

Zero Waste City  
Facilities and Events  
on City Property:  
Ordinance No.  
187718

Report back to CF  
21-1208-S2

9/08/2023

Presented September 8, 2023  
To the  
Honorable Councilmembers of  
the Energy & Environment  
Committee

By  
Rowena Romano, Ph.D., PE  
Jennifer Pinkerton, MA, MIM

Barbara Romero, Director & General Manager  
Alex Helou, P.E. Assistant Director

## CF 21-1208-S2

---



- On April 18, 2023, the Energy and Environment Committee instructed that the Bureau of Sanitation :
  - Report on the status of implementing Zero Waste Events and Zero Waste Plans to promote Zero Waste Facilities and Events on City property, to achieve the various adopted policies to combat climate change within the City, and its effectiveness.
  - Include resources needed and updates related to composting in all City facilities, with an emphasis on expanding composting access in City Hall.
  - With the support from the Department of General Services and relevant departments that manage their own facilities, to report on staffing, procurement, and budget requirements, its data needs, and what interdepartmental agreements it should pursue to implement effective programs to achieve the City's climate change goals.

# What is Zero Waste?



A series of principals and actions to maximize diversion of materials from landfills, and reduce waste at the source. This can be accomplished by redesigning processes to use less materials, using reusable or durable products and materials, and recycling of materials.

## City's Zero Waste Goals

- 90% waste diversion by 2025
- 100% waste diversion by 2050



# Benefits of Zero Waste

---

- Reduce landfill impacts
  - Landfilling of materials has several negative environmental impacts including loss of valuable land;; potential contamination of water resources; and air quality concerns. loss of resources
- Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
  - When disposed of in landfills, organic material generates methane, a greenhouse gas with a climate change impact 25 times that of CO<sub>2</sub>
  - “Organic waste/materials” includes food scrap/food waste and food-soiled paper/fiber products: paper plates, paper napkins, wood utensils and chopsticks, and landscaping waste.
- Comply with organics diversion mandates of SB 1383
  - All organic waste generators to have organic waste collection services
  - Divert 75% of organics from landfills by 2025
  - Rescue 20% of surplus edible food by 2025

# Zero Waste Ordinance 187718

---



- Ordinance 187718 passed in December 2022, and effective January 1, 2023
  - City has proprietary interest in its own activities as a consumer of goods and generator of waste, and its effects on the environment
  - Adopting Zero Waste policies to specify the ways to
    - Eliminate single use plastics, ban Expanded Polystyrene foodware products and single-use or disposable containers at City facilities or events on City Property.
    - Reducing food waste through rescue or recovery of surplus edible food
    - Use of blue bins for recyclables
    - Use of green bins for food waste and food-contaminated paper foodware
  - Mandatory provisions in contracts associated with the use of or operations in facilities or on City Property by Food or Beverage Providers

# Mandated Provisions of Ordinance

---



- Applicable to All
  - Beverages in recyclable cups/cans/bottles
    - No plastic water bottles
    - Provide hydration/refill stations
  - Meal portions controlled
  - Condiments in dispensers
  - Recycling collection program
    - Food waste & Food-soiled paper
    - Recyclables
    - Trash
  - No Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) products
  - No plastic bags
  - Signage re waste prevention measures
  - Literature printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper content
  - Promotional items that are functional
- Specific to Catered Events /Dine-in
  - Donation of surplus edible food
  - Reusable foodware
  - Reusable napkins/tablecloths
  - Dine in: provide incentives for customers to use their reusables
- Specific Community Events/To-go
  - Use recyclable or compostable foodware
    - Allow customers to bring/use their reusable food ware
  - Napkins must have 30% post-consumer recycled content (green bin)



# Implementation of Ordinance

---

- City Attorney Notification to City Departments
  - City Attorney's office developed standard contact, lease, or event agreement language. This was sent to General Counsels, Office of Procurement, and Department Contract Coordinators
  - Apply to all Contracts and amendments to Contracts entered into on or after January 1, 2023.
- LASAN Activities
  - Hosted City Department meetings, offered assistance to Departments, reminded Departments to revise their event forms to provide zero waste information and ensure compliance with ordinance
  - Posted additional Rules and Procedures on LASAN's new Zero Waste web page (per Ordinance)
  - Creating an Informational mailer to Caterers
- LASAN Special Events
  - Notified event sponsors/organizers regarding ordinance
- LASAN 2023 Earth Day and Open House events: began implementing several zero waste provisions
  - Lessons learned: Important to have attendants to monitor bins and provide education to participants

