



THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA OFFICE OF CLEAN & GREEN INITIATIVES

CLEAN AND GREEN CABINET REPORT, OCTOBER 2025

CHERELLE L. PARKER, MAYOR

CARLTON WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR

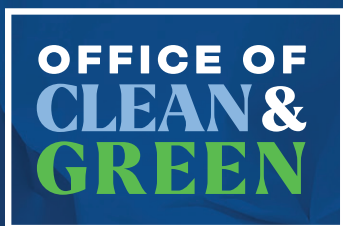


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I. INTRODUCTION



Mayor Cherelle L. Parker's commitment is to make the city of Philadelphia the **SAFEST**, **CLEANEST**, AND **GREENEST** big city in the nation, with access to economic opportunity for all.

To help deliver on this commitment, in May 2024, the Mayor established by Executive Order the Office of Clean and Green (OCG) Initiatives under the leadership of Director Carlton Williams. OCG brings together key city agencies and city leaders to develop a proactive, responsive, and holistic approach to addressing persistent quality-of-life issues that affect all Philadelphians' health, environment, safety, and prosperity.

In addition to creating the office and establishing its objectives, as part of her 100-day Action Plan, the Mayor convened a nearly 40-member [Clean and Green Cabinet](#) of government, community, nonprofit, and business leaders to *"be responsible for researching and evaluating methods for making Philadelphia cleaner and greener and for making policy, programmatic, and budgetary recommendations for the city and its partners to pursue."* The Mayor's Executive Order also requires that the Cabinet produce an annual report to the Administration no later than December 31st of each year.

This first report features a wide array of recommendations generated by the Cabinet for consideration. Reflecting the extensive expertise and experience of Cabinet members, the recommendations highlight critical opportunities for shaping the city's policies, programs, and resource allocation in order to produce results residents can see, touch, and feel. Substantial work going forward will involve prioritizing actions that will have the greatest impact, identifying challenges, assessing progress, and ensuring effective implementation.

Realizing Mayor Parker's vision will require the collaboration of stakeholders across all sectors – public, private, nonprofit and philanthropic, and individual residents. The services the city provides, such as trash collection and street cleaning, or nuisance property abatement and enforcement, are in themselves not enough to meet our collective ambitions for a cleaner and greener city. These services must be complemented by nonprofit and community group involvement: the Commerce Department's Taking Care of Business program and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's LandCare program, which enlist community-based organizations to care for and beautify commercial corridors and vacant lots respectively, provide models for how partner organizations can leverage their expertise and capacity to improve quality of life in our city. Private corporations and the philanthropic sector can play their part by aligning funding, corporate sponsorship, and other resources to initiatives and organizations consistent with clean and green objectives. Finally, the participation and engagement of individuals at the neighborhood level is paramount to sustaining the work we do together. From residents to small business owners, every Philadelphian can "join the fight" by taking steps as simple as becoming a block captain, sweeping their sidewalk, joining a park cleanup or Park Friends group, or even reporting persistent issues to 311. These simple changes will have an outsized impact on keeping our streets and communities clean, green, and safe.



II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE PROBLEM

These factors continue to negatively affect quality of life for all Philadelphians:



**LITTER &
ILLEGAL
DUMPING**



**BLIGHTED
VACANT
BUILDINGS &
LOTS**



**ABANDONED
AUTOS**



GRAFFITI



**NUISANCE
BUSINESSES**

MAYOR PARKER'S VISION

Mayor Cherelle L. Parker's commitment is to make the city of Philadelphia the safest, cleanest, and greenest big city in the nation, with access to economic opportunity for all.



THE SOLUTION

The Office of Clean and Green Initiatives has launched a PROACTIVE, RESPONSIVE, and HOLISTIC strategy to addressing persistent quality-of-life issues in the city that affect all Philadelphians' health, environment, safety, and prosperity.



COMING TOGETHER

Forming a first of its kind, united front of city agencies, businesses, and the community to improve quality of life in our city



TAKING ACTION

Data-driven approach to anticipate and address community needs and deliver quality services



CREATING CHANGE

Implementing impactful strategies and programs that support the Mayor's long-term clean and green vision

FORMING THE CABINET



In May 2024, the mayor established by Executive Order the Office of Clean and Green (OCG) Initiatives under the leadership of Director Carlton Williams. The Executive Order also created the **Clean and Green Cabinet** to “be responsible for researching and evaluating methods for making Philadelphia cleaner and greener and for making policy, programmatic, and budgetary recommendations for the city and its partners to pursue.”

THE CABINET BRINGS TOGETHER:

20 City agencies and quasi-governmental organizations

18 Nonprofit, Community, and Business Representatives

COMPRISED OF 6 COMMITTEES:



QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

Bridget Collins-Greenwald, Commissioner, Licenses and Inspections Quality of Life Division



COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Jordan Marks, Deputy Director, Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood and Community Engagement



GREENING AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Sarah Stevenson, Deputy Commissioner, Philadelphia Water Department



COMMERCIAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Denis Murphy, Deputy Director, Commerce Department



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Lankenau, Interim Director, Office of Sustainability



ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Renee Garcia, City Solicitor

THE STRATEGY IN ACTION

Throughout 2024 and 2025, the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives immediately got to work implementing programs and initiatives to realize the mayor's clean and green vision.

Launched coordinated Citywide Cleanups in partnership with over a dozen city departments, nonprofits, and community groups.

AS OF SEPTEMBER 2025, THE TWICE-YEARLY "ONE PHILLY, UNITED CITYWIDE CLEANUP" HAS RESULTED IN:

50,868 Blocks Cleaned

32,533 Vacant Lots Cleaned

9,666 Commercial Corridors Cleaned

672 Schools Cleaned

208 Parks & Recreation Centers Cleaned

13,713 Instances of Graffiti Removed

ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT-BASED RESIDENTIAL CLEANING CREWS:

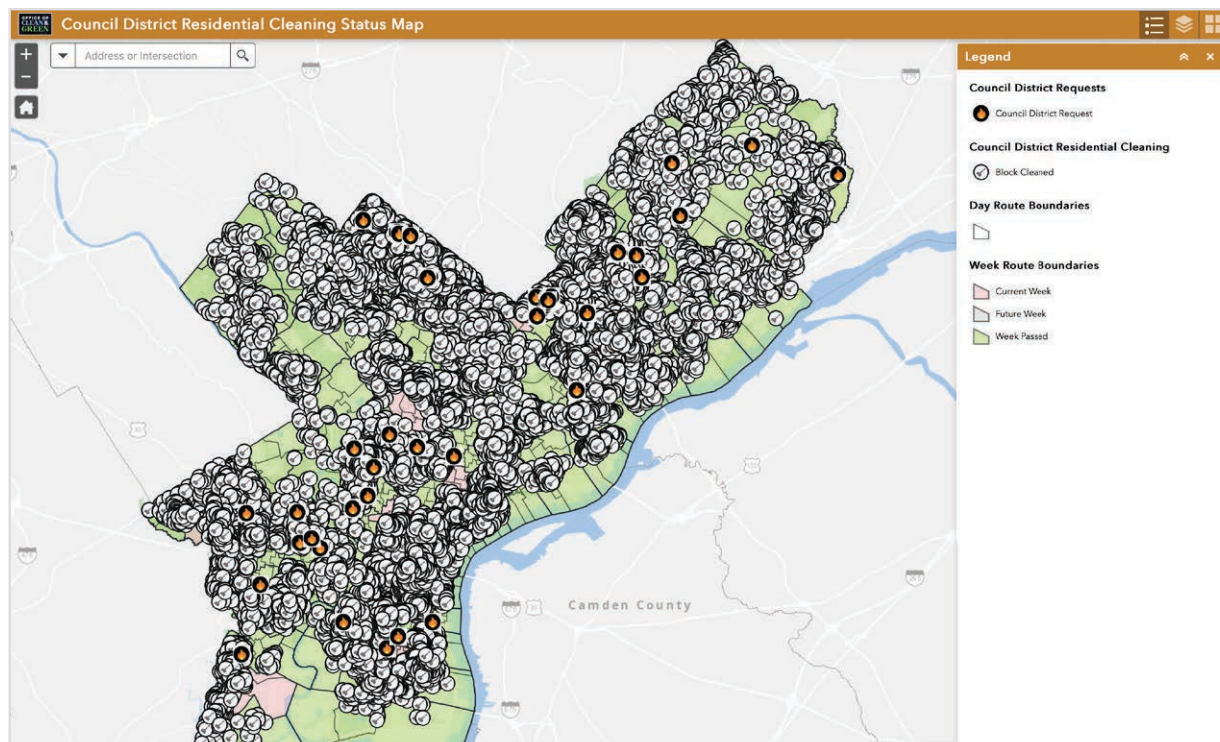


10 cleaning and illegal dumping removal crews proactively cleaning streets on defined routes in each Council District, equipped with compactor trucks, mechanical brooms, and hand cleaning equipment.



Between September, 2024, and September, 2025, the new District-Based Residential Cleaning program has cleaned **71,503** blocks and collected over **1,751** tons of trash from city streets.

The District-based crews will be leveraged to develop more proactive responses to common quality-of-life issues.



TCB EXPANSION

Invested \$3.5M in FY25

to expand the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's LandCare program to clean and green vacant lots near commercial corridors and bring these lots up to a year-round maintenance standard.

In November 2024, the Commerce Department issued an RFP to **39 existing TCB groups** to bolster their cleaning services, including by adding blocks, days of the week, afternoon shifts, and supplemental services like power washing.

In Spring 2025, Commerce expanded the TCB program to **179** commercial corridors served by **51** community organizations, employing **410** individuals as cleaning ambassadors.

INTRODUCED TWICE-WEEKLY TRASH COLLECTIONS IN HIGH-DENSITY AREAS TO PREVENT ILLEGAL DUMPING AND IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY

The mayor's FY25 budget invested \$12M in expanding trash collections to twice per week in densely populated areas of the city without adequate space to manage trash to reduce illegal dumping. Twice-Weekly Trash collections rolled out to Center City and South Philadelphia in late 2024 with expansion plans for North Philadelphia slated for January 2026.

