier in snow operations. One skid steer can
3 perform the work of up to 16 sanitation workers over
4 a 12-hour shift. These machines are essential in
5 clearing crosswalks, bus stops, pedestrian pathways,
6 public safety- public safety where it's most at risk.
7 However, we currently do not have enough of the
8 trailers that transport these units quickly to areas
9 in need of most. Additional, we need to expand the
10 training and more of these members to be qualified
11 and operate this critical equipment. We strongly urge
12 to invest in additional skid steers, transport
13 trailers, operating training, and also allow for
14 members to respond faster, to work efficiently and
15 better to protect the public. Second, I want to raise
16 the issue of serious concerns about quality of
17 equipment and materials currently being used.

18 Currently being used, our members work very- our work
19 work- our members work on traction chains, plow
20 blades, and replacement parts made up of inferior
21 steel that is prone to failure. This leads- this
leads to frequent breakdowns during the active
operations, forcing equipment out of service at its
worst possible times. We have seen firsthand
higher-grade materials used in the past last longer

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2 and perform better under extreme conditions. Local
3 831 returns— would like to return the higher quality
4 materials, standards, investing in durability and
5 reduced downtime, improve reliability, and ensure
6 that members can stay on the streets longer doing
7 their jobs. Sorry for going over.

8 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: You're all good. I—

9 DENNIS SCHOCK: [interposing] This is all
10 something new for me.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: You are all good. I
12 will make sure we have the rest of the testimony and
13 it will be in the written record. Thank you so much.
14 Thanks, Dennis. I really appreciate it.

15 DENNIS SCHOCK: You have a great day now,
16 and thank you for your time.

17 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: You too.

18 RHONDA KEYSER: Good morning, Chair
19 Sanchez and council staff. I'm Rhonda Keyser, Program
20 and Policy Director for Cafeteria Culture, which you
21 know. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on
the DSNY's draft SWMP. We're deeply grateful for this
city's commitment to expanding organics diversion and
to funding community composting and compost
education. We urge the DSNY, though, to prioritize

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2 funding and expansion of local composting rather than

3 relying heavily on co-digestion. Now, at Cafeteria

4 Culture, our New York City public school students are

5 shifting the trash culture across the city in schools

6 one at a time. They're reducing school food waste at

7 the source and processing cafeteria food scraps

8 locally. To reduce school food waste at the source,

9 we're piloting our Mindful Choice Meals initiative at

10 New York City Public Schools across all 32 districts.

11 In our pilot schools, our initiative has reduced

12 overall cafeteria food waste by up to 50 percent,

13 while increasing student cafeteria food consumption

14 by as much as 45 percent, by simply allowing students

15 to choose what they want to eat within the USDA

16 guidelines. Now, to process cafeteria food scraps

17 locally, in just one partner school, our newly hired

18 compost coordinator has walked over 1,200 pounds of

19 cafeteria food scraps to Compost Power's site at Polo

20 Grounds, who— Compost Power also operates the

21 Patterson Houses site that you mentioned earlier. Our

students' participation in composting their own food

scraps turns their daily cafeteria routines into

climate action and community engagement by

transforming a potential waste burden into a local

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2 resource. We urge the DSNY to rethink their
3 commitment in the SWMP to long-term expansion of
4 co-digestion, which it sounds like they have today,
5 and biosolids infrastructure through 2036.

6 Co-digestion, as we know, plays an important role in
7 managing our wastewater, but local composting of our
8 food scraps reduces truck traffic, builds public
9 participation, produces compost that is actually used
10 in the city, and creates opportunities for local jobs
11 and local worker stewardship, especially in schools
12 and NYCHA communities. And if New York City wants to-
13 wants organics diversion to succeed long-term,
14 community compost has to be a core investment, not a
15 supplemental program. Thanks again for your
16 opportunity to testify.

17 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much
18 for your testimony.

19 MATTHEW CIVELLO: I'm Matthew Civello,
20 Chair of the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board,
21 and I'm delivering testimony on behalf of all four
SWABS. The SWABS support the diversion targets set in
the draft 2026 Solid Waste Management Plan of 30.5
percent for DSNY-managed waste and 54.1 percent for
commercial waste. On January 16th, we submitted

