

SFE Zero Waste Chinatown Council condensed report 4 17 2017 –

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2 large group meetings took place on April 27 & June 2, 2016 with 42 & 37 attendees respectively. Afterwards, there were several small group meetings separately for residential multifamily properties as well as commercial/retail merchants.

Based on discussions with many property managers/owners and operators of businesses, our findings are:

- Lack of space and elevators of older and smaller properties for landfill, recycle and compost bins.
- Residential: tenants not responsible for paying garbage fees, lack of incentive to recycle & compost
- Lack of waste diversion information: especially for new immigrants & seniors with insufficient English.
- Contamination, smell & waste inside properties and on streets creating health problems
- Lack of thicker compost bags
- Lack of cohesive & collaborative education from SFE, Recology, DPW, fire, health departments
- Merchants, residential, non-profits as well as for-profit small property owners and managers have limited funds and influence. They naturally look to government and Recology for help in this waste diversion effort
- Warning letters & fines should be combined with proper notice and education
- Collection issues are not being solved by Recology, this leads to the community feeling both Recology and City government are only “paying lip service” to problems

Success stories such as Far East Café & John Stewart property at 777 Stockton reveal improving waste diversion is a result of continual attention and caring from management.

Multifamily residential properties: without taking into consideration to the size of each residential multifamily unit, minimum volume requirement of 16, 16 & 4 gallons respectively for landfill, recycle & compost (44.4, 44.4 & 11.1%). These percentages do not conform with SF Recycling Ordinance nor SF city’s average on actual diversion (20-25% landfill).

Small property owners are currently organizing for protest of garbage rate increase

Some Suggestions for Action:

- Immediate, targeted site visits follow by corrective actions and workable pilot programs
- Education
- Public containers in 3 streams to provide service to the public/tourists, to those without space and to reinforce and confirm outreach messaging
- Compost bags for difficult properties
- Central collection location and tenant paying garbage laws for longer term solutions
- Space for chutes
- Make collection schedules better known so tenants and businesses can participate fully
- Clarity on DPW and DPH restrictions
- Increasing costs of doing business
- Recology and DPW fines.

Current issues:

Transition from SF Housing Authority - For the next several years, Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) will delay waste diversion at the Ping Yuens at 655, 711, 795 and 838 Pacific Avenue.

Concern over pending rate increase - A small, limited study of 26 residential properties in San Francisco ranging from 14 to 236 units, with 12 to 61% “diversion rate”, shows that present garbage bill is projected and estimated to roughly double after July 1, 2017. This assumes the proposed 16.4% rate increase, increase diversion discount floor from 15% to 25% as well as 50% processing fee due to significant contamination. If we take away the 50% processing fee, the estimated increase may be about 32% or one third more.