ENFORCEMENT

- Increased fines and enforcement efforts around illegal dumping resulting in 40 new cases filed and over \$3M in judgments.
- 100+ additional surveillance cameras are due to be installed in 2025 to catch perpetrators of illegal dumping.



ENGAGEMENT

Launched the **JOIN THE FIGHT** campaign as a call to action for all Philadelphians to get involved in making Philadelphia better, led by Mayor Parker and Tyrese Maxey. Watch the video [here](#).

BIGBELLY EXPANSION

Expansion of Bigbelly units from 1,500 to **over 2,500** is underway, focused on highly visible and well-trafficked commercial corridors and residential neighborhoods.



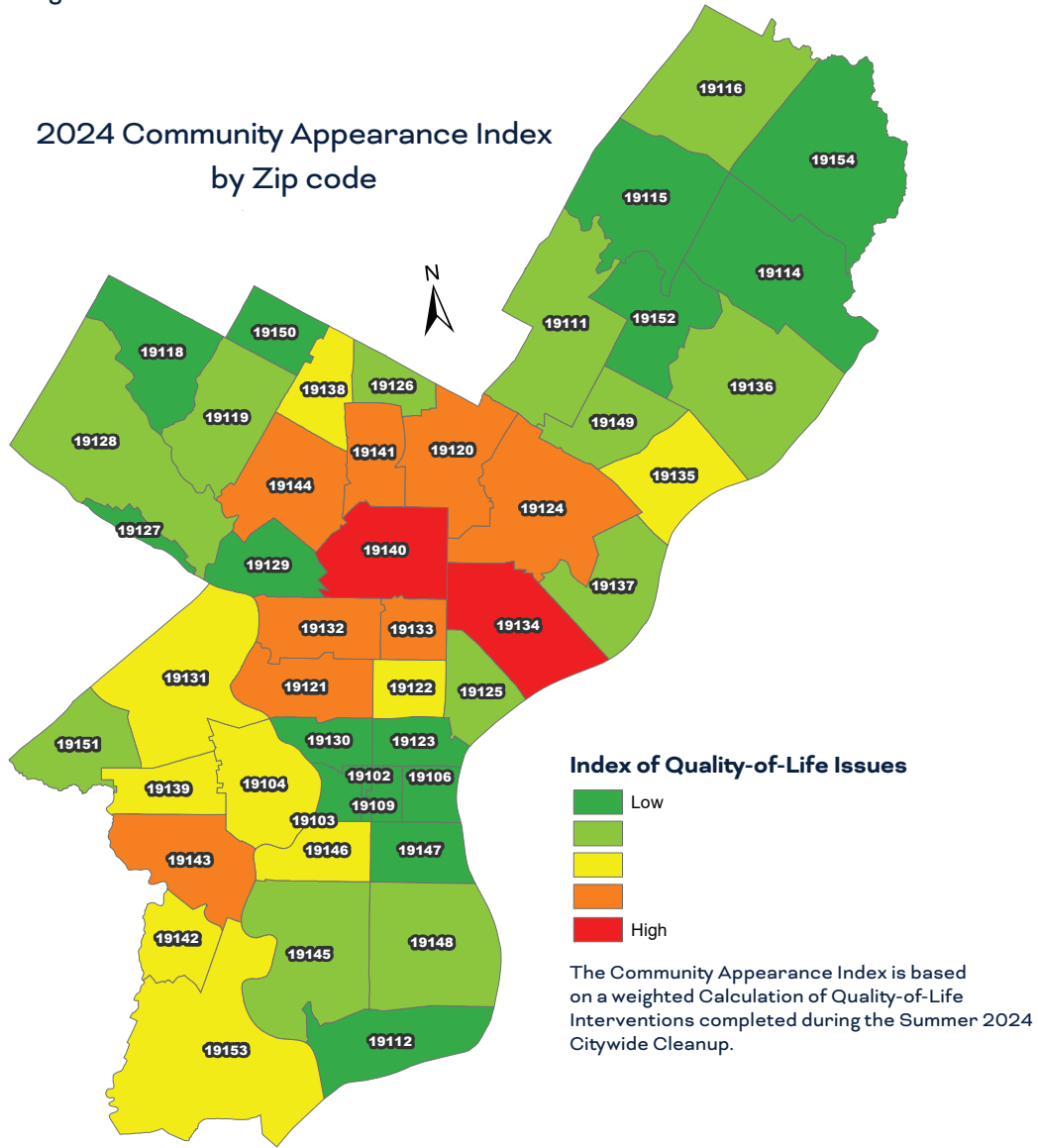
**PHILLY FUTURE TRACK
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM**

136 program graduates.
198 participants currently enrolled.

NEW DATA TOOLS

Underlying all of the work of the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives and the Clean and Green Cabinet is an abiding focus on collecting data, using it to target programs to where they are needed most and measuring success.

2024 Community Appearance Index
by Zip code

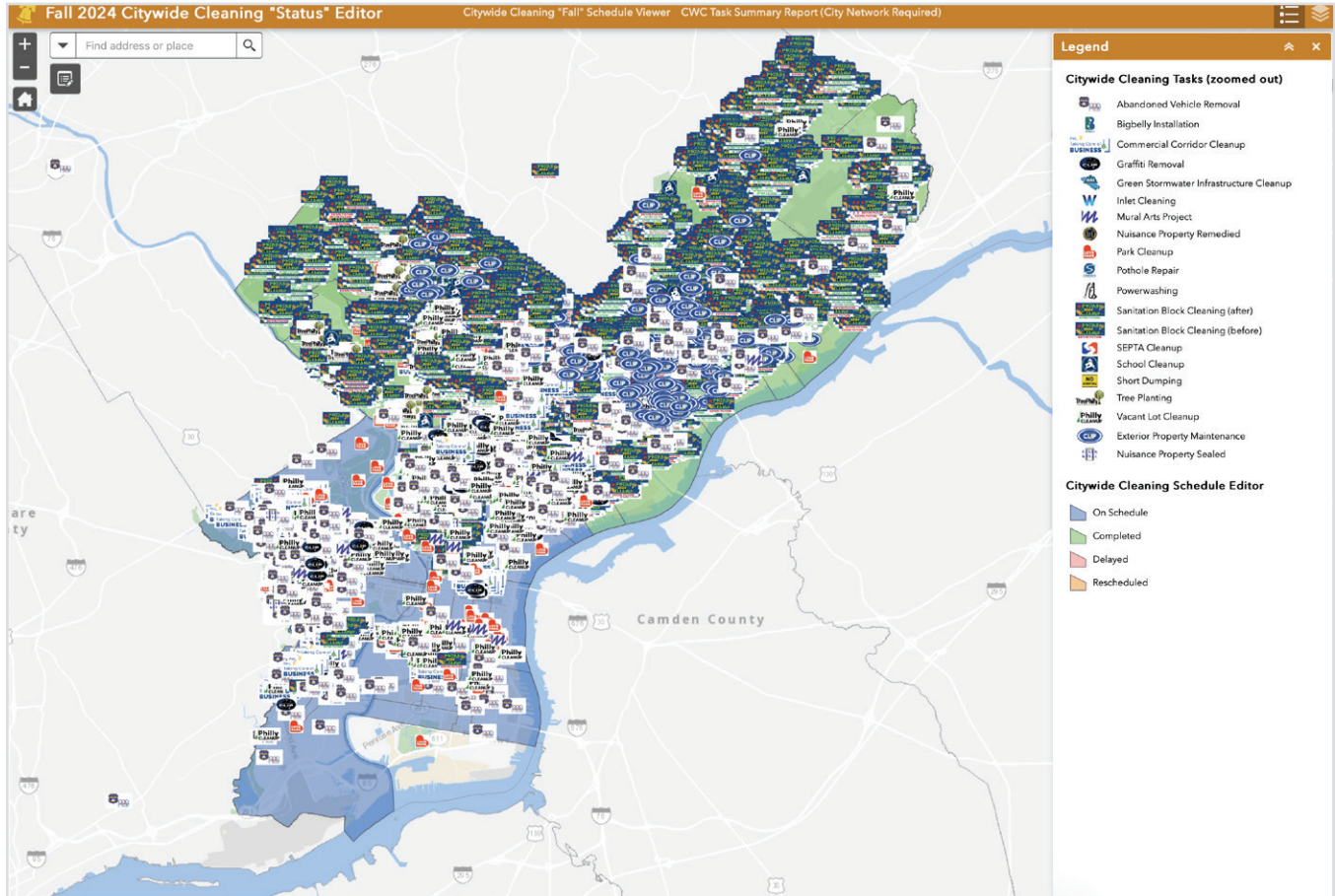


OCG has developed a new Community Appearance Index to identify the areas of the city that are hardest hit by persistent quality-of-life issues. The map shows a weighted calculation of top quality-of-life issues – illegal dumping, abandoned automobiles, graffiti, nuisance properties, and potholes – based on data collected during the summer 2024 citywide cleanup.



QUICK CAPTURE

The One Philly, United Citywide Cleanup and District-Based Residential Cleaning programs track work performed, such as blocks cleaned or abandoned vehicles removed, using an innovative GIS smart phone application called Quick Capture. Quick Capture enables over a dozen city crews and community partner organizations to record work performed by taking a photo, which maps back to a centralized, geo-spatial database showing the date, location, and time the work was completed.



Fall 2024 Citywide Cleanup – Quick Capture Data

- Moving forward, OCG and partners will build on the use of Quick Capture to institutionalize proactive data capture and sharing tools across operating departments, and to investigate the use of other tools such as Survey 123 and Field Maps to more reliably track work and proactively report and resolve issues.
- Using a combination of Quick Capture data and 311 complaint data, OCG is developing a citywide “Community Appearance Index” that maps the prevalence of multiple quality-of-life issues in a given neighborhood. With a baseline CAI established in 2025, OCG will be able to measure success of its various initiatives on an ongoing, annual basis.
- OCG also coordinates closely with the City’s 311 and PhillyStat360 teams to ensure service requests are responded to and closed in a timely manner and to increase the user-friendliness of the 311 system.

