

# Recycling Alliance of Philadelphia

... a coalition of organizations and individuals working to promote recycling in Philadelphia.

## Member Organizations:

- ◆ Center City Residents Association
- ◆ Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future
- ◆ Clean Air Council
- ◆ Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund
- ◆ Community Land Trust Corp.
- ◆ Frankford United Neighbors
- ◆ Friends of Pennypack Park
- ◆ Greater Olney Community Council
- ◆ Hunting Park Community Development Corporation
- ◆ New Threads Inc.
- ◆ Northern Liberties Neighborhood Association
- ◆ Passyunk Square Civic Association
- ◆ Penn Environmental Group
- ◆ Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
- ◆ Pennsylvania Resources Council
- ◆ Philly Freecycle
- ◆ Queen Village Neighbors Association
- ◆ Sierra Club-- Southeastern Chapter
- ◆ South Philadelphia Environmental Action Coalition
- ◆ South Street Neighbors Association
- ◆ Southwest Community Development Corporation
- ◆ Spruce Hill Community Association
- ◆ Village of Arts and Humanities
- ◆ Washington Square West Civic Assoc.
- ◆ Weaver's Way Coop
- ◆ Whole Foods
- ◆ and many more...



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## Candidates Called to Make Commitment to Recycling Agenda

The Recycle NOW Philadelphia Campaign has challenged all Mayoral Candidates to commit to a Five Point Recycling Agenda for the City of Philadelphia. This challenge is the crest of a huge wave of public support for weekly, single stream recycling collection, as evidenced by more than 10,000 volunteer-produced petitions and many other Campaign endorsements.

“It is truly remarkable how committed all the candidates appear,” said Maurice Sampson, Chair of the Campaign. “While I don’t doubt their sincerity, history gives us reason for skepticism. If we don’t get the right kind commitment, recycling may become lost among other issues.”

Specifically, the candidates are asked to publicly announce a revamping of the recycling program, to appoint qualified professionals as leaders of the program, revitalize advisory groups, develop a comprehensive integrated solid waste management plan, and secure funding to ensure the program’s success.

All candidates for City Council have also been asked to endorse the Agenda and commit to support the next mayor to follow it.

The Agenda was produced by the members of the Recycle NOW Philadelphia Campaign which includes Emily Linn (Clean Air Council), Christine Knapp (PennFuture), Evan Belser (Clean Water Action), Meenal Raval (Philly FreeCycle), Ben Ditzler (Recycle NOW West Philadelphia) and Maurice Sampson.

The full text of the Five Point Recycling Agenda for the City of Philadelphia can be found at [www.recyclenowphila.org](http://www.recyclenowphila.org).

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## FIVE POINT RECYCLING AGENDA FOR THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Written by the Recycle NOW Philadelphia Campaign, April 2007

The success of recycling in Philadelphia depends on the attention, intent and personal leadership of the Mayor to make it happen. All the candidates for Mayor have made statements in favor of recycling and, with the exception of Bob Brady, have outlined positions on their websites reflecting varying degrees of support (March 2007). Despite their best intentions, history gives reason to be skeptical. Though Mayor W. Wilson Good is to be acknowledged in establishing the City's residential recycling program, throughout his term and those of his successors Ed Rendell and John Street, the City's recycling rate has never risen to more than seven percent over the past twenty years.

Statements alone are not enough. What is required is a firm commitment to a specific agenda which will lead to concrete results. Subsequently:

*The Recycle Now Philadelphia Campaign on behalf of the Recycling Alliance of Philadelphia, calls on all Mayoral Candidates to make a pledge, that upon their election as Mayor, to pursue the following five point recycling agenda for the City of Philadelphia.*

- 1. As Mayor, be the official voice and champion for Philadelphia's Recycling program. Declare the full implementation of a successful recycling program as a priority of your administration.**
  - Be the voice and image for program promotions and public announcements.
  - Restate this pledge at the outset of your administration and repeat it annually as part of the budget address and continuously in materials issued by the administration.
  - Reach out and partner with members of City Council and Philadelphia's State and Federal delegation to provide promotional and constituent support for recycling in all districts.
  
- 2. Appoint within the first four months of your administration accomplished individuals to the positions of Streets Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner for Sanitation and Recycling Coordinator.**
  - Open each position for a national search for the most qualified candidate.
  - Seek candidates with a clear commitment to recovery-based integrated waste management with commensurate experience in shifting from manual to automated collection systems.

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Five Point Recycling Agenda for Philadelphia

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- 3. Reorganize and re-task within the first four months the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC), the Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) and the Interagency Task Force as oversight groups to the Streets Department on behalf of the Mayor as outlined in the law.** (The SWAC was created as an oversight group as a provision of PA Act 101 in 1988, Pennsylvania's Mandatory Recycling Act, and the RAC as a provision of City Ordinance 1251A in 1987.)
  - Re-establish membership in each group. Per 1251A, members should include representatives of the City's environmental advocacy organizations, unions, business and civic associations, solid waste and industry professionals, City Council and the Mayor's Office.
  - Assure the total transparency and access to information to these advisory groups in their role providing program development review and offer recommendations to the Streets Department.
  
- 4. Direct the Streets Commissioner, working with the SWAC and RAC, to retain expertise to produce a comprehensive integrated solid waste management plan and offer recommendations to the Mayor within the first six months of the administration.**

This plan would:

  - Recommend options for a fully integrated solid waste management plan. The plan should provide for efficient trash collection and a weekly, single stream, incentive-based recycling program that collects all materials, including plastics and cardboard, citywide. The plan should also provide for the separation of organic waste from yards, gardens and kitchens.
  - Outline an implementation plan that describes the specific means, methods, costs and timetable for the aforementioned citywide recycling program.
  - As a function of the process, launch a RecycleBank™ pilot for 10,000 to 100,000 households with appropriate measures to fully evaluate its potential. Incorporate the results and evaluation of both this incentive-based recycling program and the existing enforcement-based, single stream program into the plan.
  - Consult with Unions AFSCME DC 33, Local 427 and DC 47, Local 2187 as appropriate in the planning process- particularly in the selection of collection equipment, and professional development of staff.
  - Identify and describe options for Mayoral consideration to finance the plan.
  
- 5. Provide for the financing and implement the plan before the end of the first Mayoral term in office.**

The RecycleNOW Philadelphia Campaign is a public information, education and civic action campaign. Our mission is the citywide implementation curbside recycling program providing weekly, curbside recycling for every resident in Philadelphia. Our goal is to secure such overwhelming public support for recycling so as to elect a Mayor with the resolve to implement an incentive based curbside recycling program like that offered by RecycleBank™. The Campaign is a project of the Recycling Alliance of Philadelphia, a coalition of organizations and individuals working together to promote expanded recycling in the City of Philadelphia in order to improve the environment, economy, and quality of life in our City. For more information, please contact Maurice Sampson, Campaign Chair at [msampson@netreach.net](mailto:msampson@netreach.net) or call Evan Belser at Clean Water Action, 215 640 8800.