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2 comments identifying six areas in the draft plan that
3 we believe require remediation to increase the
4 likelihood that these targets will be met. Those six
5 areas are the need for increased and well-defined
6 public engagement, the requirement that open datasets
7 be clearly defined and consistently maintained,
8 alignment with the CLCPA and Climate Action Council
9 Scoping Plan and Local Laws 152, 86, and 87, a
10 provision for a clear organizational and structural
11 commitment within the Department of Sanitation to
12 support recycling and sustainability, a recognition
13 of emerging regulatory and legislative frameworks in
14 New York State and beyond that call into question the
15 feasibility of beneficial use of biosolids, and the
16 need to move the plan's language towards clear stated
17 program commitments rather than language that is
18 merely exploratory. We will submit our full set of
19 comments with some adjustments because there's a new
20 draft, I guess, and our written testimony based— will
21 be based on that for this hearing. There's not only a
social and environmental benefit to diverting
material from the residential waste stream, but also
a fiscal one. While diversion will neither eliminate
nor significantly reduce costs, since funding follows

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2 material and diversion programs require investment in
3 collection and processing, every dollar spent
4 diverting material away from landfill or incineration
5 has the potential to retain economic activity, create
6 jobs, expand tax base, and increase public investment
7 within the city. If we consider the fiscal spending
8 on recycling and composting also as a form of fiscal
9 stimulus with an associated non-trivial multiplier
10 effect, we begin to see a more equitable distribution
11 of both the burdens and benefits of shifting what is
12 now nearly \$600 million in export budget to recycling
13 and composting within the five boroughs. I want to
14 thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

15 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much.
16 Thank you so much for your testimony. And with that,
17 this panel is dismissed and I'd like to call up the
18 next panel. Can I please have Marisa DeDominicis? I
19 didn't want to mess it up. Justin Wood and Jenille
20 Scott. Oh, and Eric Goldstein.

21 MARISA DEDOMINICIS: Lovely to meet you.
Okay, where do I begin?

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you.
Apologies. Okay, and with that, we can get started.

2 MARISA DEDOMINICIS: Good afternoon,
3 Council Member, Chair Sanchez. And I was delighted to
4 meet you and to hear the testimony from DSNY. It
5 seems like we're off to a good start. I'm the E.D.
6 and the Co-founder of Earth Matter. And I want to
7 applaud all the efforts in the SWMP. The one area I'd
8 like to emphasize is the parallel trend of commercial
9 collection or mandating of waste diversion at the
10 same time as rolling this program out. I think it's
11 essential since they are contributing to 40 percent
12 of the waste stream in New York, and I think that
13 will be beneficial to the overarching plan. And now,
14 my Earth Matter hat. We focus on education. We're on
15 Governors Island. We diverted 700 tons that we
16 processed from both Big Reuse, Lower East Side, and
17 our very own Governors Island. We're a small compost
18 facility, and we urge you in the SWMP to expand the
19 language to say it's necessary to be able to invest
20 in local, decentralized compost facility and the
21 educational components that we, as well as the other
communities community composting network
organizations provide. We train over 90 groups. And
when I say in 2014, we had a LaGuardia student make
posters for her building, and the building

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2 maintenance didn't put the compost bins back in the
3 same area. I will say that that building maintenance,
4 like Gale Brewer said, the certification program that
5 Mr. Anderson had talked about is critical. Training,
6 education, we need it. We need certification for the
7 building owners and we need it for our young students
8 and we need to expand what we can do. When Mr.-- the
9 Sanitation talked about skid steer training, we do
10 that at Earth Matter. Thank you very much and we look
11 forward to working with you for a very long time.

12 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much
13 for your testimony. There you go.

14 JENILLE SCOTT: Hi, my name is Jenille
15 Scott and I'm the Climate Director at ALIGN and a
16 member of the Transform Don't Trash Coalition. Thank
17 you so much to Chair Sanchez for the opportunity to
18 present testimony today. We think that this solid
19 waste plan, the draft solid waste plan, is really
20 essential to shaping the future of waste in New York
21 city for the next decade. I think that it-- this plan
needs to meet the urgency of the climate crisis as
well as addressing longstanding environmental
injustices and centering workers here in New York. We
look forward to reviewing the updated plan, which we

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2 learned is on the website as of Friday. But I think
3 just to use this as an opportunity to uplift that the
4 biggest concern we had was around the vagueness of
5 the plan and how it was framed as a framework. We
6 think it missed a lot of, like, timelines and
7 benchmarks and things that were really essential. So
8 we're hoping that those are things that are
9 considered in the updated draft. And also wanted to
10 use the opportunity to uplift the Transform, Don't
11 Trash's People SWMP, which is a concrete list of 30
12 community-driven recommendations that our coalition
13 worked to put together, and this includes suggestions
14 around reducing truck traffic and getting to waste
15 equity, full accountable implementation of the
16 commercial waste zone program, which if it's done
17 before December 28th, we are okay with that, in 2027.
18 Meeting the zero waste diversion goals, and making
19 sure that's in line with the Climate Leadership and
20 Community Protection Act mandates. Major expansion
21 into compost and organics infrastructure, waste
reduction and reuse policies, phasing out reliance on
incineration, sustainable funding, environmental
justice accountabilities, and equitable service
provisions, especially for NYCHA residents. So, the