# Department Zero Waste Plans

---



- In 2020, LASAN developed a “Zero Waste checklist” to guide City departments in developing their zero waste plans.
- Departments submitted their Zero Waste Plans to the Mayor’s Office
- LASAN is producing a Zero Waste Training for all City Employees (per CF No. 21-0064, April 27, 2022)
- Council File No. 21-0064, December 6, 2022 – Council directed City Departments to report back to the Committee on their adoption of the Zero Waste City Facilities and Events on City Property Ordinance and compliance with zero waste plan.



# Composting Pilot Projects at City Hall and PWB

---



- LASAN is developing two pilot projects to bring organics collections to specific City Hall offices and the Public Works Building (LASAN floors)
  - Working with Department of General Services on roles and responsibilities in both buildings
- City Hall Pilot Project
  - Council offices, Mayor's offices, and Board of Public Works offices
  - Surveyed lunchroom areas of these offices
  - Prepared literature and outreach material for staff training
  - Coordinated in-office collection with GSD (after-hours collection by GSD custodians)
  - Procured organics bins for each office
  - Procuring rodent-proof bins for the consolidated collection site (LASAN staff will service the bins daily)
  - Working on scheduling training/kick-off once rodent-proof bins are procured

# Composting Pilot Projects at City Hall and PWB

---



- PWB Pilot Project
  - LASAN Occupied floors – Floors 5, 9, and 10
  - Employee desk-side trash bins will be removed and employee will bring all trash to lunchroom for consolidation
  - Surveyed lunchrooms of each floor
  - Coordinated in-lunchroom collection with GSD/Custodial contractor
  - Prepared literature and outreach material for staff training
  - Procured organics bins for each lunchroom
  - Procuring rodent-proof bins for the consolidated collection (LASAN to collect)
  - Working on scheduling training/kick-off once rodent-proof bins are procured
- Pilot Projects will further inform LASAN and GSD of the logistics and resources need as the program is expanded to other City Facilities.

# LASAN Recommendations

---



A successful program will require not just implementing the mandates, but training, behavior change, and continuous improvement and assessment. In addition, funding requirements for the resources, equipment, and staffing needed are critical. To address some of these challenges, LASAN recommends:

1. Direct all City Departments to provide annual progress reports to the Energy and Environment Committee of the City Council, beginning in January 2024, on their compliance with Ordinance No. 187718 and their zero-waste plan.
2. Direct LASAN to conduct a pilot with one or more food rescue organizations to provide the staffing, vehicles, and equipment needed to capture and divert edible surplus food from catered City events and City facilities.
3. Direct CAO to provide funding in the LASAN 2024-25 budget for two (2) new part time Event Attendant positions. The two positions will provide education and outreach during City Hall and Civic Center events.

# LASAN Recommendations

---



4. Direct the CAO and CLA with support from LASAN convene a zero waste facilities and events working group comprised of City Departments and Bureaus that permit/coordinate/host or organize events, as well as City Departments and Bureaus that have onsite restaurants, concessionaires or food vendors.
5. Direct LASAN, and the Department of General Services to report back by January 2024, on the progress of the two organics pilot programs and resources needed to expand the program to additional City facilities, and City sponsored events.



## More Information

---

Zero Waste City Facilities and Events FAQs Document:

<https://www.lacitysan.org/cs/groups/public/documents/document/y250/mdg5/~edisp/cnto89742.pdf>

Ordinance 187718- Zero Waste City Facilities and Events Ordinance:

[https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2021/21-0064\\_ord\\_187718\\_1-23-23.pdf](https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2021/21-0064_ord_187718_1-23-23.pdf)

LASAN Zero Waste Webpage:

<https://www.lacitysan.org/zerowastecityevents>