

BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

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September 9, 2005

Mayor Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

On behalf of our members in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee I write to urge your support for the NYC Zero Waste Campaign and their proposals for achieving Zero Waste: ***"Reaching for Zero: The Citizens Plan for Zero Waste in NYC"***.

New York City is the largest municipal exporter of garbage - approximately 25,000 tons per day! This waste is generated by people in New York and thrown 'away' with no concern for the 'away' communities. Although some poorer and cash-strapped communities are willing to play 'host' for now as long as New York pays their bills, most people realize that the money will eventually disappear while the landfills and the damage they cause will persist for a very long time.

Planning for a Zero Waste future can move NYC towards independence from landfills and incinerators by relying on waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting. Adopting Zero Waste goals and policy is the only morally responsible alternative to the current environmentally disgraceful situation of dumping on other communities, while simultaneously wasting valuable resources.

Fortunately New York City has a Zero Waste Campaign with active residents promoting sound and sustainable solutions for the City's solid waste problems- solutions which will save the City money and create economic development and jobs. At the same time, adopting Zero Waste will protect not only the environment of your city and your state, but also our communities here that are targeted to receive your waste.

We urge you to embrace Zero Waste goals and to implement the necessary programs outlined in the NYC Zero Waste Campaign's model plan ***"Reaching for Zero: The Citizens Plan for Zero Waste in NYC"***. As we develop our own strategies, we recognize that success for Zero Waste in New York City is critical to our work to achieve the same goals here.

Sincerely,

David Mickey
Zero Waste Coordinator
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

Cc: Sanitation Commissioner John Doherty
Borough President Fernando Ferrer
Congressmember Anthony Weiner
Borough President C. Virginia Fields
City Council Sanitation & Solid Waste Committee Counsel Carmen Cagnetta
NYC Zero Waste Campaign