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2 written testimony I'll provide will give a lot more
3 details on all of those recommendations, but we think
4 that the council has a really essential role to play
5 in approving the final SWMP before it's sent to the
6 state DEC. So we just really urge the council as
7 we're reviewing this updated draft, that you're
8 considering, like, the necessary specificity and
9 accountability that is necessary in that plan, and to
10 incorporate the 30 recommendations in our People's
11 SWMP, and then we hope that this will allow us to
12 work better with the council, Department of
13 Sanitation, and all our stakeholders here to realize
14 that vision of creating a more equitable plan. Thank
15 you.

16 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much
17 for your testimony. I do have a follow-up question.
18 So one of the common threads of community
19 conversation that has happened is wanting more
20 specificity in the plan, wanting more attainable
21 action items. From understanding— this is, you know,
in 2006, I was a sophomore in high school. So from my
understanding, I would like to understand better why
advocates would like more— of course, you want things
to hold people accountable for, but I think one of

2 the strengths also that you can argue with having
3 such an open-ended language in the SWMP is we see how
4 climate change is affecting us. We see how rapidly
5 technology is evolving. We see all of these different
6 things. Do we want— and we saw from the 2006— no, the
7 1992 SWMP, a lot of the projects and ideas that were
8 talked about there that had actionable timelines, we
9 don't even have the Fresh Kills landfill anymore. So
10 my— I just wanna be understanding if we lock in some
11 of these terms with what we see the world as we have
12 it today, as opposed to having this open-end language
13 so that folks can make adjustments. What do you see
14 are the pros and cons? Is that a wrong way at looking
15 at this, or is there a way to shift the mindset so
16 that we can get both? Or how do you see that playing
17 out?

18 JENILLE SCOTT: Yeah. Thank you so much
19 for your question. I think it's a mix of both because
20 if the plan is too open-ended, like this is supposed
21 to be essentially the floor for a lot of the policies
that we will develop in the solid waste industry. So
if it's too open-ended, then it doesn't really put a
lot of consideration into a lot of the concerns that
have been raised by community members. So I think

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2 it's necessary for us to have like some more
3 specificity around how some of the goals will be
4 attained or how some of the benchmarks will be
5 reached. Otherwise, like I said, it's just very
6 open-ended. And you're right that things are
7 constantly changing. So I think the plan does need to
8 have some flexibility there, but on some of the more
9 specific things, especially things that were brought
10 up in the 2006 plan, which was a 20-year plan that
11 haven't been done, like, what is the plan to actually
12 get those done? I think those things need to be more
13 specific while leaving the space to have that
14 open-endedness that you mentioned. But right now it
15 feels like it's just very open-ended and it's more of
16 a framework as opposed to having like some of that
17 specificity that's really needed for some of those
18 areas.

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. And one
20 final follow-up question in terms of accountability.
21 You mentioned stuff that hasn't been completed from
previous SWMPs. Are there any accountability
mechanisms that folks would like to see implemented
that have not been used before or that you think are
already working in terms of holding the department

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2 accountable to, you know, frameworks and things that
3 they put out?

4 JENILLE SCOTT: Yeah. I mean, I don't
5 think- I can't speak for like everyone who's here,
6 everyone who's in the industry. But I think a lot of
7 it- there are a lot of different- different
8 mechanisms are needed for different areas. So I think
9 like commercial waste zones was a thing that has been
10 discussed a lot in this hearing and around commercial
11 waste. And there were things that were mentioned
12 around like having more GPS data and having things
13 that DSNY is able to look at for a lot of the
14 haulers. So I think just sort of looking at those
15 avenues and ways in which that we are able to use
16 this plan in order to create those accountability
17 mechanisms. I think there was some suggestions
18 mentioned earlier about, like maybe looking at NYCHA
19 residents and how we could involve them more in the
20 process. So I think it's- there's, like, definitely
21 accountability around data as well. Like a lot of
data is not very easily accessible or- and so if
you're not getting the data that's easily accessible
or easily understood, then you can't really hold the
department accountable because you're not really sure

2 how accurate things are or what's happening. So I
3 think there could definitely be like some more
4 accountability around data, which I know is mentioned
5 for Open Data, and then some more aspects for
6 involving more community input in a lot of the
7 processes and plans that are being developed, and
8 then yeah, I know we talked about the commercial
waste zone program as well and having some different
avenues there, too.

