

- Thank you for developing this important bill for the future of the District of Columbia.
 - The DC Department of Public Works (DPW) welcomes the inputs provided by the proposed legislation
 - Ms. Cheh is a recognized and vital supporter of the Mayor’s “Sustainable DC Plan” (the Plan) (note: the favorable reporting last November of the “Sustainable DC Act of 2012” by the Committee on Environment, Public Works, and Transportation which she chairs)
- DPW been working hard to develop a strategic posture and execution plan that outlines its commitment to the integrated environmental, economic, and social goals of the Plan and a way forward
 - To accomplish this, DPW is developing a Strategic Roadmap to provide a preliminary evaluation of its baseline operations and future options.
- The Roadmap will evaluate current operations and future optimization by comparing financial and natural capital use and investment levels likely needed to:
 - Reduce trash generation
 - Cut greenhouse gases
 - Reduce other potentially harmful emissions and discharges
 - Create jobs in DC
 - Enable population growth
 - Increase renewable energy production
- Key to this effort is recognition that our technology choices cannot occur in a data vacuum.
 - Currently, nearly one million tons of residual materials are collected in DC every year by DPW and private haulers.
 - The following are but a few illustrative examples of the data elements (and voids) of the DC Waste Management system we feel it imperative to review and assess before implementing process requirements that may not contribute to the Sustainability goals, or may, in fact, impede their achievement:
 - The DPW trucks performing only collection phase activities use over 600,000 gallons of fuel annually, whose GHG and other emissions must be reduced under the Sustainability Plan (this volume does not include the fuel and emissions from transport to recycling, energy, and landfill facilities that are also part of the total materials handling system)
 - Tipping fee outlays and other charges paid by DC contribute to the job and tax base of other regional entities
 - No public data exists as to the volumes of water used and/or consumed by recycling and other diversion activities in the system; water use is a key aspect of sustainability that must be discovered from our partner organizations and reviewed as part of due-process compliant decision-making
- To develop a data-based strategic posture, we are crafting a Strategic Roadmap that will baseline the financial and natural capital currently in use by the Waste Management System, and compare it to commercially available alternatives that can be operated both inside DC and within the region