LOOKING AHEAD

For 2025 and beyond, the Clean and Green Cabinet builds on the work and progress made to date by making a series of recommendations in the following areas:

QUALITY OF LIFE		Expanding and deepening proactive quality-of-life interventions for neighborhoods and residents
GREENING AND BEAUTIFICATION		Identifying neighborhood-based greening solutions to create healthy, equitable, and resilient communities
SUSTAINABILITY		Reducing waste, increasing recycling, and investing in clean & renewable energy efforts
COMMUNITY OUTREACH		Community outreach: listen, learn from, and respond better to quality-of-life issues from community representatives
COMMERCIAL IMPROVEMENT		Engage commercial corridors and small business community to identify improvement solutions
ENFORCEMENT		Step up enforcement to deter perpetrators of quality-of-life violations such as illegal dumping and nuisance businesses

For a FULL list of Cabinet recommendations for 2025 (and beyond), see RECOMMENDATIONS matrix included in this report.

To Learn more and Join the Fight, visit
OfficeOfCleanAndGreen.org

To report quality-of-life issues in your community,
 Call 311





PARTNERS






The background image is a dark blue-tinted photograph of an industrial building. A tall, cylindrical chimney stands on the left side. The building's walls are covered in graffiti, including large, stylized letters and symbols. The overall scene is somewhat desolate and industrial.

III. SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

CABINET COMMITTEE		RECOMMENDATION		
		Detail	Category	Impact
 <p>Quality of Life</p>	1. Develop anti-litter curriculum targeting pre-K through elementary school students	Information, Education, and Engagement	Cleaning	
	2. Increase arrests and prosecution of illegal dumpers	Program/Policy/Legislation	Safety/Enforcement	
	3. Expand L&I's BEE program to include education to residents on exterior property code compliance	Information, Education, and Engagement	Safety/Enforcement	
	4. Improve quality of alleys in Center City, Chinatown, and Old City	Information, Education, and Engagement	Cleaning	
	4a. Center City District education campaign targeting business owners	Staff/Capacity Resources	Cleaning	
	4b. Dedicate 4 SWEEP officers for enforcement in target neighborhoods	Staff/Capacity Resources	Safety/Enforcement	
	4c. Investigate feasibility of temporary use of PPA to enforce dumpster maintenance codes	Staff/Capacity Resources	Safety/Enforcement	
	5. Install physical barriers to illegal dumping on vacant commercial properties	Installation/Maintenance	Cleaning	
	6. Targeted outreach in neighborhoods and parks with high rates of illegal dumping	Information, Education, and Engagement	Greening and Beautification	
	7. Enhance coordination between PPD, PPA, and L&I QOL to remove abandoned autos	Coordination and Collaboration	Safety/Enforcement	
	8. Identify illegal auto repair shops and target for enforcement or code compliance	Program/Policy/Legislation	Safety/Enforcement	
	9. Target key vacant lots for abandoned auto removal and site greening and activation	Program/Policy/Legislation	Safety/Enforcement	
	10. Implement OCG Anti-graffiti abatement, prevention, and enforcement plan	Program/Policy/Legislation	Safety/Enforcement	
	10a. Leverage federal and state funding for graffiti removal	Program/Policy/Legislation	Greening and Beautification	
	10b. Add CLIP capacity	Staff/Capacity Resources	Greening and Beautification	
	10c. Engage CLIP in proactive graffiti removal from I-95, I-76, and I-676 on routine schedule	Program/Policy/Legislation	Greening and Beautification	
	10d. Establish "Graffiti Zero Tolerance Zones" in hotspot with removal service level goal within 72 hours	Program/Policy/Legislation	Safety/Enforcement	
	10e. Create workforce development program focused on restoration of murals vandalized by graffiti	Program/Policy/Legislation	Economic Opportunity	
	10f. Pilot fellowship program targeting graffiti artists to mentor, train, and redirect their art	Program/Policy/Legislation	Economic Opportunity	
	10g. Install murals at key gateways to welcome 2026 visitors	Installation/Maintenance	Greening and Beautification	
	10h. Identify two "legal" walls for graffiti writers to engage with and program	Program/Policy/Legislation	Greening and Beautification	
	10i. Develop capacity for block captains, community group, and volunteers to remove graffiti	Staff/Capacity Resources	Greening and Beautification	
	10j. Develop Anti-Graffiti Task Force to coordinate state/local and issue criminal penalties	Program/Policy/Legislation	Safety/Enforcement	
	10k. Use Community Appearance Index and 311 data to target abatement to chronically graffitied areas	Program/Policy/Legislation	Cleaning	
	10l. Develop application to map graffiti locations for abatement and enforcement	Information, Education, and Engagement	Greening and Beautification	
	11. New legislation requiring commercial property owner contact info posting to aide in reporting	Program/Policy/Legislation	Safety/Enforcement	
	12. Decrease time to clean and seal vacant properties from 35 to 10 days	Staff/Capacity Resources	Safety/Enforcement	
	13. Support L&I and CLIP windows/doors painting efforts on properties that were recently sealed	Staff/Capacity Resources	Safety/Enforcement	
	14. Increase the number of NOV's written for missing doors and windows on blocks with ≥80% occupancy	Program/Policy/Legislation	Safety/Enforcement	
	15. Increase number of weekend and off-peak inspections by L&I-QOL and PPD	Staff/Capacity Resources	Safety/Enforcement	

		RECOMMENDATION		
CABINET COMMITTEE		Detail	Category	Impact
 <p>Greening and Beautification</p>	1. Support implementation of Philly Tree Plan	Staff/Capacity Resources	Greening and Beautification	
	2. Clean and green all vacant lots in the city	Installation and Maintenance	Greening and Beautification	
	3. Invest in maintenance of PPR parks and recreation centers	Staff/Capacity Resources	Cleaning	
	4. Preserve and protect key neighborhood green spaces and community gardens	Program/Policy/Legislation	Greening and Beautification	
	5. Create "Philadelphia Greenways" to improve aesthetic and environmental quality of major roadways	Installation and Maintenance	Greening and Beautification	
	6. Create block-level greening and beautification programs for residents	Information, Education, and Engagement	Greening and Beautification	
	7. Install roadway and streetscape planters to beautify commercial corridors and school zones	Installation/Maintenance	Greening and Beautification	
	8. Support PWD's continued installation of green stormwater infrastructures	Program/Policy/Legislation	Greening and Beautification	
	9. Create neighborhood-level greening and beautification plans	Information, Education, and Engagement	Greening and Beautification	
	10. Invest in revitalizing signature public spaces	Installation/Maintenance	Greening and Beautification	
	11. Increase percentage for public art program	Program/Policy/Legislation	Greening and Beautification	
 <p>Sustainability</p>	1. Continue a whole-of-city partnership approach to expand existing technologies and pilot new ones	Program/Policy/Legislation	Economic Opportunity	
	2. Implement 2nd large-scale renewable energy power purchase agreement	Program/Policy/Legislation	Economic Opportunity	
	3. Develop organic composting program using private investment to build processing facility	Program/Policy/Legislation	Economic Opportunity	
	4. Pursue compressed natural gas expansion at 63rd St Sanitation facility	Program/Policy/Legislation	Economic Opportunity	
	5. Monitor the development of high-performing electric equipment and vehicles in city operations	Program/Policy/Legislation	Greening and Beautification	
	6. Investigate potential for use of hydrogen in the operations of city departments and partners	Program/Policy/Legislation	Economic Opportunity	
	7. Issue RFP through Philadelphia Energy Authority to enable expanded waste-to-energy activities	Program/Policy/Legislation	Economic Opportunity	
	8. Link waste-reduction measures to greenhouse-gas inventory reporting	Program/Policy/Legislation	Safety/Enforcement	
	9. Investigate requiring all food delivery apps to offer an opt-in for plasticware	Program/Policy/Legislation	Safety/Enforcement	

		RECOMMENDATION		
CABINET COMMITTEE		Detail	Category	Impact
		 <p>Sustainability (Cont.)</p>	10. Develop mandatory reporting system for tonnage generated from the scrap, c&d, recycling industries 11. Implement policies to encourage waste reduction (ZW Plan) 12. Explore targeted waste-reduction initiatives 13. Investigate options for tire collection and reuse 14. Develop organics processing capacity and end products usage to support sustainability goals (ZW Plan) 15. Increase the frequency of waste composition studies (ZW Plan) 16. Support food-waste-composting programs initiated by city departments 17. Investigate the expansion of municipal food-waste reduction (ZW Plan) 18. Investigate opportunities to use excess capacity at the Department of Prisons composting (ZW Plan) 19. Create a regulatory system to better track and manage business trash and recycling services (ZW Plan) 20. Encourage businesses to perform waste audits as part of registration process (ZW Plan) 21. Require large generators of organics to have management plans to maximize recovery (ZW Plan) 22. Increase recycling through education and necessary infrastructure to all city-owned spaces 23. Increase awareness and use of Sanitation Convenience Centers 24. Provide connections between local manufacturers and materials management sources 25. Conduct community-wide education around desired recyclable materials and contaminants 26. Create efficient web resources for online access to recycling information 27. Expand by-appointment bulk collections of appliances; expanding clothing and electronics recycling 28. Update commercial recycling regulations 29. Investigate feasibility of creating a pick-up service by large generators of cardboard 30. Work with Commerce to introduce Waste Management planning and reporting at business onset 31. Improve and expand enforcement of existing curbside recycling program (ZW Plan) 32. Educate members of the C&D industry about the importance of site separation (ZW Plan) 33. Role for SWARC in developing new approaches toward managing the city's waste and recycling (ZW Plan) 34. Explore public-private opportunities for reuse and recovery of textiles (ZW Plan) 35. Encourage investment in technology for hard-to-recycle plastics (ZW Plan)	Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation Information, Education, and Engagement Information, Education, and Engagement Coordination and Collaboration Information, Education, and Engagement Information, Education, and Engagement Staff/Capacity Resources Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation Staff/Capacity Resources Information, Education, and Engagement Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation Program/Policy/Legislation

