

December 12, 2019

To: Mayor Stephen H. Hagerty

From: Evanston Environment Board

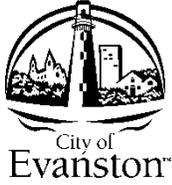
As we approach the first anniversary of City Council's unanimous adoption of the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP), the Evanston Environment Board once again writes to urge you and members of the Council to make climate action a high priority in the coming year. Just last month, the World Meteorological Organization reported that emissions of atmospheric carbon dioxide had again broken records. Youth around the world—including a group right here in Evanston—are rising up to demand action. As vulnerable communities on the front lines already suffer disproportionately from the effects of climate chaos, it becomes ever clearer that this also is an issue of social justice.

Evanston can be rightly proud that it is among the 100+ cities worldwide that have committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. But realizing that goal demands that we take all reasonable steps and apply adequate resources to put pledges into action, without delay. To that end, the Environment Board urges the City to take these steps to more aggressively implement CARP:

- **Make CARP implementation an official City Council Goal for 2020.** Such a move will demonstrate leadership on climate action and institutionalize accountability for CARP's implementation.
- **Make sustainability a key consideration in selection of a new City Manager.** Because the new City Manager will have overall responsibility for leading CARP implementation on a day-to-day basis, it is crucial that any candidate who is seriously considered for this position be strongly committed to and knowledgeable about sustainability and climate action. To that end, EEB respectfully requests that a representative be included in the recruitment process.
- **Train all staff and evaluate City actions through a CARP lens.** We recommend that all City staff receive a thorough grounding in the goals and strategies laid out in the Plan, and that all policy decisions be evaluated through a CARP lens. Policy recommendations should make note of how CARP goals have been taken into account (similar to the way "livability impact" has been addressed in recent years).
- **Actively promote climate action.** Finally, we trust that you, as sponsor of the CARP Working Group, along with the Council members who voted unanimously to adopt the Plan, will take the lead in promoting climate action throughout the community in coming months. Getting to zero carbon by 2050 will take a community-wide effort, and your leadership is critical to engaging the institutions and individuals who will help to make the vision a reality.

Together with many community organizations, we stand ready to help.

cc: Aldermen Judy Fiske, Peter Braithwaite, Melissa Wynne, Don Wilson, Robin Rue Simmons, Thomas Suffredin, Eleanor Revelle, Ann Rainey, and Cicely L. Fleming; Interim City Manager Erika Storlie; Citizens' Greener Evanston and members of the CARP Coordination Group



Memorandum

To: Dave Stoneback, Evanston Public Works Agency Director
Cc: Kumar Jensen, Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officer

From: Evanston Environment Board, Zero Waste Working Group

Subject: Zero Waste Working Group (ZWWG) Response to City Staff's Memo Response to Request for inclusion in the City of Evanston Commercial Solid Waste Franchise RFP Process

Date: December 10, 2019

Summary

The Zero Waste Working Group appreciates Staff's consideration of our previous Memo and look forward to continued collaboration on the City's waste management programs. Consistent with this collaborative approach, we are providing responses to your December 5th memo.

Response:

For ease of reference, we are including the content of our original Memo, the content of Staff's Response Memo and our latest response to Staff.

Recommendations

- **Zero Waste Working Group 11/18/19 Memo Content:** A waste characterization study with granular detail about volumes and types of waste, with opportunities for public participation and observation
 - **Staff's 12/5/19 Response:** A robust waste characterization study is already included in the RFP. The waste hauler will be required to complete a comprehensive waste characterization study of the commercial waste stream by using a qualified internal staff person or sub-contracting. The waste hauler is required to complete the study within the first six months of the effective date of the contract, and every subsequent 36 months. This structure ensures the waste hauler will conduct two studies during the five year contract and will conduct one for each additional three year extension, if applicable. The waste hauler will be required to conduct the study in accordance to ASTM standard D5231 Standard Test Method for Determination of the Composition of Unprocessed Municipal Solid Waste and will bear the full cost of each study.
 - **Zero Waste Working Group 12/6/19 Response:** The Zero Waste Working Group still believes it is logical and advantageous for the selected Waste Hauler to conduct a waste study in accordance with ASTM Standard D5231 within the first 30 days of the contract in order to establish a baseline of data. We also believe the Waste Hauler should provide more frequent studies than the proposed 36 month period, but instead a 12 month Audit cadence should be

employed. If the 12 month cadence is too costly for the vendor, then the Vendor should explore publicly organized and staffed Waste Audits to mitigate costs. ZWWG reiterates the importance of having the city position the public to at least be provided an opportunity to witness at a public space, if not participate in vendor led Waste Characterization studies.

- **Zero Waste Working Group 11/18/19 Memo Content:** Emissions-reduction strategies and a plan toward a zero-carbon fleet of waste hauling vehicles, including but not limited to electric or zero-carbon vehicles, route and pickup schedule optimization, container sizing, and pricing of different types of waste.
 - **Staff's 12/5/19 Response:** We have this as a goal but not a requirement within the RFP. We, as Evanston, are not going to pay for them to make this transition. We can encourage it as much as we want but if we make it a requirement we are worried that the cost of the new vehicles or equipment will be paid by Evanston customers and could impact price negatively.
 - **Zero Waste Working Group 12/6/19 Response:** We strongly advocate the City request a zero carbon fleet plan from the vendor as a requirement and not a goal. This does not mean the City is demanding a zero carbon fleet, but rather, a clearly outlined plan from the vendor about their future plans for a zero carbon fleet. Staff neglected to comment on how route and pickup schedule optimization, container sizing and pricing can and will be included as mandatory components of the RFP.
 - Further we recommend that during the selection process, the City includes consideration of route optimization and related vendor actions and technologies to reduce transportation miles and emissions.

- **Zero Waste Working Group 11/18/19 Memo Content:** Commercial business feedback programs and strategies to educate businesses about compliance with regulations, reducing contamination and zero-waste goals
 - **Staff's 12/5/19 Response:** Sustain Evanston Business Recognition and the Recycling Coordinator that is hired by the commercial solid waste franchise both provide substantial opportunities and formal structures for support beyond just "education." Staff believe that in order to meaningful begin reducing waste there needs to be substantial technical assistance and guidance provided to properties achieve the Zero Waste Goal in CARP. Both the waste hauler and the City will need to hire and designate staff to actively support these roles. The City is exploring funding for this currently.
 - **Zero Waste Working Group 12/6/19 Response:** ZWWG recommends the RFP state the explicit yearly goals of Evanston's Zero Waste Portion of Carp. The Vendor should be made aware that the contract will include performance based incentives based on year over year waste reduction metrics. Staff also should explicitly outline the feedback loop between the waste hauler's recycling coordinator and designated city staff in addition to the frequency of expected communications.

- **Zero Waste Working Group 11/18/19 Memo Content:** Regularly updated information on the Evanston open data portal for businesses and residents to see the type and amount of waste generated with as much granularity as possible, with potential for a dashboard designed for accessibility and feedback loops to reduce contamination

- **Staff's 12/5/19 Response:** City staff are working to begin, as a part of CARP, to report waste related metrics through the City's OpenData Portal. Within the RFP staff have reporting requirements from the hauler to ensure the City has easy access to data that will be useful in measuring progress towards CARP goals. The Commercial Solid Waste Franchise RFP has a Data Reporting section, which outlines what data the waste hauler should provide. The RFP states that the chosen firm will provide data on a quarterly basis to support the City's ZeroWaste efforts. Data includes the weight of all materials collected from customers served under the agreement broken down by waste type (refuse, recycling, and construction and demolition waste). Additionally, the quarterly report should include an approximate contamination rate for the recyclable materials.
- **Zero Waste Working Group 12/6/19 Response:** Vendor should be required to provide data consistent with the 9 waste categories referenced in the ASTM standard.
- **Zero Waste Working Group 11/18/19 Memo Content:** Details about Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) selection with contamination and recovery rates
 - **Staff's 12/5/19 Response:** The waste hauler will be required to provide the location where any material collected under this agreement will be transported and processed, including transfer stations, materials recovery facilities, and landfills. The waste hauler may not utilize refuse disposal or transfer facilities located within the municipal boundaries of the City of Evanston.
 - **Zero Waste Working Group 12/6/19 Response:** ZWWG also recommends that waste haulers provide their MRF recovery rate and that this recovery rate be a heavily weighed factor in favor or against the waste hauler's bid to service the city. The Waste Hauler should also confirm what technologies are deployed at their facility.
- **Zero Waste Working Group 11/18/19 Memo Content:** Pricing for a composting option for commercial businesses
 - **Staff's 12/5/19 Response:** The City already has an exclusive composting collection service provider, Collective Resource, inc. The City, aside from its Food and Yard Waste service, cannot deploy another composting service without amending the agreement with Collective Resource, inc.
 - **Zero Waste Working Group 12/6/19 Response:** ZWWG requests confirmation of when Collective Resource's agreement expires. We also recommend the waste hauler include composting pricing and service options to be considered when Collective Resource's agreement is open for renewal.

We also recommend that the city provide selection criteria that include how selecting a provider supports CARP's Zero-Waste goals.

Conclusion and Next Steps

- ZWWG requests a timeline from Staff on the RFP process
- ZWWG requests the opportunity to review the RFP statement