UPSTREAM
Real Change Starts at the Source

Beyond the Ban

Initial Information

First, please provide the following background information about yourself, department and city.

1. Name

2. In which city department do you work?

3. If we can contact you for further clarification or information, what is the best way to do so?

4. If not yours, which city department oversees materials management operations for your city?
{waste reduction, recycling, composting, waste collection, etc.}

5. What is the annual budget of your department?
{in USD}

- ◯ <$1 million
- ◯ $1 - $5 million
- ◯ $5 - 20 million
- ◯ $20 - 50 million
- ◯ $50 - 100 million
- ◯ $100 - 200 million
- ◯ >$200 million

6. What percent is derived from the following sources?

	Percentage
General appropriations:	
Tipping fees:	
User fees:	
Grants:	

Other (please specify)

7. Please indicate how your city provides each of the following programs to residents.
{If no such program is offered, leave the row blank}

	Program is run by city staff.	Program is run by contracted service provider.
Residential recycling collection		
Commercial recycling collection		
Residential trash collection		
Commercial trash collection		
Bulky waste collection		
Leaf and yard waste collection		
Residential organics collection		
Commercial organics collection		
Sustainability outreach and education - Residential		
Sustainability outreach and education - Commercial		

8. What percent of collected material is sent to waste-to-energy facilities?

- ◯ 0%
- ◯ <10%
- ◯ 10 - 20%
- ◯ 20 - 30%
- ◯ 30 - 40%
- ◯ 40 - 50%
- ◯ 50 - 75%
- ◯ >75%

9. What percent of collected material is landfilled?

- ◯ 0%
- ◯ <10%
- ◯ 10 - 20%
- ◯ 20 - 30%
- ◯ 30 - 40%
- ◯ 40 - 50%
- ◯ 50 - 75%
- ◯ >75%

10. What percent of collected material is composted?

- ◯ 0%
- ◯ <10%
- ◯ 10 - 20%
- ◯ 20 - 30%
- ◯ 30 - 40%
- ◯ 40 - 50%
- ◯ 50 - 75%
- ◯ >75%

11. What percent of collected material is recycled?

- ◯ 0%
- ◯ <10%
- ◯ 10 - 20%
- ◯ 20 - 30%
- ◯ 30 - 40%
- ◯ 40 - 50%
- ◯ 50 - 75%
- ◯ >75%

12. What percent of collected material is diverted to reuse programs?

- ◯ 0%
- ◯ <10%
- ◯ 10 - 20%
- ◯ 20 - 30%
- ◯ 30 - 40%
- ◯ 40 - 50%
- ◯ 50 - 75%
- ◯ >75%
- ◯ Unknown

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Where are we now?

Next, let's take a look at how exiting programs are operating.

13. What is the key metric (e.g. recycling rate, diversion rate, generation rate, etc.) for your city to evaluate the success of its material management system?

- ◯ Weight of material diverted from landfilling or incineration *{divided by}* Weight of everything collected
- ◯ Volume of material shipped to landfills/incinerators
- ◯ Weight of material collected for diversion *{divided by}* Weight of material sold into city
- ◯ Volume of material collected for diversion *{divided by}* Volume of material sold into city
- ◯ Per capita disposal rate by weight
- ◯ Per capita disposal rate by volume
- ◯ Other (please specify)

14. What is your published key metric for the following:

Traditional disposal {landfill, mass burn incineration or other thermal destruction, etc.}:	
Reduction since baseline date:	
Diversion to reuse programs:	
Managed through recycling:	
Managed through composting:	
Other (please specify):	
Unknown	

15. Is your city's performance data published and available publicly?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

If yes, where (provide website when possible):

16. When your city publishes its recycling rate, or its analgous key metric, which sectors are included in that measure?
{please check all that apply}

- ☐ Residential curbside
- ☐ Residential Depot
- ☐ Organics / Composting
- ☐ Construction & Demolition
- ☐ Small Commercial
- ☐ Large Commercial
- ☐ Institutional
- ☐ Other (please specify)

17. What types of plastics are collected in your recycling?

- ☐ #1
- ☐ #2
- ☐ #3
- ☐ #4
- ☐ #5
- ☐ #6
- ☐ #7
- ☐ Rigid plastics
- ☐ Films
- ☐ Foams / Expanded Polystyrene
- ☐ Other (please specify)

18. Are there any specific types of plastics not collected by your program?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

If yes, which types?

19. Are there any types of plastic that are collected and sent to processors but known not to be resold by the processing facility for manufacturing purposes?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

If yes, which types?

20. In addition to recycling, which of the following are part of your city's waste reduction, waste management and zero waste goals?
{please check all that apply}

- ☐ Waste reduction
- ☐ Organics diversion
- ☐ Energy generation
- ☐ Other (please specify)

21. Does your city track any data on litter?
{generation rates, hot spots locations, costs associated with cleanups, etc}

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Please provide where this data is published, if possible:

22. In the past 5 years, which of the following have been a focus for investment because of the impact of plastic packaging and/or plastic products?
{choose all that apply}

- [ ] Recycling operations (e.g. bins, trucks, etc)
- [ ] Recycling facilities (e.g. Materials Recovery Facility, collection depots, etc.)
- [ ] Litter capture (e.g. cleanup crews and street sweeping)
- [ ] Stormwater Management (e.g. catchment basins, new catchment cleaning crews)
- [ ] Citizen Outreach/Education
- [ ] None
- [ ] Other (please specify)

23. Please describe investments that have been innovative, exciting, or effective.

24. How often are waste characterization studies done in your city / waste management district?

- ( ) Annually
- ( ) Every 2 years
- ( ) Every 3 years
- ( ) Every 4 years
- ( ) Every 5 years
- ( ) No regular schedule
- ( ) Never
- ( ) Other (please specify)

25. Is this data available publicly?

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No

If yes, where?
If no, can you provide it? (We will follow up directly)

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Where do we want to go?