		RECOMMENDATION		
CABINET COMMITTEE		Detail	Category	Impact
 <p>Community Outreach</p>	1. Create Neighborhood Community Action Centers (NCACs) in each City Council district	Program/Policy/Legislation	Customer/Constituent Service	
	2. Coordinate NCACs with the City's 311 and PhillyStat360 programs	Program/Policy/Legislation	Customer/Constituent Service	
	3. Create Community Advisory Boards (CABs) in each Council District	Program/Policy/Legislation	Customer/Constituent Service	
	3a. Establish a standard set of sub-committees within each CAB to address clean and green issues	Program/Policy/Legislation	Customer/Constituent Service	
	3b. Designate sub-committees and subject matter experts within each CAB	Program/Policy/Legislation	Customer/Constituent Service	
	4. Identify and address macro-level quality-of-life issues in each council district	Information, Education, and Engagement	Customer/Constituent Service	
	5. Enhance the participation of youth in cleaning and greening initiatives	Program/Policy/Legislation	Cleaning	
	6. Involve media and other ambassadors engaged in the mayor's clean and green activities	Information, Education, and Engagement	Customer/Constituent Service	
 <p>Commercial Improvement</p>	1. Develop campaign-style messaging to motivate the business community with clearly identified actions	Information, Education, and Engagement	Customer/Constituent Service	
	2. Develop multilingual collateral explaining what TCB is and calls to action for businesses involvement	Information, Education, and Engagement	Customer/Constituent Service	
	3. Use partners to spread the word and organize events/activities to reinforce messaging and best practices	Information, Education, and Engagement	Customer/Constituent Service	
	4. Use video and social media to highlight cleaning/maintenance partnerships (community & businesses)	Information, Education, and Engagement	Cleaning	
	5. Create business window cling affiliation stickers such as "This Business Supports a Clean Philadelphia"	Information, Education, and Engagement	Cleaning	
	6. Create cleanest block or cleanest corridor contests to encourage participation and engagement	Information, Education, and Engagement	Customer/Constituent Service	
	7. Highlight the stories of corridor cleaners and supportive businesses in Visit Philly's campaign	Information, Education, and Engagement	Economic Opportunity	
	8. Coordinate between public and private partners to educate and change behavior of bad actor businesses	Coordination and Collaboration	Safety/Enforcement	
	9. Investigate, review, and clarify the business trash receptacle rule through refined legislation	Information, Education, and Engagement	Cleaning	
 <p>Enforcement</p>	1. Increase staff and resources to remove enforcement barriers for short dumping, nuisance businesses, etc.	Staff/Capacity Resources	Safety/Enforcement	
	1a. Assign different members of city agencies to perform short-dumping monitoring work	Staff/Capacity Resources	Safety/Enforcement	
	1b. Cross-designate investigators from other departments and hire non-uniformed clerks	Staff/Capacity Resources	Safety/Enforcement	
	2. Create a citywide short-dumping abatement and monitoring/surveillance team for Parks and Recreation	Staff/Capacity Resources	Safety/Enforcement	
	3. Expand the Law Department's Code and Public Nuisance Unit to equip them to handle more referrals	Staff/Capacity Resources	Safety/Enforcement	
	4. Amend legislation to increase fines and alter compliance deadlines with quality-of-life laws/regulations	Program/Policy/Legislation	Safety/Enforcement	
	5. Construct physical barriers in our Park system to eliminate access to hot-spot short-dumping locations	Installation/Maintenance	Safety/Enforcement	
	6. Expand the Sanitation Department's "Phila Can" initiative	Program/Policy/Legislation	Cleaning	
	7. Investigate other ways to discourage illegal dumping by greening areas prone to dumping	Installation/Maintenance	Safety/Enforcement	
8. More regular communications channels between departments dealing with QOL issues and enforcement	Coordination and Collaboration	Safety/Enforcement		
9. Share access to surveillance cameras and video recordings throughout the city to prevent short dumping	Program/Policy/Legislation	Safety/Enforcement		



IV. CABINET MEMBERSHIP

GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES	NONPROFIT, COMMUNITY, & BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES
KRISTIN BRAY , Chief Legal Counsel to Mayor Parker and Director of Philly Stat 360	BOB ANDERSON , Vice President, Closed Loop Partners
MICHAEL CARROLL , City of Philadelphia, Deputy Managing Director	JOHN CHIN , Executive Director, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation
BRIDGET COLLINS-GREENWALD , Commissioner, City of Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections, Quality of Life Division	PHOEBE COLES-WETZEL , President/CEO, Community Marketing Concepts
THOMAS CONWAY , Deputy Managing Director, Community Life Improvement Program	ANE GOLDEN , Executive Director, Mural Arts Philadelphia
KRISTIN DEL ROSSI , City of Philadelphia Streets Commissioner	MARIA GONZALEZ , President, HACE
JORDAN MARKS , Deputy Director, Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood and Community Engagement	FERN GOOKIN , Director of Sustainability, Revolution Recovery
RENEE GARCIA , City Solicitor	PREMA KATARI GUPTA , President and CEO, Center City District
ADAM GEER , Chief Public Safety Director, City of Philadelphia	DENNIS LEE , President, Business Association of West Parkside
SINCERÉ HARRIS , Chief Deputy Mayor of Intergovernmental Affairs, Sustainability, and Engagement	THERA MARTIN , Business Corridor Manager, Allegheny West Foundation
SARAH STEVENSON , Deputy Commissioner, Philadelphia Water Department	ADAM NAGEL , Director of Government Affairs, PennFuture
CRYSTAL JACOBS-SHIPMAN , Commissioner, City of Philadelphia Department of Sanitation	THOMAS BONNER , Director of Policy, Advocacy, and External Affairs, PECO
ELIZABETH LANKENAU , Director, City of Philadelphia Office of Sustainability	MATT RADER , President and CEO, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
RICHARD LAZER , Executive Director, PPA	MAJEEDAH RASHID , Chief Operating Officer, Nicetown CDC
DENIS MURPHY , Deputy Director, City of Philadelphia Commerce Department	ROLANDO SANCHEZ , Director, Impact Services
MYESHA MASSEY , Deputy Commissioner, Philadelphia Police Department	RICK SAUER , President, Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations
SHAWN MOUNTAIN , Environmental Program Manager, PA Department of Environmental Protection	JEROME SHABAZZ , Executive Director, Overbrook Environmental Education Center
EMILY SCHAPIRA , President and CEO, Philadelphia Energy Authority	ANGELA VAL , President and CEO, Visit Philadelphia
SETH SHAPIRO , President and CEO, Philadelphia Gas Works	
SUSAN SLAWSON , Commissioner, City of Philadelphia Department of Parks & Recreation	
CARLTON WILLIAMS , Director, Office of Clean and Green Initiatives	



V. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Clean and Green Cabinet comprises six different committees, each chaired by the leader of a city department and inclusive of community members and subject-matter experts in their fields.

THE COMMITTEES ARE:



QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

Bridget Collins-Greenwald,
Commissioner, Licenses and
Inspections Quality of Life
Division



COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Jordan Marks, Deputy
Director, Mayor's Office
of Neighborhood and
Community Engagement



GREENING AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Sarah Stevenson, Deputy
Commissioner, Philadelphia
Water Department



COMMERCIAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Denis Murphy, Deputy
Director, Commerce
Department



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Lankenau,
Director, Office of
Sustainability



ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Renee Garcia, City
Solicitor

To arrive at their recommendations, each committee was charged with defining problem statements and goals for specific sub-topics, examining existing plans and current strategies, identifying additional stakeholders for input, and researching best practices in other cities. Committees meet approximately once per month, in addition to bi-monthly meetings of the full Cabinet.



QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

The Quality-of-Life Committee will evaluate issues related to litter and illegal dumping, abandoned automobiles, graffiti, vacant lots, and nuisance properties and businesses, including vacant homes and buildings. To augment the new coordination approach adopted by the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives, this Committee will make recommendations that identify these quality-of-life issues, recommend specific programs or policies to remediate them, and identify key metrics to track for success. Through the creation of the Community Appearance Index, the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives will share data and a public tracker showing progress in each of these areas.

BACKGROUND

Through a review of the City's 311 data, the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives has identified the top five most persistent quality-of-life issues faced by Philadelphia residents:

1. Litter and illegal dumping
2. Graffiti
3. Blighted Vacant Buildings and Lots
4. Nuisance businesses
5. Abandoned automobiles

Historically, these issues have been addressed individually by operating departments, reacting to service requests on their own rather than strategically addressing them in concert with other departments. This results in inefficient and piecemeal delivery of quality-of-life services, leaving neighborhoods and residents with only partial or incomplete solutions to chronic problems. The quality of life of a block can only truly be improved when all of these issues are addressed in a more coordinated fashion, which has the added benefit of making clean blocks easier to sustain in the long run by residents.

STRATEGIES AND GOALS

In the summer of 2024, OCG led a citywide effort to address these issues in a proactive, comprehensive, and place-based manner, ensuring that quality-of-living issues in neighborhoods were tackled holistically and not piecemeal. *The One*

Philly, United Citywide Cleanup brought together over a dozen city departments, quasi-governmental agencies, and nonprofit and community partners to clean streets, remove graffiti, tow abandoned autos, and conduct dozens of other quality-of-life actions in the same area at the same time. The program is now "standard operating procedure," occurring twice per year in the summer and fall. In total, over 94,000 quality-of-life actions were performed by the city and its partners in the latest, summer 2025 Citywide Clean Up, all captured with an innovative smart phone application called Quick Capture, which allowed users to take pictures of completed work that mapped back to a centralized geo-spatial database.

OCG is also working to institutionalize more proactive quality-of-life and maintenance efforts among city departments through its District-Based Residential Cleaning crews. On an ongoing basis, the city is already seeing the benefit of the increased collaboration and communication between operating departments, crew leaders, and teams – putting into practice the Mayor's objective of breaking down silos among operating departments responsible for mitigating individual quality-of-life concerns.

Building on this effort, the Clean and Green Cabinet's *Quality of Life Committee* identified approaches and initiatives for each of the major quality-of-life issues, with overarching goals to further institutionalize interdepartmental collaboration, deepen education, and expand enforcement measures.



QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

Recommendations made by the committee will require a thorough cost analysis to determine funding needs. Together, the committee's recommendations will further support and enhance OCG's efforts to improve quality of life in our neighborhoods and make significant contributions to Mayor Parker's vision of a safer, cleaner, greener city offering economic opportunity for all.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Litter and Illegal Dumping



OCG has already taken several steps to curb and mitigate illegal dumping in our city that are underway through the Mayor's One Philly FY25 budget. These initiatives include:

ACCOMPLISHED

- Launching Mayor Parker's District-Based Residential Cleaning program, investing in ten district-based crews cleaning streets and removing instances of illegal dumping in each council district on defined routes and on an ongoing, proactive basis.
- Introduction of twice-weekly trash collections in high-density areas to cut down on illegally dumped residential trash in areas where neighbors typically do not have space to store household trash.

- Re-introduction of by-appointment bulk trash collection to give neighbors the opportunity to schedule free pickup of items like heavy furniture, appliances, and other items.
- Expansion and replacement of the city's network of Bigbelly trash cans along commercial corridors and into residential neighborhoods.

To augment these initiatives, the Clean and Green Cabinet Quality of Life Committee also makes the following recommendations:

- Partner with the city's Pre-K, School District of Philadelphia, Charter Schools, and Private Schools on a citywide early anti-litter education program taught directly in the schools.
- Increase arrests and prosecutions of people committing short dumping in the city. This will require more dedicated detectives and attorneys and cooperation with the District Attorney's Office and First Judicial District, among others ([see recommendations of the Enforcement Committee](#)).
- Expand L&I's Quality of Life Business Education and Enforcement (BEE) program to include educating residents on maintaining a code-compliant exterior property. This will require an increased number of dedicated inspectors at L&I.
- Demonstrably improve the quality of alleys in Center City, Chinatown, and Old City.
 - Work with Center City District on an education campaign to remind businesses of their obligations around dumpster maintenance.
 - Dedicate four Sanitation Department SWEEP officers to Center City alleys.
 - Investigate the feasibility of temporarily deputizing PPA officers to conduct dumpster enforcement.



QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

- o Create a one-month period of heightened enforcement to change behavior.
 - o Educate waste removal and dumpster companies on code compliance for timely and tidy trash removal.
 - o Increase enforcement on dumpster companies that continue to allow blighted dumpsters throughout the city.
 - o Investigate the feasibility of issuing a “zoning bonus” to those dumpster companies/ businesses that are code compliant or to buildings that address trash disposal in design by keeping dumpsters off the street and out of the public right of way.
- Install fencing with barrels on large commercial properties to curb illegal dumping on vacant lots. This will require funding for the Community Life Improvement Program (CLIP) or Sanitation for materials and personnel to install and monitor.
 - Conduct place-based, targeted public outreach and engagement campaigns in neighborhoods and parks with high rates of illegal dumping, including residential and commercial stakeholders and private trash haulers.

Abandoned Automobile Removal

- Continue and increase the collaboration between the PPD, PPA, and L&I Quality of Life Division to remove illegal autos from city streets, as demonstrated by the success of the *One Philly, United Citywide Cleanup* program.
- Identify illegal auto repair shops in the city and work to have them become code compliant or cease their operations.
- Increase joint operations to remove illegal automobiles on major vacant land areas and provide support for activation and greening efforts on vacant land.

Graffiti Abatement, Prevention, and Enforcement



- Implement the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives comprehensive anti-graffiti abatement, prevention, and enforcement plan. The plan involves the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives, the Sanitation Department, the Community Life Improvement Program, the Streets Department, Mural Arts, the Philadelphia Police Department, Commerce Department, and other state and local partners. The Anti-Graffiti plan calls for:

Abatement

- o Increased partnership with state and federal agencies to leverage funding for graffiti removal efforts and coordinate removal schedules.
- o Added capacity for CLIP to more rapidly respond to and remove graffiti in response to 311 requests.
- o Resourcing CLIP to conduct proactive removal of graffiti and beautification from I-95, I-76, and I-676 on a routine schedule.
- o Declaring a “Graffiti Zero Tolerance Zone” in hotspot highway areas and remove all re-tags of graffiti within 72 hours.



QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

Prevention

- o Create a Conservation Corps-like workforce development program targeting participants in Mural Arts' Restorative Justice program and Color Me Back program with skills-based learning to restore and clean graffiti from murals.
- o Engage graffiti writers in a 12–14-month pilot fellowship program to redirect their art, provide training, and mentorship.
- o Clean and repaint key gateways with new murals welcoming 2026 visitors.
- o Identify two “legal” walls for graffiti writers to engage with and program in order to encourage this artform legally and with support from the city.
- o Work with block captains, community groups, and volunteers to build their capacity to remove graffiti from specific locations like alleyway dumpsters, construction barriers, signs, and poles, and to report graffiti to 311 for immediate removal.

Enforcement

- o Develop an Anti-Graffiti Task Force that coordinates local and state authorities to investigate and enforce criminal penalties related to graffiti vandalism including penalties, fines, and community service.
- o Use data developed from the newly designed Community Appearance Index and 311 to target areas that have chronically high rates of graffiti.
- o Develop an application to identify and map graffiti locations for abatement and enforcement strategies.



Nuisance Properties

- Decrease the amount of time to clean and seal a vacant property from 35 to ten days.
- Increase collaboration between L&I Quality of Life and CLIP to paint “real windows and doors” on properties that were recently sealed, including funding for materials and supplies.
- Increase the number of violations written for missing windows and doors on residential blocks that are 80% or more occupied.
- Increase the number of inspections the Nuisance Property Unit of L&I Quality of Life and the PPD perform on weekends and after regular business hours to deter nuisance activity through cease operations and code violation notices.
 - o The PPD can use its powers under Title 9-4400 to write violations which deem businesses a chronic nuisance, enabling L&I Quality of Life to perform enforcement actions.



GREENING AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Greening and Beautification Committee will identify a comprehensive set of neighborhood-based greening solutions through which the city and its partners can create healthy, equitable, and resilient neighborhoods, streets, parks, and public spaces. The Committee will identify specific action steps and investments the Mayor can make to improve neighborhoods through greening and beautification solutions such as vacant lot improvements, public art, tree-planting, green stormwater infrastructure, and other innovative natural infrastructure enhancements to the urban built environment.

BACKGROUND

Many Philadelphia neighborhoods lack access to high-quality and well-maintained green spaces and green amenities in their communities. As a consequence, they experience environmental injustices, are disproportionately affected by the consequences of climate change like the urban heat island effect, and suffer from negative physical and mental health outcomes. For instance, some neighborhoods in Philadelphia with low tree canopy cover have been shown to be up to 22 degrees hotter than in those with healthy tree canopy. In others, cleaned and greened vacant lots have been proven to reduce violent crime by up to 29% and contribute to reduced feelings of depression. The data is clear: making simple and scalable investments in neighborhood greening is a proven way to improve safety and the health and well-being of Philadelphia residents. Greening will also encourage businesses to stay and locate in Philadelphia, improving our tax base and positive economic development outcomes. In the aggregate, greening efforts also improve the city's resiliency to the effects of climate change, extreme heat, and flooding.

These initiatives can and must be focused at the residential and neighborhood level, but greening and beautification may also be leveraged at the civic or citywide level, as the city readies for the nation's 250th birthday in 2026. Philadelphia's transit and public space infrastructure will be undergoing significant renovations and upgrades in the coming years, providing an

opportunity to leverage the benefits of environmental, greening, and public art and beautification solutions to improve the aesthetic quality and safety of the city, including along major traffic and transit corridors, gateways to the city, and in our signature parks and recreation spaces.

STRATEGIES AND GOALS

The Clean and Green Cabinet's Greening and Beautification Committee set out to define, evaluate, and prioritize a set of neighborhood-based greening solutions that visibly and tangibly improve the social, environmental, and health outcomes of communities. The committee focused on initiatives that can be implemented quickly at the neighborhood level, in partnership with community and nonprofit partners, to scale different types of greening interventions in the hardest hit neighborhoods.

The committee reviewed a "10-Point Greening Plan" for Philadelphia developed by the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives. This document focuses on improving the environmental health and overall quality of Philadelphia's neighborhoods through a comprehensive set of greening initiatives that residents can "see, touch, and feel." Together, the initiatives in the Plan address acute environmental and climate justice issues felt in neighborhoods, including illegal dumping, the urban heat island effect, and resiliency to climate change – all while providing job opportunities in the green skills sector. Realizing the aspirations of the Greening Plan



GREENING AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

will involve multiple stakeholders, including city agencies and departments, nonprofit partners, community organizations, and the private and philanthropic sector. Each will have a role to play in developing programs, fundraising, and implementation.

At the civic level, the Greening Plan also identifies a set of major, transformative, and visionary transit and public space infrastructure upgrades that can be leveraged to integrate high-quality greening elements citywide.

Finally, the committee discussed ways to build on existing, nationally renowned public arts programs and identify new and innovative ways to promote and support public art and beautification projects to improve quality of life and generate economic opportunity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support implementation of the Philly Tree Plan (PTP), the city's first ever strategic plan to protect and restore the urban forest, focused on areas of the city with the lowest tree canopy and high rates of urban heat and other health and environmental inequities. The city and its nonprofit partners have formed the Philly Tree Coalition to fundraise for, advocate, and implement the plan, which calls for \$250M in investments over ten years. To date, the coalition has raised \$12M from the United States Department of Agriculture in addition to other public and philanthropic investments.
- Clean and green all vacant lots in the city. The city, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), currently cleans, greens, and maintains 13,000 of the city's 40,000 vacant lots, signifiers of neighborhood blight that attract illegal dumping and other negative behaviors. Bringing all the vacant lots in the city up to a clean and green standard is a proven and scalable way to improve the environment and quality of life, reduce crime, deter illegal dumping, and improve mental health. Recognizing this, the mayor's FY26 budget invests a record \$10M in caring for vacant land, bringing all lots in the existing inventory to a year-round maintenance standard for the very first time.
- Invest in maintenance of the city's Parks and Recreation centers. Increase staffing, improve maintenance, and provide resources to support natural areas and neighborhood parks with infrastructure upgrades, materials, and technical assistance, and strengthen the community partnerships needed to sustain improvements over time.
- Preserve and protect key neighborhood community gardens and other green spaces. Work with the Philadelphia Land Bank, Neighborhood Gardens Trust, and other garden stakeholders to prioritize longstanding and mature community gardens for permanent protection as a neighborhood asset, and provide them with infrastructure, technical assistance, and materials needed to thrive.
- Create a new "Philadelphia Greenways" initiative to improve the aesthetic and environmental quality of major roadways and transit corridors. Connect highly visible and well-trafficked streets like Broad Street, Washington, Girard, and Grays Ferry Avenues, and others through a series of comprehensive greening interventions such as median plantings, street trees and sidewalk planters, and green walls.
- Create a block-level Greening and Beautification program for neighbors to green their blocks through front porch, stoop, and sidewalk gardens, planters, and window boxes.





GREENING AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

- Install roadway and streetscape planters and greening elements to beautify commercial corridors and areas around schools, and to enhance pedestrian safety, particularly along the Vision Zero High Injury Network of streets and in areas with high-capacity community groups who can maintain improvements.
- Work with the Philadelphia Water Department to continue to identify and install Green Stormwater Infrastructure solutions in line with their Green City, Clean Waters program.
- Create greening and beautification plans in every neighborhood, in partnership with community-based organizations and nonprofits like PHS and Mural Arts and in line with existing Phila2035 District Plans.
- Invest in revitalizing and greening signature Philadelphia public spaces, including parks like the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, FDR Park, Centennial Parkside, and new public spaces like the I-95 Cap and Chinatown Stitch.
- Increase the Percent for Art program to bolster budgets for public art and beautification and leverage public art to spur workforce development and address quality-of-life issues by enacting measures to remove and redirect graffiti and beautify vacant lots.





SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Sustainability Committee will primarily focus on issues related to waste reduction and prevention, recycling, and clean and renewable energy efforts. These conversations will revisit the city's zero-waste goals and objectives, evaluate opportunities to increase recycling rates, study the potential and feasibility of scaling composting and other organic waste diversion efforts, and explore clean waste-to-energy solutions in the power sector. The Sustainability Committee will work closely with partners at the Office of Sustainability, Water Department, and utilities to ensure alignment with existing sustainability goals and objectives.

BACKGROUND

According to the 2019 City of Philadelphia Greenhouse Gas Inventory, carbon emissions come from three primary sources: buildings and industry (~70%), transportation (~25%), and waste (~5%).

Making significant progress on the city's critical energy, climate, waste reduction, and recycling goals is critical to the Mayor's safe, clean, and green agenda. These goals affect the quality of life, health, and well-being of all Philadelphians by addressing environmental justice, reducing harmful carbon emissions, and preparing Philadelphia for a hotter and wetter future. The city's overarching sustainability objectives are bold and far-reaching: in 2021, Philadelphia committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, which will require reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, making buildings more energy efficient, moving to cleaner transportation modes, and generating more of the city's energy from renewable energy sources. At the same time, we must prepare for the inevitable and growing effects of climate change that are already here by increasing our resiliency to flooding and mitigating the urban heat island effect. The transition to a cleaner and more sustainable future must also be a just one: we cannot bypass the opportunity it provides to create family-sustaining green jobs for individuals and to reduce the burden of energy costs on residents.

The Office of Sustainability (OOS), in partnership with community organizations, utilities, and other city departments, has made real progress in these areas. In April 2024, Mayor Parker flipped the

switch on the 70-megawatt Adams Solar project, an innovative public-private partnership that will ensure Philadelphia's municipal buildings derive nearly 30% of their electricity needs from solar power. OOS has recently released a strategy for an equitable clean energy transition and supports community driven environmental justice and resiliency efforts through its Community Resilience and Environmental Justice Fund. Close partnerships with community organizations in neighborhoods like Eastwick prioritize ongoing, place-based strategies in areas that are especially at risk to the negative effects of climate change.

With respect to waste, recycling, and circularity, the city's goals are no less ambitious. The city is striving to realize a Zero Waste future, defined as "*management of products and goods as they are generated to minimize the amount of waste that requires disposal by focusing on sustainable production and packaging, maximizing the recycle ability and recovery of products and good generation, and minimizing waste by consumers.*" To meet Zero Waste objectives, we must continue to invest in strategies and initiatives to improve recycling and waste-diversion rates through education and policy. We will tackle food waste through innovative technologies to separate organics and expand opportunities for community composting and address other large components of the residential and commercial waste stream such as textiles and debris from construction and demolition. In addition to diverting more waste from landfills, Zero Waste will require significant behavioral and economic changes to ensure that we are producing far less waste to begin with.



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

STRATEGIES AND GOALS

To build on this progress, the Clean and Green Cabinet Sustainability Committee reviewed the vast body of work already produced in these areas by city departments and stakeholders and identified new opportunities.

On the clean and renewable energy front, OOS, the Philadelphia Energy Authority, and other stakeholders are elevating initiatives to transition to a clean energy system through the work of teams dedicated to Policy and Strategic Initiatives, Environmental Justice, Energy and Climate Solutions, and Climate Resilience. OOS and partners are focusing on how to reduce our carbon footprint through encouraging energy conservation, expanding the use of renewable energy resources, improving and expanding waste-to-energy initiatives, and working with local utilities to increase the capacity of the electric grid.

For waste issues, the committee reviewed the Waste Reduction Action Plan summarizing the prior administration’s Zero Waste and Litter Cabinet work, alongside numerous studies on the city’s waste composition, reports on recycling rates, a 2018 Organics Feasibility Study, and Zero Waste benchmarking assessments. In parallel and in concert with the committee’s work, the Sanitation Department is in the process of drafting a new Zero Waste Plan (ZW Plan) which revisits and refines the city’s zero-waste goals and initiatives to realize them.

The city’s zero-waste goals and objectives are grounded in our current levels of waste generation. Philadelphia generates approximately 1.3 to 1.4 million tons of residential and commercial waste annually. According to the Sanitation Department’s waste-composition studies, about 44% of curbside waste and 50% of commercial waste could be diverted from landfills. Some of the greatest opportunities for diversion in the residential sector include food waste, textiles, and compostable paper. In the commercial sector, recyclable materials and food waste have a higher potential for diversion, whereas construction and demolition pose more of a challenge.

The Sanitation Department’s forthcoming Zero Waste Plan identifies several obstacles to achieving zero waste, noting that Philadelphia’s 90% goal by 2035 is aggressive absent regulatory and policy changes and consistent focus on implementation. To get there, we also must reduce the amount of waste through a whole-of-city approach and enact a behavioral shift, motivating residents and businesses to consume mindfully, dispose sustainably, and emphasize reduction and reuse.

In addition to examining Zero Waste and waste reduction initiatives, the Sustainability Committee also focused on ways to increase recycling and expand the circular economy by examining procurement policy changes, supporting local manufacturers and businesses working in the recycling and circular economy markets, implementing consistent and increased recycling education, and fostering collaboration between city departments and local entrepreneurs.

A summary of the city’s existing goals in the areas explored by the Sustainability Committee and partners is provided in the table below:

ISSUE	GOAL	SOURCE
Clean and Renewable Energy	Achieve Net Carbon Neutrality by 2050	City of Philadelphia Climate Action Playbook, 2021
Waste Reduction and Recycling	Achieve 90% Waste Diversion by 2035	Executive Order 13-16, 2016
	Achieve a 50% recycling rate	Executive Order 15-08, 2008



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATIONS

Clean and Renewable Energy

- Continue a whole-of-city partnership approach to improve and expand existing technologies and pilot new ones.
- Move forward on a second large-scale renewable energy power purchase agreement to fully complement the Adams Solar project. The second RFP will seek responses to power 70% of municipal buildings' energy usage, bringing the city's total energy powered by renewables close to 100%.
- Explore opportunities with the Philadelphia Energy Authority to enable expanded or more advanced waste-to-energy activities including biogas purification, interconnection with existing gas infrastructure, and Guaranteed Energy Savings financing to fund comprehensive plant upgrades.
- Leverage the city's waste disposal procurement process to encourage private sector investment in developing organics composting capacity. Continue and expand collaboration to generate energy from the Philadelphia Water Department's biogas facilities. Current strategies include a partnership with Philadelphia Gas Works to monetize Renewable Thermal Credits for PWD's current biogas use.
- Pursue Compressed Natural Gas expansion at the 63rd Street city facility to double the number of Sanitation trucks served with cleaner fuel sources.
- Work with the C40 Cities Climate Leadership group to monitor the development of high-performing electric equipment and vehicles in city operations to reduce carbon emissions.
- As electric equipment technology improves, explore transition from diesel-powered to electric leaf blower procurement, including on citywide Sanitation Department cleanups.
- Continue working with the Mid-Atlantic Hydrogen Hub (MACH2) to determine how city departments and partners can use hydrogen in their operations

in advance of large-scale regional investments in hydrogen energy infrastructure.