9 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: And this just came
10 to me, because we're talking about accountability,
11 but not only department accountability, but are there
12 ways that we can also be looking at personal
13 accountability and ways that, you know, if folks are
14 living in public housing or subsidized housing or
15 vouchers and you are a repeat offender, non-recycler,
16 or non-whatever that are really harming our
17 communities, is there any accountability there? Is
18 there— what does that look like, if that looks like
anything at all? Has there been any conversation
about that?

19 JENILLE SCOTT: Yeah, I know. I
20 personally haven't had conversations like that. I'm
21 sure other folks here have had conversations around,

2 like, repeat offenders. I think like you mentioned
3 earlier, like a lot of it does have to do with, I
4 think, a cultural shift and understanding. I think
5 there's like that cultural shift and understanding of
6 the importance of our environment and what it means
7 for us to do proper waste disposal and diversion and
8 all the different things, and also just reduction,
9 like waste. In this- we have a lot of waste that
10 we're very wasteful. But I think also we have to make
11 sure that the education is being carried out
12 properly. I think we've heard from different avenues
13 that education isn't really being done, and so
14 sometimes you have repeat offenders because people
15 don't know that they're supposed to be doing
16 something or the way in which it's supposed to be
17 done. So I think that having improved public
18 education efforts is definitely necessary. I know
19 that fines, everyone always thinks about money and
20 how things are very expensive, so no one wants to get
21 a fine. But I think first it has to be making sure
that people actually understand what's required of
them and what they need to be doing before we talk
about fines and other mechanisms as well.

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2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: The problems of
3 American consumerism.

4 JENILLE SCOTT: [inaudible] American.

5 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much
6 for your testimony. Hi, Justin.

7 JUSTIN WOOD: Good afternoon. Thank you so
8 much, Chair Sanchez, for holding this hearing and
9 this opportunity, and congratulations to Commissioner
10 Anderson, and thank you for the extensive testimony
11 on topics including organics diversion, commercial
12 waste zone implementation, and construction and
13 demolition waste. We're looking forward- I'm sorry,
14 I'm Justin Wood, New York Lawyers for the Public
15 Interest, member of Transform Don't Trash. We're
16 looking forward to working closely with the Council
17 Sanitation Department and other parts of the Mamdani
18 administration to implement all of this. We similarly
19 have not fully read and compared the draft, and we do
20 appreciate its publication on Friday, the revised
21 draft SWMP. So we'll submit written comments. I can
uplift a few themes from our previous comments from
the 2025 SWMP hearing on this topic. On modeling, our
understanding, unless this has changed, is that DSNY
modeled increased diversion over 10 years. And we

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2 understand that modeling needs to be grounded in the
3 reality of New York City. We would also urge that the
4 SWMP, because this is a long-term plan that we want
5 to hold this administration and future
6 administrations to, that modeling also include what
7 it would take, what diversion rates would be
8 necessary, or reduction rates in waste would be
9 necessary to achieve the zero waste goals that the
10 council and previous administration legislated, the
11 community leadership, Climate Leadership and
12 Community Protection Act emissions reduction goals
13 that the state had set. We would stress that, you
14 know, according to the state's estimates, solid waste
15 produces almost as much greenhouse gas emissions as
16 the entire electricity sector. So this is
17 significant, and we want the state to also— because
18 this is a DEC process— to see this as a pathway to
19 implementing that law. So we would like to see some
20 ambitious modeling included in the SWMP. I would just
21 also highlight we'd like to see a plan for specific
capital investments. We include— appreciate the
reference to Rikers Island as a possible composting
facility site. We'd like to see composting
investments keep pace with the exciting developments

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2 in the commercial and residential side with organics
3 waste development. And then finally, we also will
4 uplift the need to maximize the use of existing
5 extensive capital investments in the marine and rail
6 transfer facilities to study and, if necessary,
7 subsidize the reduction of VMT fuel and operating
8 costs, from simply taking some portion of commercial
9 waste from places like Midtown Manhattan to a
10 well-run, worker-friendly marine transfer station and
11 avoiding trips to EJ communities. And then finally,
12 we appreciate the stress on EPR as this extended
13 producer responsibility is a potential source of
14 long-term funding for these initiatives. We would
15 similarly stress that the state, if it moves forward
16 with a cap and invest program as called for in the
17 current CLCPA, that that could be used as a major
18 revenue source to help New York City implement these
19 capital investments and programs. In the interim, we
20 have called for the governor to implement a \$3
21 billion Sustainable Futures Fund, and that's also—
we'd like to see solid waste capital and program
development as a major thing that those programs
support. Thank you so much.

2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much
3 for your testimony.

4 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: Thank you, Chair
5 Sanchez. Eric Goldstein of the Natural Resources
6 Defense Council. The solid waste management planning
7 process is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to
8 rethink policy. We've got a new council, a new
9 administration. We have a new commissioner, Greg
10 Anderson, who's a good man, and we're happy he's on
11 the scene. All of this- all of these issues affect
12 the public in many ways, public health, quality of
13 life, or economy. There's no rush. The council has
14 legal authority to be involved in this planning
15 process in a big way. According to 16-140 of the
16 administrative code, no final solid waste management
17 plan for the city shall be submitted to the state
18 unless such submission has been authorized by the
19 council by local law. So you already have the legal
20 authority to be engaged in this process, and we hope
21 the department will give the council the opportunity
to review the revised draft and offer amendments to
the plan before its final submission. This role of
council oversight and engagement is essential, and
the council should be full partners in the

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2 development of this plan. In other words, the council
3 should develop a set of amendments it believes should
4 be included in the final SWMP. My written testimony,
5 I outlined seven program areas where the plan, as
6 strong as it is, should be strengthened. Let me just
7 focus for a minute on organics. The organic section
8 in particular needs some help. Organics is the
9 largest portion of the waste stream. It's costing us
10 a significant amount of money. Seattle has
11 demonstrated that by composting organics, they are
12 saving as much as \$18 a ton according to their most
13 recent data over landfilling it. So over time, as the
14 IBO indicates, composting is not only beneficial for
15 the environment but can save the city money. Right
16 now the place to start is with food rescue where the
17 verbiage is good, but much more can be done to ensure
18 that all of the food generated in restaurants and
19 commercial kitchens is sent over to help the 1.2
20 million New Yorkers who are food insecure. That's the
21 place to start. And we need stronger elements on
that. Then there's the issue of anaerobic
co-digestion. That's the wrong way to deal with the
organics that are collected. They should be actually
composted. That means more composting capacity at

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2 Rikers Island and other places. We need stronger
3 marketing enforcement and educational materials in
4 the schools, but also in the public more generally.
5 We need to ensure that community composting is
6 supported. We need legislation to advance commercial
7 composting so that there's no question, but that
8 every commercial establishment is separating its
9 organics for composting. We set forth all of these
10 recommendations in our written testimony. Hope
11 you will review them. Just one final word. The
12 environmental justice issue, another area in need of
13 strengthening. So you had talked before about job
14 development and workforce development in NYCHA
15 properties. Well, there's a program that has begun
16 doing that. Compost Power is a nonprofit
17 organization. There should be in the plan, a vision
18 for how Compost Power and others similar activities
19 could be expanded throughout NYCHA so that NYCHA
20 residents participate fully in not only composting
21 but in receiving all of the other benefits of our
waste transfer station- of our waste disposal system.
Finally, we do support Intro 355, which in theory is
also the topic of today's hearing, city agency waste,
as well as the resolution on composting. So we look

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2 forward to working with you in the weeks and months

3 ahead because this is really a critical, critical

4 point. And it's an opportunity that the council only

5 gets on very rare occasions to influence policy in a

6 broad and big direction. And if you'd like, I'd be

7 happy to also try to answer the question you posed to

8 Jenille about the role of the plan, because the role

9 of the council and the role of the plan are

10 significant. And if the plan is simply a general

11 document that is so broad that it doesn't drive

12 policy, then we all haven't accomplished very much.

13 And I thank you for your attention.

14 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much

15 for your testimony. And with that, this panel is

16 dismissed. I'm seeing no online testimony. Going

17 once, going twice. Are there any new members of the

18 bustling crowd that would like to testify? Empty seat

19 number one, empty seat number two? Alright, seeing

20 none. With that, the Sanitation and Solid Waste

21 Management Committee hearing of April 6th, 2026 has

come to an end. Thank you.

[gavel]

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3 C E R T I F I C A T E
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6 World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing
7 transcript is a true and accurate record of the
8 proceedings. We further certify that there is no
9 relation to any of the parties to this action by blood
10 or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome
11 of this matter.



17 Date July 31, 2026
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