



The Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council facilitates the development of responsible policies that improve access for all Philadelphia residents to culturally appropriate, nutritionally sound, and affordable food that is grown locally through environmentally sustainable practices.

**Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council Testimony
In Support of Adopting a Zero Waste Goal for the City of Philadelphia
April 17, 2017**

Thank you Chairwoman Reynolds-Brown, Councilman Green, and all the members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Linda Knapp, I am an appointed member of the Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council (FPAC), and chair of FPAC's Zero Waste Subcommittee. I am here today to testify on behalf of my appointed colleagues on FPAC.

As a volunteer body that advises the Administration on how to be better partner in the regional food system, the Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council applauds City Council and the Administration on their efforts to make Philadelphia a zero waste city.

The FPAC strongly supports the development of zero waste policies and practices with an emphasis on increasing surplus food donation and using food waste and other organic material for composting to support gardens and urban farms. Implementing zero waste practices reduces hunger, food waste, and the associated greenhouse gas emissions, while enriching local food-producing gardens and compost-generating businesses.

In October 2015, FPAC approved a set of Zero Waste Policy Recommendations, and are pleased to see how much progress the City has made in a couple years with support from the Administration and City Council. The following is an overview of FPAC's recommendations with updates on the progress that we have collectively made towards achieving zero waste.

Establish a Zero Waste Policy in the City

In fall 2015, FPAC recommended to Mayor Kenney's transition team that the Mayor establish a Zero Waste Policy for the City of Philadelphia that incorporates waste reduction, recycling, and food waste composting. In December 2016, Mayor Kenney signed Executive Order 13-16 establishing a Zero Waste and Litter Control Cabinet within the Managing Director's Office. FPAC applauds the creation of the Cabinet, and looks forward to supporting the Cabinet in the development and implementation of its action plan.

Increase the City's Zero Waste Practices

The City is effectively modeling food waste recovery practices through Waste Watchers, a volunteer-driven waste diversion program, at the Philadelphia Marathon and other large events. Waste Watchers has now become an integral part of the Zero Waste and Litter Cabinet's community engagement strategy. Under the Cabinet, Waste Watchers will be expanded as a certification program with a zero waste focus for residents interested in organizing block clean-ups, educating community members about zero waste practices, and volunteering at events. Waste Watchers will partner with existing stewardship groups, such as Block Captains, to implement the certification program. The City is also supporting the National Football League (NFL) to operate Waste Watchers during the 2017 NFL Draft in Philadelphia at the end of the month.

Support increased surplus food donation

During summer 2016, the Zero Waste Subcommittee supported Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR) efforts on a pilot project to donate excess summer meals from PPR facilities to local food



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pantries. FPAC also supported a coalition of local anti-hunger groups, self-titled Operation Food Rescue, to promote the use of the Food Connect App at the 2017 Democratic National Convention (DNC). Through Operation Food Rescue, Food Connect recovered over 11,000 pounds of food that would have been wasted from local DNC events, and distributed it to food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. Food Connect continues to be used by restaurants and caterers across the city, and Operation Food Rescue is actively preparing for the NFL Draft this month as well.

Promote and support backyard composting

The City can promote and educate residents about composting benefits, backyard composting methods, and bins that can be purchased or built.

Support the growth of community-based composting efforts

In fall 2016, FPAC organized the Philadelphia Community Compost System Design Competition to raise awareness about the benefits of community-based composting and to identify cost-effective models that can be replicated in community gardens, schools, and other neighborhood locations. The competition is currently underway, and FPAC will promote the results at the end of the summer.

Encourage the use of compost and/or compost production on the Land Bank's urban agriculture projects

FPAC is pleased to that Land Bank regulations allow for on-site composting.

For the full list of FPAC's Zero Waste Recommendations, please visit our website phillyfpac.org/zero-waste.

We are encouraged by City Council's support of achieving zero waste in Philadelphia, and strongly believe that we can all effectively work together to make this goal a reality in our great city.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Linda Knapp
Zero Waste Subcommittee Chair and FPAC Appointed Member