New York City Solid Waste Management Plan 2026 (SWMP26)

What is SWMP26?

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) requires planning units, like New York City, to develop Local Solid Waste Management Plans (LSWMP) to reduce the amount of solid waste destined for disposal.

New York City's 2026 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP26) is a 10-year plan that describes existing solid waste management practices, evaluates options for future solid waste management, identifies steps to implement the plan, and provides projections for solid waste generation and reduction over the course of the plan's implementation.

Looking back on SWMP 2006

New York City adopted its most recent LSWMP in 2006. Since 2006, the City:

- **2006** Received approval for SWMP from City Council and DEC
- **2007** Signed long-term contract with SIMS Municipal Recycling
- **2008-2019** Constructed & began operating four Marine Transfer Stations
- **2024** Launched Citywide Organics Collection for all residents

SWMP26 builds on two decades of successful implementation and follows new guidance from DEC to prepare for the next decade of solid waste management in New York City. DSNY is leading the plan's development and required DEC approval by October 2026.

Aligning SWMP26 with New York's goals

Solid waste management will play a key role in helping New York City and New York State meet their climate and environmental justice goals. DSNY is dedicated to advancing these priorities through the implementation of SWMP26.

NYS SWMP 2023

PlaNYC 2023

EJNYC

EO23: Clean Construction

NYS Climate Act & Scoping Plan (CLCPA)

Solid Waste At A Glance

Between 2019 and 2023, DSNY-collected waste has fluctuated between around 3.7 to 4 million tons per year. Combined residential, commercial, and industrial activities in New York City resulted in over 13 million tons of waste in 2022, including refuse, recyclable material, construction and demolition debris, fill, source-separated organics, special waste, and biosolids.

Based on the 2023 Waste Characterization Study, approximately 75% of curbside collected residential and institutional waste can be diverted from landfills and incinerators through recycling and other waste diversion practices.

2022 NYC Waste Generation (million tons)

Private Commercial Private Industrial Publicly Managed

Note: This excludes medical and automotive waste

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2022 NYC Waste by Material Type (million tons)

Note: This excludes special waste, including waste oil, medical waste, and automotive waste. The biosolids category includes grit and screenings. Commercial waste includes MSW, recycling, organics, and textiles.

SWMP26 Programs

SWMP26 includes eight programs structured around types of waste and waste generators.

1. Waste Prevention and Reuse	2. Organics Diversion and Recovery	3. Residential Recycling	4. Residential Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)
5. Commercial Waste	6. Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste	7. Special Waste	8. Education and Outreach

The overarching goal of these programs is to decrease the amount of waste disposed and to increase the reduction, recycling (including composting and other organics management), and recovery of recyclables, all while maintaining a safe and effective solid waste management system in New York City.

What do residents discard?

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1. Waste Prevention and Reuse

Initiatives

1. Advance textile reuse and reduce textile waste
2. Expand support for reuse and repair organizations, donateNYC users, and C&D material reuse
3. Promote packaging reuse
4. Expand reuse and repair locations
5. Improve data collection and reporting on the benefits of reuse
6. Study incentive-based policies
7. Convene New York City's circular economy stakeholders

Waste reuse and prevention reduces the demand for single-use or unneeded items and encourages the reuse of existing products. The best way to manage waste is to avoid creating it in the first place. Reuse includes donation, repair, lending and resale.

Textile Waste

DSNY aims to reduce textile waste by expanding the citywide textile collection program, developing best practices for agency textile procurement and end-of-life management, and improving data collection.

The percentage of textiles in residential waste decreased to 5.0% in 2023 from 6.3% in 2017

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2. Organics Diversion & Recovery

Initiatives

1. Increase citywide quality and quantity of organics diverted
2. Increase the recovery rate of DSNY managed organics
3. Increase composting and wood use
4. Expand codigestion and beneficial use of biosolids and biogas
5. Promote food donation and rescue
6. Increase in-city use of organic-derived products
7. Continue to support community composting

These initiatives build on existing programs to continue preventing and diverting organic waste. Prior to the implementation of the Citywide Residential Organics Program, most of the organic waste generated by residents, institutions, and businesses was discarded as refuse and sent to landfills or incinerators.

Increase Composting

The Staten Island Compost Facility is the largest composting site in New York City. In 2023, it accepted over 30,000 tons of organic material. Small and medium composting sites, such as community gardens, play an important role in the City's organics management and raise awareness about the benefits of composting.

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3. Residential Recycling

Initiatives

1. Ensure continued capacity for transferring and recovering recyclable materials
2. Improve the recovery of collected Metals, Glass, and Plastic
3. Expand residential drop-off programs
4. Increase residential recycling participation and quality

DSNY will improve and expand existing DSNY-managed recycling programs. Recyclable materials include metals, plastics, glass, cartons, and paper. This program also includes the recovery of materials not regularly collected curbside, including textiles, carpets, and mattresses.

Recycling Right in the City

Sims Material Recovery Facility in Brooklyn and Pratt's Paper Recycling Facility in Staten Island help turn our recyclables into useful products.

