

Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Agenda

September 10, 2025, 8:00am – 9:30am

Minute Taker: Emily Lee

Hybrid Meeting

Members present: Dailey Brannin, Dave Demme, Debby Galef, Tracie Gordon, Sakiko Isomichi, Debby Knight, Elka Kuhlman, Emily Lee, Richard Nurse, Carlie Peters, Dawn Quirk, Diane Roseman, Meera Singh, Helen Snively, Quinten Steenhuis, Rob Vandenabeele, Stephanie Wasiuk

Members absent: None

Staff Present: Mike Orr

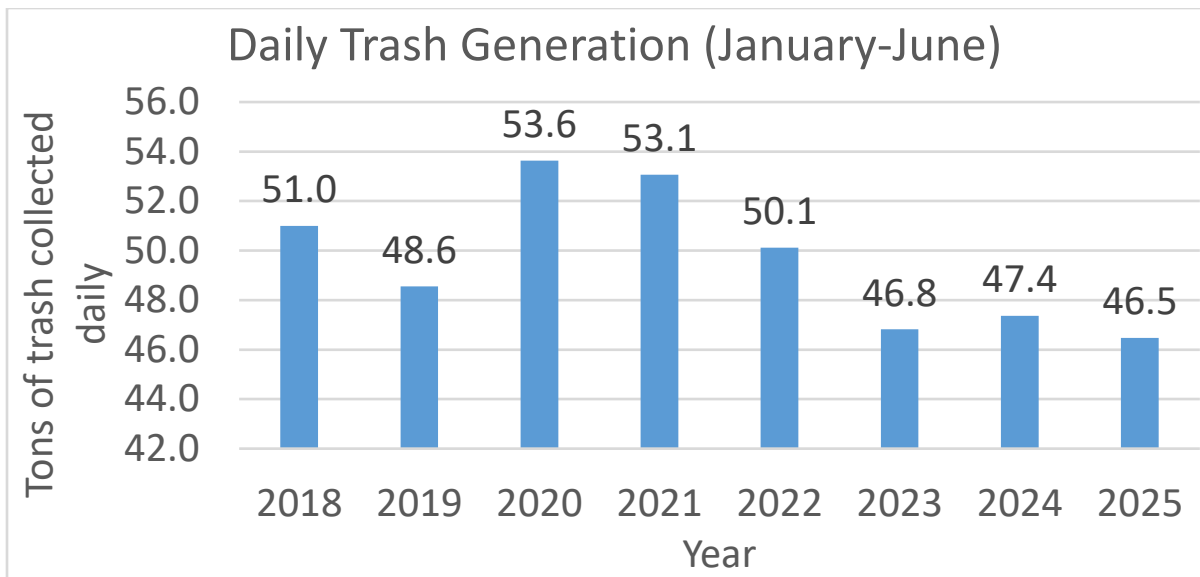
Public present: Courtney Forrester, Maria Hottelet, Aline Reynolds, Amy Waltz

1. Housekeeping

- Vote on June 2025 Minutes - approved
- Lee Elliott has resigned from the RAC.
- Carlie Peters will be co-chair along with Diane Roseman (and Debby Galef as secretary)
- RAC term ends in December
 - Application for new and returning members will be similar (on City website)
- Camilla Elvis departing DPW in 2 weeks; feel free to join the farewell party: 9/18, 1-2pm here at DPW
- Minute taker for Oct.-possibly Debby Knight; she will confirm

2. City Updates:

- Annual waste mailer about how to properly sort waste should have arrived in mailboxes
- Move-out waste update
 - Picked up more metal than anticipated
 - Collected more mattresses than anticipated; ones left on the curb don't get trashed, staff will flag, and city picks up but space is limited for how many city can store until the next collection
- DPW is coordinating a waste characterization study
 - Need to choose one set of Mon/Thurs dates, 7:45-11:45 am in Charlestown at Casella (don't have to commit to doing both Mon and Thurs):
 - Sept 29 & Oct 2
 - Oct 6 & 9
 - Oct 27 & 30
 - Carpools will be arranged, PPE will be provided, pizza will be offered afterwards
 - Process: have table with bags of trash, open bags and sort into buckets/barrels
- Update on City's trash generation rate



- Outreach events and volunteers update. Opportunities this Fall:
 - Danehy Park Day – September 20, 11-3pm
 - MIT’s Cambridge Science Festival – 9/21, 12-4pm (full)
 - Arts in the Park: Sept 27
 - Oktoberfest--October 12
 - City Annex (new residents go there for temporary and permanent parking permits) has been very fruitful

3. Zero Waste Master Plan 2.0

What are next steps for implementation?

- Short-term objectives - talking to law department to formally get these drafted, ordinance starts at law department -> City Council Ordinance Committee -> full City Council will then vote on Ordinance changes, might decide to change or punt; likely will happen after election
- What interests each RAC member the most?
 - Improving accessibility to the Recycling Center - need to improve fuel tank island in DPW yard (all of City’s vehicles are fueled here) so space will be redesigned, RAC can comment on design
 - Strategy #14: Determine if new materials can be diverted from landfill: Ridwell-company that is trying to get into the Northeast. Sends \$30 box with various pre-paid mailer bags for different materials that you mail back when you accumulate enough.
 - Strategy #15: Facilitate community-based programs: make it clearer who at DPW to reach out to and how to implement. How to bridge divide between large property landlord and tenants. Maybe making stickers to post on people’s doors.
 - Strategy #17: Provide information in multiple languages: could be merged with Strategy #1: Outreach.
 - Strategy #18: Remain nimble and adjust plans as needed: example would be strike happening at Republic and having to find backup trash vendor
 - Community events in smaller neighborhoods (Dawn got lots of engagement from doing the sorting game with parents and kids at the King Open School), Block Party
 - Richard is part of Rotary Club of Massachusetts, and their sustainability committee is planning an event in March with pop-up table display that they want RAC to be at

4. Closing, 9:20am

- Public Comment
 - Dawn laid off from MIT but will finish off term, suggesting Suzy Jones as replacement, looking for supervisory role involving circular economy/food waste/helping society
 - Courtney is one of Dailey's colleagues - Head of the Charles Sustainability Committee is still recruiting volunteers
- Action Plan/Decisions
 - Mike will send out link for signing up for outreach events, poll for which Mon/Thurs date we want to do for the waste characterization study and which ZWMP Strategy RAC wants to focus on
- October meeting will feature Cambridge Conservation Commissioner Jen Letourneau

Committee members are appointed by the City Manager. All meetings are open to the public. Members of the public may speak during the public comment section for up to two minutes. If you wish to speak, please contact Mike Orr at 617 349-4815 or morr@cambridgema.gov by 1pm the day before the meeting. You may also email or mail written comments for inclusion in public comments in lieu of speaking during the meeting. The Committee Chair must grant permission to non-members who request to speak at the meeting.

Meeting Minutes are located online here: CambridgeMA.Gov/Services/Recycling

Upcoming Meetings in 2025

- October 8
- November 12
- December 10