

RECOMMENDATIONS: ZERO WASTE

Adopt a city waste management policy that prioritizes reduce, reuse, and recycle—including diversion of food and construction/demolition waste.



Detroiters rally for single-stream curbside recycling.

Courtesy: Zero Waste Detroit

IMPLEMENT RECYCLING IN EVERY DISTRICT

- Enact an ordinance implementing the 2010 Charter mandate for recycling; include business and multifamily dwellings

ENCOURAGE MARKETS FOR RECOVERED MATERIALS

- Implement the 2010 Green Purchasing Ordinance
- Establish policies that require a percentage of recycled materials to be used in public infrastructure
- Attract manufacturers that reuse or recycle tires, food waste, furniture, e-scrap, plastic, glass, and other recoverable materials
- Develop a program to locally capture the value of compostables (e.g., sell fertilizer created from collected yard and food waste; establish composting program at Eastern Market)

REDUCE CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE

- Require waste diversion plans for construction and demolition permits
- Establish procedures for architectural salvage (skimming for valuable materials) prior to a scheduled demolition
- Set aside a percentage of abandoned structures for full deconstruction
- Establish demolition backfill standards that adequately prepare land for future use (e.g., use uncontaminated, permeable soils for natural drainage)

REDUCE ILLEGAL DUMPING

- Promote Keep Detroit Beautiful for year-round coordination and support of public, private, and neighborhood cleanup efforts
- Develop a transparent tracking system for addressing illegal dumping reports

REDUCE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE

- Establish a policy that encourages reduction of waste production and/or promotes efficient and waste-free “cradle to cradle” philosophy
- Limit hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities in Detroit
- Hold accountable owners of brownfields