



sanitation

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Moving Towards Commercial Waste Zones: NYC Sanitation Releases Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Commercial Waste Zones will Create Safe and Efficient Collection System, Provide High-Quality, Low-Cost Service and Advance the City's Zero Waste Goals

The New York City Department of Sanitation today released a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for its Commercial Waste Zones plan, the next necessary step to implement a comprehensive overhaul of the city's private carting industry. The plan is our blueprint to reform, reroute, and revitalize the city's private carting industry over the next three years.

While DSNY collects trash and recycling from residential buildings, more than 90 different private carters crisscross the city each night to service the city's 100,000 commercial businesses, driving long, overlapping and unsafe routes. The Plan, created through extensive stakeholder engagement, will bring comprehensive reform to the commercial waste industry.

"Today, we take a meaningful next step toward the implementation of Commercial Waste Zones in New York City," said Acting Sanitation Commissioner Steven Costas. "This draft Environmental Impact Statement is the result of thorough review and analysis, and it shows that Commercial Waste Zones will have clear benefits for New York City. We look forward to receiving comments and feedback over the next month and working with City Council to enact legislation authorizing this important program."

The draft impact statement, released today, is used to assess the possible impacts of the Plan in a number of crucial areas. Of note, the study found that under the proposed Commercial Waste Zone Plan:

- private carting trucks will travel 50 percent fewer miles on an annual basis, leading to a healthier and safer city;
- diverted recyclables and organics are projected to increase significantly, to 44 percent of the total waste stream from 25 percent today; and
- the carting industry's total operational expenses are anticipated to be reduced by an estimated \$14 million, leading to lower costs for businesses across New York City.

The increase in recycling and organics diversion will create 165 additional jobs in recycling sorting and processing, which will more than make up for employment loss in the carting industry as a result of collection efficiencies. The Department will work with carting companies,

recycling firms and organized labor to connect any displaced workers with new jobs in these industries.

The Department of Sanitation will host two public hearings on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement at the following times and locations:

- Monday, March 11, 2019
125 Worth Street, New York, NY 10013
Second Floor Auditorium
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Thursday, March 14, 2019
125 Worth Street, New York, NY 10013
Second Floor Auditorium
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Department will also accept written comments until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 25, 2019. Following the public comment period, the Department will review all comments and feedback before issuing a final Environmental Impact Statement. The Department will also work with City Council to pass needed legislation. Next year, the Department will select carters to service zones via a competitive solicitation process, which will be followed by a multi-year customer transition.

The Plan and DEIS are available at nyc.gov/commercialwaste.

About the New York City Department of Sanitation

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) keeps New York City healthy, safe and clean by collecting, recycling and disposing of waste, cleaning streets and vacant lots, and clearing snow and ice. The Department operates 59 district garages and manages a fleet of more than 2,000 rear-loading collection trucks, 450 mechanical brooms and 695 salt/sand spreaders. The Department clears litter, snow and ice from approximately 6,500 miles of City streets and removes debris from vacant lots as well as abandoned vehicles from City streets.