



DELORES RUBIN
Chair

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CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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February 8, 2017

Kathleen Corradi
Zero Waste Program Manager
Office of Sustainability, Division of School Facilities
New York City Department of Education
44-36 Vernon Boulevard, 5th Floor
Long Island City, NY 11101

Re: Department of Education Zero Waste Program

Thank you for your presentation to Community Board 4's Waterfront Parks and Environment Committee of the Zero Waste Schools program on January 12, 2017. An earlier presentation by Debbie Lee Cohen covered similar material with an emphasis on the Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB). Your presentation focused on schools and school participation in the Zero Waste Schools program.

The result of your presentation is that committee members want to know what we can do to get schools in our district involved in the program. The purpose of this letter is to ask and, hopefully, have you or someone you identify answer this question.

Specifically you told us:

Two Department of Sanitation truck routes represent the pilot program of this initiative and that 122 schools with about 50,000 students along those routes are incorporated into the Zero Waste Schools program. In Manhattan those schools are on the West Side above the Manhattan Community Board 4 district.

The schools in the program are looking for the best practices for organics collection and recycling programs. They are working to minimize contamination and hoping to achieve at least 80 percent diversion within five years.

Zero Waste Partners are the Department of Education Office of Sustainability, Department of Sanitation of New York Bureau of Recycling & Sustainability and GrowNYC Recycling Champions Program.

You are offering education about organics and recycling programs to the involved schools and are attempting to create some uniformity in methods across schools.

You are attempting to integrate these programs into school curriculum in such a way that it becomes integrated in rather than an adjunct to teacher and principal daily workloads. In this regard, you are attempting to find ways to develop partnerships that go beyond the mandate to recycle with these teachers and principals.

And finally, you are looking for metrics to measure school success given the huge obstacle that trucks collect material from schools along their routes in such a way that individual school collections are not counted separately.

We also appreciated your reminder to the committee's high school member that your department stands ready to assist any school that wants to begin an organics and/or recycling program. All they have to do is contact you at 718 349 5424 or KCorradi@schools.nyhq.gov.

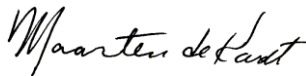
That the Zero Waste Schools program faces significant obstacles did not dampen the committee's enthusiasm to have it brought to our district. A successful schools organics and recycling program would be an important step to improving our district's environment. We look forward to having you help us figure out how the Zero Waste Schools program can be implemented in our district.

Thank you again for your presentation.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin
Chair



Maarten de Kadt
Co-chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Environment Committee



Lowell Kern,
Co-chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Environment Committee

cc: Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Corey Johnson, Councilmember