

Source Reduction Working Group

Draft – July 6, 2018

The goal of the Source Reduction Working Group is to evaluate the feasibility and practicality of potential source reduction initiatives as they may be implemented on Oahu. Every initiative has the potential to be implemented on Oahu, however, feasibility differs widely depending on a host of factors. Conceptualization and planning of source reduction initiatives must consider economic, social, and environmental factors such as:

- Availability of funding
- Costs to implement
- Cost effectiveness of action
- Return on investment
- Benefits to different entities
- Impacts to community
- Impacts to the environment
- Impacts to businesses and customers
- Long-term viability and sustainability
- Volume impacts (will targeting this product/material make a practical impact on the overall waste stream?)
- Ease of adoption/ease of behavioral changes
- Possible consequences of initiatives (will it increase illegal dumping?)
- Existing rules, laws, and regulations
- Responsibilities of involved parties

During evaluation of the initiatives, it is particularly important to identify the roles and responsibilities for all parties involved. Some initiatives are more appropriate for different entities, such as for cities, counties, State, federal government, business and industry, non-governmental organizations, and individual citizens.

Table 1 provides a starter list of potential source reduction initiatives (in no particular order), inspired by programs being employed by municipalities and other organizations. This list is not comprehensive and the Source Reduction Working Group may identify other initiatives worth examining. Additionally, the Source Reduction Working Group may find the [EPA Managing and Transforming Waste Streams Tool](#) a useful resource.¹ Items with asterisks are currently being implemented by the City or are planned as written in the 2018 ISWMP.

¹ United States Environmental Protection Agency. 2018. Managing and Transforming Waste Streams: A Tool for Communities. Accessed July 6. <https://www.epa.gov/transforming-waste-tool>.

Table 1. Potential Source Reduction Initiatives

Source Reduction Topics	Potential Initiatives
Solid Waste Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● User Fee or Pay-As-You-Throw solid waste rate structure* ● Source separation incentives (such as discounted rates for separating recyclables/compostables from MSW)* ● Every-other-week trash collection
Organics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Backyard/neighborhood composting and grasscycling* ● Food collection and distribution (collect excess food from producers and provide to local food banks/meal programs; apps and websites) ● Restaurant Sustainability Certification Program (help restaurants reduce food waste) ● Food recovery competitions among dining and food establishments ● Food Waste Outreach and Prevention (program to inform vendors how to reduce food waste, packaging, and disposables)* ● Food Waste Minimization Toolkit for schools
Policies and Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Universal Recycling and Composting Ordinance (requires recycling services to be provided to all residents and businesses) ● Construction and Demolition Recycling/Deconstruction Ordinance ● Food Service and Packaging Waste Reduction Ordinance (prohibiting non-recyclable and non-compostable food service ware) ● Commercial Organic Waste Disposal Ban* ● Single-use material bans (such as a plastic bag ban)* ● Green government procurement policies*/ Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program ● Extended Producer Responsibility (such as material “take-back” programs and other product stewardship strategies)* ● Source reduction credit systems ● Zero Waste recognition programs to encourage diversion ● Competitive grant programs to support innovation ● Use of waste audits and waste tracking software to help document a baseline, waste reduction opportunities, and documenting success ● Policies to encourage use of durable goods rather than disposable ones*
Behavioral Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public education* ● Reduce consumer use of common single-use items (such as plastic straws) ● Provision of technical assistance to facilitate source reduction activities (such as proper deconstruction, building reuse, and building material reuse techniques)
Reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reuse Stores or Swap Sheds ● Donation Stations at City disposal sites* ● Repair/Reuse workshops ● Reuse/Repair Resource Directories and Community Reuse Programs*

Note:

Items with asterisks are currently being implemented by the City or are planned as written in the 2018 ISWMP.

As the Source Reduction Working Group progresses through its evaluations, it may consider developing a matrix that indicates key information including, but not limited to:

- Initiative name
- Implementers (such as who will drive change, execute policy, physically participate in source reduction activity, etc)
- Target materials
- Target audience
- Benefits
- Impacts
- Estimated cost
- Potential sources of funding
- Conceptual action plan

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