Waste Reduction

The Committee's recommendations around waste reduction include expansion of existing efforts, new opportunities suggested by Committee members, and forthcoming recommendations from the Sanitation Department's new Zero Waste Plan (ZW Plan).

- Link waste-reduction measures to greenhouse-gas inventory reporting.
- Increase the frequency of waste composition studies to inform policy and programmatic prioritization of waste-reduction efforts, with an emphasis on environmental-justice outcomes (ZW Plan).
- Create a regulatory system to better track and manage trash and recycling services provided to businesses (ZW Plan).
- Create a process that encourages businesses to perform waste audits as part of the Sanitation Department's Recycling Plan registration process (ZW Plan).
- Create a framework with Commonwealth and federal stakeholders, and the business community, to implement policies to encourage waste reduction (ZW Plan).
- Work with PA DEP to develop a mandatory reporting system for tonnage generated from the scrap and construction and demolition recycling industry (ZW Plan).
- Explore targeted waste-reduction initiatives, such as eliminating expanded polystyrene packaging; consider the options for reducing the use of straws and other single-use plastics containing the dangerous chemical PFAS, whether through a legislative ban or through an education campaign.
- Investigate requiring all food-delivery apps to offer an opt-in for plasticware.



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

- Investigate options for tire collection and reuse.
- Create a path toward development of organics processing capacity and use of the end products of these systems to support city sustainability goals (ZW Plan).
- Support other city department initiatives, such as the Department of Parks & Recreation and the Department of Prisons, on food-waste composting (ZW Plan).
- Investigate the expansion of municipal food-waste reduction by building on existing public-private composting partnerships with Bennett Compost, Circle Compost (ZW Plan), and others.
- Investigate opportunities to use excess capacity at the Department of Prisons composting facility (ZW Plan).
- Require large generators of organics to establish management plans to maximize recovery (ZW Plan).

Recycling and Circularity



- Improve and expand education about products that are recyclable, the importance of non-contamination, and how changing markets impact this industry to maximize the amount of material recovered. Conduct community-wide education via city departmental staff and affinity groups, events, schools (Pre-K through college), commercial buildings, businesses, community gatherings, elected officials events/offices, and education to specific audiences around desired recyclable materials and contaminants (ZW Plan).
 - Increase awareness and use of Sanitation Convenience Centers for recycling bin/lid pickup and drop-off of recyclable materials.
 - Create efficient, easy-to-find, and understandable web resources for online access to recycling information.
 - Expand by-appointment bulk collections of appliances; expand clothing and electronics recycling.
 - Improve and expand enforcement of existing curbside recycling program (ZW Plan).
 - Develop a mechanism for the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee to play a role in developing new approaches toward managing the city's waste and recycling (ZW Plan).
 - Update commercial recycling regulations and vet with large and small haulers and internal stakeholders, including the Law Department.
 - Work with Commerce to introduce Waste Management planning and reporting at business launch in part by streamlining the current waste-reporting process for both new and existing businesses. The Department of Sanitation will work with the Mayor's Office and Commerce to add waste-management practices/procedures to the Open for Business program.
 - Work with Commonwealth stakeholders to pass legislation to require industries to adopt green materials management approaches (ZW Plan).
- Build on the current work of the Sanitation Department and community partners to increase recycling through education and necessary infrastructure to all city-owned spaces.
 - Work with all city departments to ensure the presence of clearly marked recycling receptacles in every workplace.



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

- Investigate Construction & Demolition recycling and regulatory approaches, including creating a voucher system for small haulers to properly dispose of C&D waste or providing access to city land for a hauler-managed drop-off for small loads (ZW Plan).
- Educate members of the Construction & Demolition industry about the importance of site separation to improve how materials are handled and recycled (ZW Plan).
- Provide connections between local manufacturers and materials management sources to foster collaboration on circular solutions.
- Investigate feasibility of creating a pick-up service by large generators of cardboard.
- Explore public-private opportunities for reuse and recovery of textiles (ZW Plan).
- Work with the Commerce Department to encourage development of recycling industries in the city (ZW Plan).
- Work with the Commerce Department and the Pennsylvania Markets Development Center to encourage investment in technology for hard-to-recycle plastics (ZW Plan).



COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Community Outreach Committee will work with community partner representatives and other Cabinet members to outline best practices for meeting and engaging with community-based organizations around quality-of-life issues. The Committee will help identify the best ways to listen, learn from, and ultimately respond to community concerns about quality-of-life issues in neighborhoods. Members will also recommend methods to sustain dialogue between the city and departments responsible for mitigating quality-of-life concerns.

BACKGROUND

Ensuring that all Philadelphians have access to a city government that they can “see, touch, and feel” is a paramount objective of the Parker administration. All residents deserve a proactive and responsive city government that meets the specific needs of diverse communities, provides high-quality services, and responds effectively and efficiently to neighbors’ concerns. To meet this objective and to enhance the robustness of the city’s ability to deliver on it, the Mayor created the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood and Community Engagement (MONCE). MONCE’s primary mission is to ensure that residents and community organizations are connected to each other and to the city agencies and services responsible for addressing their concerns.

MONCE has opened ten district-level “mini-City Halls” at accessible sites throughout the city, providing physical spaces for residents to access city representatives and services. By doing so, MONCE will break down silos between and among groups and departments by providing more opportunities for residents to identify and resolve a range of issues facing their communities, from public safety to quality of life.

STRATEGIES AND GOALS

The work of the Clean and Green Cabinet’s Community Outreach Committee focuses on further defining and advising the activities of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood and Community Engagement so that

the community outreach and public engagement systems set up by MONCE are well-connected to and integrated with the quality-of-life services that fall under the clean and green umbrella. The committee’s work and recommendations drew from the expertise of its individual members, which included representatives of major community-based organizations across the city, city departments, and other leading advocates and voices for the importance of cleaning and greening in neighborhoods.

In partnership with the Cabinet and committee members, the MONCE team will build direct relationships with community organizations and leaders and help to serve as the “eyes and ears” of neighbors, feeding input and recommendations into the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives, associated departments, and the work of the Clean and Green Cabinet.

MONCE’s approach will be tailored specifically to the various needs of each community, accounting for diversity in demographics and lived experiences within each district. MONCE will employ its “CLEAR” strategy to guide this work:

Connect • Listen • Engage • Activate • Repeat

Ultimately, enhancing the participation and representation of neighbors through the work of MONCE aims to restore and regain trust between residents and government, as well as build the capacity of community organizations and individuals to sustain cleaner and greener communities.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create Neighborhood Community Action Centers (NCACs) in each City Council district, staffed by a district manager and community organizers.
- Coordinate NCACs with the City’s 311 and PhillyStat360 programs and operating departments to ensure that resident issues are effectively tracked, managed, and addressed in a timely manner.
 - Establish a comprehensive database called QuickBase, administered by MONCE, to ensure 311 requests are addressed in a timely manner, on a district-by-district basis.
- Create Community Advisory Boards (CABs) in each Council District that identify needs in the community, meet regularly with community stakeholders, and help to resolve issues.
 - Establish a standard set of sub-committees with each CAB aligned with the mayor’s safer, cleaner, and greener with economic access to all agenda, comprised of subject-matter experts and community leaders.
 - Designate sub-committees and subject-matter experts within each CAB to focus on and prioritize clean and green issues and connect these committees with operating departments and programs, including Community Development Corporation representatives and environmental justice stakeholders.
- Employ neighborhood needs assessments, town halls, neighborhood walks, and other techniques to identify and address macro-level quality-of-life issues in each council district.
- Involve and enhance youth participation in cleaning and greening initiatives to change behavioral norms around community cleanliness and environmental stewardship through education and community ambassadorship like Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s behavioral change model.
- Develop effective messaging and storytelling through the involvement of media and other ambassadors engaged in the mayor’s clean and green activities, including new programs, initiatives, and public campaigns.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER LOCATIONS			
1st District	1200 Carpenter St.	6th District	7374 Edmund Street
2nd District	1400 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Room 114	7th District	Rivera Rec Center 3201 N 5th St.
3rd District	Church of Christian Compassion 6150 Cedar Ave.	8th District	Coleman Library 68 W Chelten Ave.
4th District	Daroff School 5630 Vine St.	9th District	Logan Library 1333 Wagner Ave.
5th District	MLK Rec Center 2101 Cecil B Moore Ave.	10th District	Robert Hayes Memorial Rec Center 9850 Roosevelt Blvd.



COMMERCIAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

The Commercial Improvement Committee will focus its work specifically on the city's commercial corridors and small business community to identify solutions for improving street-level conditions. Solutions will focus on waste management, trash and litter collection, and corridor-appropriate enhancements that can be made through greening, storefront, and facade improvements, and the installation of lighting and security cameras. The committee will also discuss the best ways to engage business owners in making improvements and participating in whole corridor projects.

BACKGROUND

We will not realize the full ambitions of a safer, cleaner, and greener city with economic opportunity for all without the robust participation and support of Philadelphia's business community, particularly in business districts and commercial corridors in neighborhoods. From Broad and Olney to Washington Avenue, these areas are highly trafficked and highly visible engines of neighborhood prosperity. In her FY25 budget, Mayor Parker invested close to \$25M in the Commerce Department's PHL Taking Care of Business (TCB) program, a commercial corridor and job creation program that employs neighborhood residents to clean commercial corridors and gain access to family-sustaining jobs and career pathways. Today, the program serves 179 commercial corridors covering 1,685 blocks. 51 community groups employ a total of 410 Cleaning Ambassadors, who together clean blocks in each service area Monday through Friday. Additional expansion plans included expansion of vacant lot cleaning and greening around commercial corridors to a year-round program, expanding cleaning crews to cover weekends, and providing for enhanced services such as power washing and weed care. The city's Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), such as the Center City District and University City District, provide similar services to hundreds of more blocks in high-density downtown areas.