Now there are a couple of questions on some of your plans for additional action.

26. On a scale of 1 to 7 with 1 being the highest priority and 7 being the lowest please rank the following as priorities for the operations of your city's materials management system.

- Reducing waste generation
- Organics diversion
- Reducing litter
- Increasing revenue (e.g. user fees or materials sales)
- Decreasing costs (e.g. operations cost reduction)
- Reducing contamination rates
- Including or expanding collection by industrial, commercial and institutional sector

27. On a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 being the highest priority and 7 being the lowest, please rank the following priorities for future resource (capital, staff, etc) investment in your city's materials management system.

- Reducing waste generation
- Organics diversion
- Reducing litter
- Increasing revenue (e.g. user fees or materials sales)
- Decreasing costs (e.g. operations cost reduction)
- Reducing contamination rates
- Including or expanding collection by industrial, commercial and institutional sector

28. On a scale of 1 to 7 with 1 being the highest priority and 7 being the lowest please rank the following priorities for the city's community engagement programs.

- Reducing waste generation
- Organics diversion
- Reducing litter
- Increasing revenue (e.g. user fees or materials sales)
- Decreasing costs (e.g. operations cost reduction)
- Reducing contamination rates
- Including or expanding collection by industrial, commercial and institutional sector

29. What is the priority audience(s) for communication and outreach?

30. Which of the following policies/programs have been implemented?
{mark all that apply}

- [ ] Plastic bag ban
- [ ] Polystyrene ban
- [ ] Regulation of disposable utensils
- [ ] Regulation of disposable straws
- [ ] Regulation of other material *{please note at the bottom}*
- [ ] Mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility {*EPR}*
- [ ] Voluntary Product Stewardship
- [ ] Organics diversion

31. Which of the following policies/programs are being considered by the city?
{mark all that apply}

- [ ] Plastic bag ban
- [ ] Polystyrene ban
- [ ] Regulation of disposable utensils
- [ ] Regulation of disposable straws
- [ ] Regulation of other material, {insert additional}
- [ ] Mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- [ ] Voluntary Product Stewardship
- [ ] Organics Diversion / new programs

32. Have there been efforts in your state to advance Extended Producer Responsibility for plastics and/or packaging?

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No

33. What position, if any, has your city had regarding Extended Producer Responsibility for plastics and/or packaging?

- [ ] Provided data to advocates or the legislature
- [ ] Contacted legislators in support of legislation
- [ ] Contacted legislators in opposition of legislation
- [ ] Part of state Product Stewardship Council which has not taken a position
- [ ] Part of state Product Stewardship Council which has taken a position
- [ ] No position
- [ ] Unknown
- [ ] Other (please specify)

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Barriers

Almost done. What barriers stand in the way of your city taking additional action?

34. On a scale of 1 to 7 with 1 being the highest priority and 7 being the lowest please rank the following stakeholders on importance for engagement in efforts to reduce and/or manage plastic material.

- Businesses
- Residents
- Institutions
- Consumers Good Companies *(Those who are deciding which packaging to use for their products)*
- NGO/Advocacy Community
- Public Officials
- None of these

35. On a scale of 1 to 7 with 1 being the highest priority and 7 being the lowest please rank the following as barriers to taking action on plastic pollution.

- Public recognition that plastic pollution is a problem
- Insufficient capital
- Lack of political will for systems modifications
- Insufficient staff
- Lack of public support for policy proposals
- Insufficient data to demonstrate need for action
- None of these

36. On a scale of 1 to 7 with 1 being the highest priority and 7 being the lowest please rank the following external events by the level of impact on your city's materials management system.

- China's "Green Fence" *(Policy to reduce contamination of recycled material loads for import)*
- Drop in oil prices
- Decrease in number of domestic material processors
- Lack of information on international processors
- Influx of new packaging materials
- Additional state regulation
- Additional federal regulation
- None of these

37. Rank the following barriers by the level of impact on your residents' perception of and/or compliance with existing programs.

- Lack of familiarity with new material types
- Too many rapid changes in the system
- Too many changes in the system
- Not understanding what is and is not recyclable
- No financial incentive for personal behavior
- Lack of enforcement of existing rules
- None of these

38. Have you stopped collecting any plastics or stopped marketing certain plastics to processors?

- Yes
- No

If yes, which ones?

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Prioritizing Action

Last question to help us decide what to discuss in Providence.

39. Please rank these issues in the order of priority for your city:

	Most Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Creating a model plastic pollution policy	☐	☐	☐
Developing a city-to-city shared goal on addressing plastic pollution	☐	☐	☐
Connecting waste related issues to city climate goals	☐	☐	☐
Evaluation of potential statewide material management policies	☐	☐	☐
Policies to reduce the amount of plastic being sold in your city	☐	☐	☐
Policies to reduce the amount of plastic being disposed of in the waste stream	☐	☐	☐
Consumer engagement strategies	☐	☐	☐
Resident engagement strategies	☐	☐	☐
Business engagement strategies	☐	☐	☐
Influencing packaging design	☐	☐	☐
Guidance on evaluation metrics and data collection	☐	☐	☐

40. What resources or support from your network of city official peers would be most helpful to you?