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4. Residential Municipal Solid Waste

Initiatives

1. Ensure capacity for export
2. Maintain the Fresh Kills and Edgemere landfills post-closure
3. Monitor thermal treatment technologies
4. Advance New York City's Environmental Justice Plan

DSNY will maintain residential waste programs while advancing NYC's environmental justice goals. This includes sustaining export capacity, maintaining compliance with State requirements for NYC's closed landfills, and exploring advanced thermal treatment technologies.

Reducing Truck Traffic

Most of New York City's residential waste is exported outside of the city by rail and barge. This reduces truck traffic on congested bridges and tunnels. Barges and rail are more energy efficient, with a lower impact on climate.

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5. Commercial Waste

Initiatives

1. Implement Commercial Waste Zones
2. Expand Organics Rules
3. Increase diversion of recyclables
4. Improve data quality

These initiatives enhance commercial waste management by implementing Commercial Waste Zones, expanding organic waste requirements for all businesses, monitoring diversion of recyclables, and improving data collection on commercial waste.

Commercial Waste Zones Program

This program established collection zones for private waste carters. Carters that are granted CWZ contracts must comply with standards for safety, fair labor practices, waste management best practices, and data reporting requirements. This will reduce truck traffic and improve efficiency, transparency, and safety in the private sector.

The first commercial waste zone rollout was fully implemented in January 2025 in the Queens Central zone. Program rollout in Bronx East and Bronx West zones will be fully implemented in November 2025. Citywide implementation will be completed by December 2027.

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6. Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste

Initiatives

1. Implement Clean Construction Executive Order (EO23)
2. Expand NYCDOT asphalt recycling
3. Include C&D in the circular economy

These initiatives aim to encourage construction material reuse and recycling and remove barriers to the use of materials with recycled content. There is significant potential for diversion of C&D materials from landfills, such as beneficial use of fill, recovery of wood and fixtures, and recycling of metal, asphalt, and concrete.

Executive Order 23 (EO23) of 2022

This executive order requires New York City capital projects to reduce embodied carbon. Multiple City agencies assessed opportunities for carbon reduction, and material reuse was one of the highlighted solutions. MOER oversees the Clean Soil Bank program. NYCDOT oversees concrete and asphalt recycling. These materials are made available for reuse throughout the city.

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7. Special Waste

Initiatives

1. Advance Extended Producer Responsibility for special waste
2. Expand community events and centers

Targets the safe disposal of harmful products generated by residents and DSNY-managed institutions. Products that require safe disposal include solvents, automotive materials, flammables, and electronics (SAFE materials), as well as other potentially harmful household products.

Special Waste Collections

DSNY operates Special Waste Drop-off (SWDO) sites for use by residents in each borough and runs events to collect solvents, automotive materials, flammables, and electronics, known as SAFE events. In accordance with Local Law 88 of 2023, DSNY expanded the hours of its Special Waste Drop-off Sites to every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and added a textile drop-off location in every borough. Over the next 10 years, DSNY will hold one community recycling event in every community district every year for a total of 59 events.

8. Education and Outreach

Initiatives

1. Work to reduce contamination in all recycling streams through education and outreach
2. Study new digital tools as part of outreach and education efforts
3. Collaborate with community composters and DEP on outreach and education for organics recycling
4. Leverage enforcement efforts as a form of education and outreach

Expands education and outreach for residents, businesses, agencies, and other organizations to promote participation and compliance with solid waste laws and initiatives. These efforts include printed signage, online and social media outreach, and in-person events aimed at increasing recycling and organics separation and reducing contamination.

Digital Tool Development

DSNY conducts education and outreach through in-person events, online and social media outreach, and printed signage. DSNY aims to expand education and outreach efforts by studying innovative tools.

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Executive Order 23 (EO23)

Initiatives

- Collaborate with EDC and DCP on the NYC Industrial Plan and on circular economy opportunities related to building and infrastructure material recovery.
- Work with MOCEJ on exploring the use of recycled tire rubber in infrastructure, including through challenge-based procurement.
- Develop C&D waste management best practices for all covered Agencies.
- Advance research and identify infrastructure for reuse and remanufacturing.

EO23 of 2022 Summary

This executive order aims to reduce emissions associated with construction and demolition waste. It requires New York City's capital project agency construction managers to:

- Submit environmental product declarations for some concrete and structural steel materials.
- Attempt to use low-carbon concrete.
- Attempt to use low-emission or fully electric vehicles and equipment.
- Submit action plans to reduce embodied carbon associated with their projects.

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Thank you to our collaborators!

DSNY is not doing this alone. Residents, businesses, and institutions all have an important role to play in supporting these goals. Program implementation will rely on numerous partners, including:

- NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS)
- Department of City Planning (DCP)
- NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC)
- NYC Public Schools (NYCPS)
- NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)
- NYC Department of Transportation (DOT)
- NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC)
- Mayor’s Office of Environmental Remediation (MOER)
- Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Remediation (MOCEJ)
- NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA)