

From: [Miriam Gordon](#)
To: [Lurie, Daniel \(MYR\)](#); [Hur, Alice \(ENV\)](#)
Cc: alicia.johnbaptiste@sfgov.org; Amar.Bhardwaj@sfgov.org
Subject: Request support for SF Dept of Environment Funding and Reusable Foodware policy
Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 12:07:06 PM
Attachments: [Support for SFE funding and reusable foodware policy \(1\).pdf](#)

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Please find attached a letter to Mayor Lurie and Commissioner Wan. This letter, in part, addresses the Refuse Rates issue being presented today before the Commission on the Environment, and funding for the Dept of the Environment.

Miriam Gordon

Reuse Program Director



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THE STORY OF
STUFF
PROJECT

April 28, 2025

Mayor Daniel Lurie
City Hall, Room 200
One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Commissioner Sarah Ching-Ting Wan
SF Commission on the Environment
City Hall, Room 408
One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Jr. Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Cc: Alicia John-Baptiste, Policy Chief of Infrastructure, Climate and Mobility
Amar Bhardwaj, Assistant Chief of Infrastructure, Climate and Mobility
Alice Hur, Senior Public Affairs Coordinator

RE: Funding San Francisco Environment Department and Reusable Foodware Policy

Dear Mayor Lurie and Commissioner **Ching-Ting Wan**:

I am writing on behalf of the Story of Stuff Project, a Berkeley-based national environmental NGO whose one million supporters include many San Francisco residents. Our mission is to change the way we produce, consume, and dispose of all the stuff in our lives. We are a long-time member of [Reusable SF](#), which I co-facilitate. Reusable SF is a San Francisco-based community coalition that supports a transition from single-use to reusable foodware in San Francisco.

Recommendation to Provide \$3 million in Funding for the Department via the Refuse Rate

We support the SF Department of the Environment refuse rate proposal to increase its annual funding by \$3 million to implement zero waste and circularity (i.e. repair, reuse, recycle) objectives on behalf of the City as codified by law and voter approved mandates including Proposition F (2022) which expressly states in Section 2(b) that a central purpose of the law is to “help the City continue to pursue its Zero -Waste goals.” These goals are inextricably linked to action to reduce the City’s consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions and climate goals.

As part of the City’s climate plans, Chapter of the City’s Environmental Code (2021), codified by the Board and signed into law by the Mayor lays out clear direction, “By 2030, a reduction in the generation of solid waste of at least 15% below 2015 levels and a reduction in the amount of solid waste disposed of by incineration or deposit in landfill of at least 50% below 2015 levels.”

There is an essential need to reduce consumption-based emissions from products and packaging in order to achieve climate impact reduction goals as well as a reduction in single-use plastics. We believe the proposal by the SF Department of the Environment is a modest request of ratepayers. Should the Refuse Rate Board and its Administrators decline any amount below this minimum, the City will fall short and be in dereliction of its duties to fulfill its statutory requirements.

Action at the city level is of paramount importance. The federal government is pulling back from addressing the climate emergency. Decreasing organics contamination will reduce landfill methane emissions. The City must do a better job processing trash to separate organics from the black bin. This can only happen with implementation of the City's behavior change programs.

Recommendation to Support a reusable foodware policy

Reusable SF and my organization respectfully request that the Mayor prioritize enacting a Reusable Foodware Policy. Just after Berkeley enacted the first-ever reusable foodware policy, Supervisor Peskin introduced such a policy in 2019. Reusable SF was the key community champion. It was about to go to the Board for a vote when Covid-19 hit and made regulation of the restaurant industry inopportune. However, with restaurants back and using more disposable foodware as a result of the pandemic, it behooves the City to join the over 50 local jurisdictions in N. America that have enacted policies requiring a reduction in single-use foodware and requiring reusables for onsite dining.

Last year, after receiving a recommendation from the Commission on the Environment to adopt a reusable foodware policy, per the model developed by Reusable SF and the Department of the Environment, Mayor Breed had agreed to champion such a policy, but never introduced it or moved it forward. This year, Supervisor Melgar has agreed already to champion a reusable foodware policy with an introduction coming in the next few months.

We will be in touch with your office to schedule a meeting about this policy. We look forward to sharing a policy model with you and hearing your thoughts about this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miriam Gordon".

Miriam Gordon
Reuse Program Director
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(415) 902-5196