

# 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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## City Council to Hold Hearing on Recycling; Streets Department Called to Answer for Low Recycling Rate

The City Council Streets and Services Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Recycling Thursday, February 22, 2007, at 1:00 PM, in Room 400, City Hall. The subject regards recycling, the low rate of recycling in the City currently, and potential methods to increase the recycling diversion rate.

In preparation, The Recycling Alliance of Philadelphia released a letter challenging Streets Commissioner Clarena Tolson to answer eleven questions about the shortcomings of the City's recycling program.

"It has been more than 20 years since my appointment as the City of Philadelphia's first Recycling Coordinator under Mayor W. Wilson Goode", said Maurice Sampson, Chair of the Recycle NOW Philadelphia Campaign. "Despite millions of dollars of funding, talented recycling staff, able collection crews and a willing public, the Streets Department and the John Street Administration have failed to deliver a credible program. Philadelphia City Council and the citizens of Philadelphia are tired of excuses, they want to know why, and they want results--now."

The Alliance seeks specific answers regarding the May 2005 City Controller's Report which outlined the gross non-compliance of the residential recycling program and which showed that by recycling more, the City would actually save \$17 million of taxpayer money.

The questions also address the citations enforcement program, the Department's multimillion dollar promotions program and the status of the negotiations with RecycleBank™ which offers a program that rewards residents with shopping coupons, provides large bins and allows for plastics and cardboard. Tolson was also asked to clarify rumors that the volunteer-based "Partnership Recycling" program (which allows residents to drop off recyclables the city does not collect curbside) may be terminated.

For the full list of the questions, visit [www.recyclenowphila.org](http://www.recyclenowphila.org) (click on "Media Center").

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Philadelphia was the first urban jurisdiction in the US to mandate recycling and in 1994 was the largest and at the time, a highly respected urban recycling program. Currently diverting less than 5 percent of its wastes from disposal, Philadelphia has fallen from a high of 7 percent under the Rendell Administration. According to the Municipal Recycling Survey conducted by Waste Age Magazine, Philadelphia ranks 7th among America's eight largest jurisdictions, ahead of Houston Texas. According to the Survey, among neighboring East Coast cities, Philadelphia ranks the lowest including New York City (18%), Baltimore (27%), and Washington DC (17%). <http://www.wastenews.com/rankings/mrs2006.html>.