

Assessing the Feasibility and Costs of a Zero Waste Study Committee

House bill H.126, "An Act Relating to a Zero Waste Economy," proposes forming a study committee to issue a request for proposal (RFP) for the creation of a Vermont zero waste plan. The committee will

quantities of waste disposed. All this information is readily available to the public and would help in the zero waste planning process.

Zero Waste Case Studies

The Environment Department awarded \$150,000 to Perlmutter Associates to act as the lead consultant to work with the city's Zero Waste Advisory Committee during the planning process. During their first committee meeting on February 12, 2018, Boston's ZWAC set a nine-month timeline of committee progress goals (Figure 2). The city's goal is that by the ninth month they will have formed a final report for the waste reduction plan.⁶

Figure 2 Boston Zero Waste Advisory Committee 9 Month Plan

Source: Boston Sustainability Commission

The Road to Zero Waste Plan was written after a six month process that involved gathering data on the existing waste disposal system, calculating the monetary value of waste, and engaging in public meetings.²³ In 2012, prior to the Road to Zero Waste Plan, the city had a 42 percent waste diversion rate.²⁴ In 2016, they were up to 51.1 percent diversion.

San Jose, California (Population: 1,023,031)²⁵

innovative incentive payments system rewards contractors for high rates of diversion and incentivizes recycling over landfill disposal.

San José's Environmental Services Department retained two firms to develop its Zero Waste Strategic Plan through a Request for Qualifications and awarded collection and processing contracts to another two firms by releasing a RFP that detailed the needs identified by the city and c(oSf2 (n)-0.8 (s)-4.2 un)-0.8 lata

100 measures that communities can take to reduce waste and divert resources from landfills. In addition, the zero waste plans for other cities are all widely available online.

This report was completed on March 7, 2019 by Katherine Cutler, Zach Handelman, and Sebastian Wu under the supervision of VLRS Research Assistant Eric Tucker and VLRS Director, Professor Anthony “Jack” Gierzynski in response to a request from Representative Brian Cina.

Contact: Professor Anthony “Jack” Gierzynski, 534 Old Mill, The University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405, phone 802-656-7973, email agierzyn@uvm.edu

Disclaimer: The material contained in the report does not reflect the official policy of the University of Vermont.

³⁷ United States Environmental Protection Agency, “About the Managing and Transforming Waste Streams Tool,” accessed March 7, 2019, <https://www.epa.gov/transformingwaste-tool/about-managing-and-transforming-waste-stream-tool>.