



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4**

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**J. LEE COMPTON**  
Chair

June 19, 2006

Mayor Michael Bloomberg  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

John J. Doherty, Commissioner  
Department of Sanitation  
125 Worth Street  
New York, NY 10013

**Re: SWAB Sustainability Goals**

Dear Mayor Bloomberg & Commissioner Doherty:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 applauds the efforts of the city and DOS to create a long term Solid Waste Management Plan that will guide solid waste policy in New York City for the next two decades. However, we note that this plan is currently focused primarily on the ways in which refuse, including garbage and recyclables, should move within and out of the city to its final destination.

While we agree that waste export is of paramount importance to the plan, we also feel strongly that the city must also take proactive steps to ensure that New York City is generating less garbage through waste prevention, and diverting more garbage through increased recycling, reuse, and composting programs. We believe that waste reduction and diversion programs are crucial because they lessen adverse environmental impacts associated with waste within the City of New York, as well as in the communities outside of NYC where waste is sent to be burned or buried.

Therefore, Manhattan Community Board No 4 strongly supports the adoption of long term goals toward reaching "zero waste", an approach to waste management that is environmentally sustainable, economically sound, and socially responsible. We urge the city and DOS to set aggressive waste reduction and diversion goals in the SWMP, and include measures that will enable the city to realistically meet those goals.

Specifically, we ask that the city adopt, in the final version of the SWMP and associated legislation, the following provisions that will set NYC on a more sustainable course for waste management:

1. Establish within DOS a Waste Prevention, Reuse, Recycling, and Composting office and program, with leadership that reports directly to the Commissioner of DOS. This new office will allow for greater authority and effectiveness of "zero waste" programs. The office should oversee a program of waste prevention and recycling teams working in community districts to

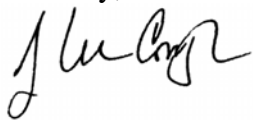
reduce waste and increase diversion, using neighborhood specific programs for tenants, building managers, businesses and schools.

In addition, this new office should institute and oversee a strong educational program to make New Yorkers more aware of the critical need for recycling, including composting, and how such programs are implemented in the city. It should also oversee an aggressive increase in enforcement of current and newly developed recycling laws and regulations.

2. The city needs to invest in new reuse and composting infrastructure. This includes the opening of new reuse centers in the five boroughs; a small fleet of trucks designated for the transport of reused goods between centers, schools, churches, and nonprofits; and the construction of new composting facilities that will convert some of the city's compostable waste stream to useful fertilizer and soil. Further, this funding must be steady over time, allowing programs to grow, adapt, and maximize environmental and economic benefits for the city over the long term. .
3. Finally, DOS should develop quantifiable measures of progress for these programs and review the progress of SWMP implementation on an annual or bi-annual basis to ensure the city is implementing these new programs effectively and making progress toward goals of reducing and diverting waste.

We believe that these goals not only provide quality of life benefits for all New Yorkers by reducing the waste stream rather than simply seeking different ways to export waste, they also, can provide economic benefits to the city in the long term. Just as developers and planners alike are beginning to realize that “smart” design is both socially responsible as well as economically viable, we need to recognize that a “smart” Solid Waste Management Plan is not only the right thing to do – it’s a critically important thing to do. We appeal to you in particular, Mayor Bloomberg, to provide independent leadership to set the city on a course toward increased sustainability for the benefit of future generations.

Sincerely,



J. Lee Compton  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



John Doswell  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Kristin Dionne  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront & Parks Committee

cc: Local Elected Officials