Clearly, business has a huge role to play in keeping the city safe, clean, and green. This will have the added effect of attracting and retaining more businesses to contribute to the city's tax base and overarching economic development goals. Ultimately, creating and maintaining truly inviting business districts and corridors requires support from businesses, neighbors, transit users, students, and residents alike.

STRATEGIES AND GOALS

The *Commercial Improvement Committee* of the Clean and Green Cabinet, led by the Commerce Department, homed in on the central question of how to best get the business community to "Join the Fight" in keeping our city clean and green. Existing efforts like the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives' *One Philly, United Citywide Cleanup*, TCB, and the work of the BIDs can be seen as cleaning "for you" instead of "with you." This perception can lead to finger-pointing at perceived bad actors within the business community and disengagement if the city appears not to hold bad actors accountable. The committee discussed and identified ways to encourage businesses to get engaged by sweeping up their sidewalks, following best practices around trash disposal, reporting illegal dumping and other litter hot spots, and acknowledging and thanking Cleaning Ambassadors and other workers. These efforts can and will be complemented by stepped-up enforcement through the Sanitation Department's SWEEP units and by ongoing outreach and education to business

COMMERCIAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

partners. Motivating and maximizing the business community's contributions to sustaining cleaner corridor environments requires demonstrating all of the ways that we are truly One Philly, a United City.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop campaign-style messaging to motivate the business community with clearly identified actions businesses can take.
- Develop multilingual door hangers and other collateral explaining what TCB is and pairing it with calls to action for businesses to get involved.
- Use TCB Cleaning Ambassadors, the Mayor's Business Action Team, and Mayor's Office of Neighborhood and Community Engagement to spread the word and organize events and activities to reinforce messaging and best practices.
- Create multi-media platforms using video and social media to highlight cleaning and maintenance partnerships between community organizations and businesses, e.g. "Keep It Clean Fridays."
- Create business window cling affiliation stickers such as "This Business Supports a Clean Philadelphia."
- Create cleanest block or cleanest corridor contests to encourage participation and engagement.
- Highlight the stories of corridor cleaners and of supportive businesses in Visit Philly's upcoming Civic Pride campaign.
- Foster coordination between TCB Organizations, Business Improvement Districts, and the Sanitation Department's SWEEP unit to educate businesses and bring them into compliance with city rules and regulations.
- Investigate, review, and clarify the rule regarding businesses that must provide a trash receptacle through refined legislation.





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The Enforcement Committee will study and propose solutions related to tighter regulation and penalties for perpetrators of quality-of-life issues, most notably illegal dumping and trash issues. The Enforcement Committee will consider these issues through an environmental justice lens, diving deep into the criminal and civil processes that may need to evolve in order to enact and enforce rules and regulations governing environmental justice crimes and other offenses that impact quality of life in our neighborhoods.

BACKGROUND

Any development of new programs, policy, legislation, or incentives designed to improve quality of life and make our city safer, cleaner, and greener must be complemented by ensuring that we hold ourselves accountable to rules, regulations, laws, and behaviors to do the same. The Enforcement Committee was charged with the mission of studying and proposing solutions related to tighter regulations and penalties for perpetrators of clean and green and quality-of-life issues, most notably illegal dumping, trash, and litter. Led by the Law Department and City Solicitor Renee Garcia, the Enforcement Committee considered these issues through an environmental justice lens where relevant. Committee conversations also dove deep into the criminal and civil processes that may need reform if the city is to enact and enforce rules and regulations governing environmental justice crimes and other offenses that lead to quality-of-life issues in neighborhoods.

A note on private property enforcement

If private property owners are in violation of the City of Philadelphia's Property Maintenance Code, by law the City of Philadelphia must issue a notice of violation to the private property owner providing them with a compliance period for the owner to rectify the violation. Only after the compliance period expires and the owner does not comply with the violation does the city have the legal authority to enter upon the private property to abate the nuisance. If the city does abate the public nuisance, it may bill the owner for all abatement costs including administrative fees.

STRATEGIES AND GOALS

The Enforcement Committee focused its work on issues related to short dumping, nuisance businesses, vacant windows and doors, and other quality-of-life issues. Committee members reviewed best practices of other municipalities and expanded its internal deliberations from committee membership to include other agencies with responsibility and oversight related to enforcement measures. Those agencies include the Police Department, the Department of Licenses and Inspections, the District Attorney's Office, and affected operating departments including Philadelphia Parks and Recreation and Sanitation. These conversations sought input from partners on barriers to enforcement, potential legislative reforms, and resource and staffing requests.

The committee also reviewed and interviewed members on Philadelphia Code provisions related to short dumping (Section 10-710), graffiti (10-501(1)), noise pollution (boom parties) (10-403 (14)), vacant properties (PM-901.1, PM-901.2), ATVs (12-1133), and dumpsters (10-722).

Common goals and threads that emerged from these conversations centered around the need to increase personnel and resources dedicated to quality-of-life issues, improving communication and data sharing among city departments, and continuing collaboration with external partners such as the First Judicial District and District Attorney's Office to streamline civil enforcement and collaborate on criminal penalties.

ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

The regular cadence among departments from meeting with the Enforcement Committee produced immediate results. Although communication has always occurred among the agencies, the direct contact from the Committee's work helped streamline specific problems. For example, the Law Department's conversations with Parks and Recreation identified a pattern of autos abandoned in Tacony Creek Park. That information was shared with PPD, which took immediate action. As a result of the committee's work, PPD and PPR have established better information-sharing practices to act on persistent harms in the future.

Processes, reforms, information sharing, and regular cadences with external partners were also discussed and established. The First Judicial District made changes that will result in more cases being heard, much more quickly. The District Attorney's Office has also committed to collaborate with the Law Department's Code Unit to partner on cases and exchange information when needed. All participants recognize Mayor Parker's priority for increased enforcement on Clean & Green issues and stand ready to assist going forward.

The emergent recommendations, if implemented, should be applied equitably across the city to improve quality of life for all residents and neighborhoods.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff and Resources

- Increase staff and resources to remove barriers to enforcement of existing civil and criminal laws, especially those pertaining to short dumping, nuisance businesses, and windows and doors. Expand resources within the Law Department, Police Department, Sanitation, and District Attorney's Office.
 - Increase capacity of the PPD's Environmental Crimes Division to hire more detectives dedicated to investigating and bringing evidence against perpetrators of short dumping.
 - As an alternative, the city could assign different members of city agencies to

perform short-dumping monitoring work to account for PPD's detective shortage.

- Cross-designate investigators from other departments and hire non-uniformed clerks to process paperwork as a way to partially compensate for a lack of detectives.
- Create a citywide short-dumping abatement and monitoring/surveillance team for Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, freeing up other employees to conduct more routine maintenance and job duties.
- Expand the Law Department's Code and Public Nuisance Unit to equip them to handle more referrals from PPD, L&I, and Sanitation. In line with L&I's recommendation to increase missing windows and doors enforcement, the Unit plans to reestablish its Vacant Property Windows and Doors program and is working with the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives to hire more lawyers to bring cases under clean and green related issues. The cost of additional capacity can be more than offset by increased fines and restitution to the city from perpetrators.

- Change legislation to include signage requirements for property owner contact information for the public to report nuisance activity on commercial properties. Amend legislation to increase fines and alter compliance deadlines with quality-of-life laws and regulations.
- Support the construction of physical barriers in our park system to eliminate access to hot-spot short-dumping locations.
- Expand the Sanitation Department's "Phila Can" initiative.
- Investigate other ways to discourage illegal dumping by greening areas prone to dumping and considering alternative disposal options for construction and demolition debris.

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Communications and Information Sharing

- Establish more regular communications channels and information sharing between operating departments dealing with quality-of-life issues and enforcement agencies like PPD and Law.
- Share access to surveillance cameras and video recordings throughout the city to prevent short dumping. Direct data sharing and case referral across the city between the Office of Clean and Green Initiatives, Sanitation, and the PPD's Neighborhood Services Unit would allow more criminal cases to be developed.
- Follow up on referrals and outcomes among departments. When referring agencies send potential bad actors to civil and criminal enforcement agencies, they often do not learn of the outcomes. In addition to being permitted to collaborate on the cases, it would benefit Sanitation, L&I, and OCG to understand what ultimately worked and did not. Referring agencies

should be able to access data related to completed claims as well as receive feedback on what information is most helpful to successfully resolve them.

Engagement with External Stakeholders

- Establish better information sharing and more efficient processes between the administration and stakeholders in the First Judicial District (related to civil case management processes) and the District Attorney's Office (related to criminal enforcement). This will result in more cases being heard more quickly.
- Build on existing public messaging and transparent public data sharing practices to create a unified external communication strategy across the Clean and Green Cabinet on enforcement approaches and successes. Share success stories and highlight bad actors to deter criminal behavior. Although privacy concerns and litigation risks must be contemplated with any communication campaign, public outreach of successes should continue.





The work done across the city in just the first two years of Mayor Parker’s administration has resulted in significant progress toward her goal of establishing Philadelphia as the safest, cleanest, and greenest big city in the nation with economic opportunity for all. The Office of Clean and Green Initiatives has played a central role in driving this progress, from spearheading the largest coordinated quality-of-life initiative in the city’s history during the One Philly, United Citywide Cleanup to implementing new cleaning and greening programs and services through investments made in the FY25 and FY26 budgets.

The recommendations outlined in this report build upon this strong foundation by highlighting the need to deepen interagency collaboration, strengthen proactive measures to improve quality of life, scale existing initiatives and launch new ones, and step up engagement, education, and enforcement to further our collective clean and green goals. As such, this report should be considered a “living document”: the Cabinet and its committees will continue to meet on an ongoing basis to further refine the recommendations, identify challenges, assess progress, and support their effective implementation.

**TOGETHER, WE ARE
ONE PHILLY, A UNITED CITY.**