



Zero Waste LA Franchise Ordinance:

Transforming the Waste and Recycling System for the Commercial and Multi-Family Sectors

CONTEXT: BECOMING A NATIONAL ZERO WASTE LEADER

In April 2014, the Los Angeles City Council approved the Zero Waste LA Franchise Ordinance, making it the first and largest city nationally to adopt a robust plan to move towards Zero Waste. This followed more than four years of advocacy and research by the Don't Waste LA Coalition, made up of over 35 environmental organizations, worker advocates, and community groups, and over 200 small business supporters. The Zero Waste LA System will go into effect in 2017. Under the direction of the City's Bureau of Sanitation, it will create 11 trash hauling zones – encouraging strong and fair competition.

HOW WILL THE ZERO WASTE LA FRANCHISE SYSTEM BENEFIT ANGELENOS?

Recycling For All – And Eventually, Compost

To reach L.A.'s Zero Waste goal of 90% diversion by 2025, we'll need to divert close to 2 million tons of commercial waste each year – that's about **nine City Halls'** worth that would instead be recycled.

- By meeting this goal, LA will eliminate 2.6 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, **equivalent to taking 517,000 vehicles off the road.**
- In the new system, everyone will have the opportunity to recycle (and eventually compost), building on the successful single-family “three bin” model. This model also creates economic benefits for apartments and businesses - the more Angelenos recycle, the more they can save.
- Increased accountability will hold haulers accountable to diversion goals, under penalty of fines.
- Currently, over **1 million tons of food scraps and yard trimmings are thrown away** by Angelenos each year. By requiring expanded organics collection and composting, the new system can create as many as **2,000 jobs**, while reducing the climate impacts of methane caused by decomposing food.

Good, Green Jobs

Zero Waste LA will **improve the lives of over 6,000 workers** who currently handle and sort our City's waste, with the **potential to expand careers in the recycling sector over the next decade.**

- Hauling employees will be protected from toxic emissions coming into their trash trucks' cabs.
- Sorting waste one of the top ten most dangerous industries, and every step possible must be taken to improve working conditions in this industry. A robust facility certification program will review facilities' operations and compliance, additionally increasing accountability for diversion.
- Research shows that **recycling and composting creates two to 40 times as many jobs as sending our waste to landfills**, depending on the material recycled.

Clean Air & Reduced Neighborhood Impacts

The Zero Waste LA Franchise System will reduce air pollution with clean-fuel trucks and efficient routes, simultaneously reducing congestion and street wear-and-tear currently caused by overlapping routes.

- Replacing the current estimated 800 diesel trucks, haulers will be required to have clean fuel fleets before starting collection – **reducing up to 94% of dangerous particulate matter.**
- Truck routes will be efficient, with **the lowest Vehicle Miles Travelled of any project alternative** studied – clearing up streets that now have up to 10 different haulers each week.
- Efficient routes will protect our streets from unnecessary damage by heavy trash trucks, which one study found have 9,343 times the road impact of SUVs.