



The City of New York Department of Sanitation



John J. Doherty, Commissioner

**Hearing on the FY 2013 Executive Budget
Before the New York City Council Committees on
Finance and Sanitation & Solid Waste Management**

**Thursday, May 24, 2012
12:30 P.M.
City Hall – Council Chambers**

Good afternoon Chair Recchia, Chair James, and members of the City Council Committees on Finance and Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. I am John Doherty, Commissioner for the New York City Department of Sanitation. With me is Larry Cipollina, Deputy Commissioner for Administration and Financial Management. I would also like to introduce to you Ron Gonen, our new Deputy Commissioner for Recycling and Sustainability. We appreciate this opportunity to testify on the Department's expense and capital portions of the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2013 Executive Budget.

The FY 2013 Executive Budget allocates \$1.35 billion in operating funds that allows the Department to deliver core essential services to all fifty-nine community districts without any service changes, including:

- Maintaining current collection schedules for refuse and recycling pickups in every community and providing mechanized broom cleaning of curbside areas;
- Managing approximately 11,000 tons of Department-managed solid waste collected by the Department daily for out-of-City disposal;

- Managing over 10,000 tons of recyclable material per week;
- Plowing and salting the City's roadways during winter snow and ice storms;
- Cleaning up debris from undeveloped vacant lots, and removing abandoned vehicles from the City's roadways; and
- Being a center of excellence for the repair of the New York City fleet of off-road, heavy, and medium duty vehicles, and we've begun the process of consolidating the repair of other agencies' fleets of these vehicles into Department facilities.

Our environment is the single greatest asset that we all share. By sharing in the responsibility for sustainable development, in FY 2013 the Department will put forward an aggressive and ambitious agenda consistent with our commitment to increase recycling in the City. We'll continue to add new public space recycling sites in all five boroughs, and expand the number of sites in buildings and public spaces for voluntary participation in the citywide textile and used clothing drop-off recycling program we launched last June with Housing Works. Last weekend we concluded the last of five household hazardous waste drop-off events held in each borough for this year, and we will resume residential yard waste collection next year. We're also continuing to provide outreach and assistance to apartment building managers and superintendents to help them achieve greater diversion of recyclables generated in their buildings. While we are making steady progress, we still have lots more to do and will continue to challenge ourselves to quicken the pace of our progress to promote increased recycling diversion and participation rates in the City.

Also as part of Mayor Bloomberg's ambitious and comprehensive sustainability strategy under PlaNYC to double the amount of Department collected waste to 30% diverted from landfills by 2017, we will advance a variety of initiatives in FY 2013 to make the City and its residents greener. We plan to open at least one more compost site as we prepare to resume leaf and yard waste collections, and expand our current recycling program by designating additional plastic recyclables. We'll also be expanding Stop N'Swap and community-level food scrap collection programs currently operated by GrowNYC. We'll also seek statutory changes to enhance the existing City statute to discourage the unlawful scavenging of refrigerators, air-conditioners and other recyclables placed out by residents at the curb for Department pick-up, and to create or expand extended producer responsibility programs.

In the area of clean energy and technology, the Department not only meets and exceeds all current environmental requirements and regulations for the agency's equipment and fleet, but is poised for the future as well. One-hundred percent of our agency's fleet currently utilizes state-of-the-art advanced technology engines, including electronically controlled clean-diesel, hybrid propulsion, CNG, and pure electric.

Consistent with the Department's pioneering efforts, we'll continue to do our part to transform New York into a leader of 21st century green energy innovation by proactively advancing the environmental profile of our agency's equipment and fleet and achieving the clean air and energy goals of PlaNYC. We also look forward to working with this Committee and the Council to support our programmatic and legislative efforts to promote sustainable growth and greener communities across the City we proudly serve.

Turning now to our capital budget, the Department's capital portion of the FY 2013 Executive Budget is approximately \$708 million, an increase of \$468.4 million from last year. This increase is the result of funding that is allocated for constructing the marine transfer stations that are a critical component of the City's approved comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP).

Of this total, \$603 million is allocated toward construction and \$105 million is allocated for equipment, technology and aging vehicle replacement. Due to fiscal constraints, no new construction is planned for future garages at this time. Funding for large scale projects for the Department in FY 2013 include:

- Completing construction of the North Shore MTS and Hamilton MTS;
- Completing construction and pier rehabilitation work for the new Brooklyn Material Recovery Facility at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal;
- Commencing construction of the East 91st Street MTS and Southwest Brooklyn MTS;
- Ongoing construction of the new Manhattan 1/2/5 Garage;
- Designing and commencing refurbishment of the West 59th Street MTS; and
- Purchasing replacement collection trucks, mechanical brooms, salt spreaders and other essential equipment.

As the long-term export component of the SWMP continues to be implemented, the FY 2013 budget allocates \$309.5 million in export tipping fees for the Department to cover the costs of our current interim and long term export operations.

Construction of both the Hamilton Avenue MTS in Brooklyn and North Shore MTS in Queens is nearing completion, and these facilities are expected to open in the first half of FY 2014.

In January 2012, the City's Department of Design and Construction ("DDC") issued a competitive bid solicitation for construction of the East 91st Street MTS in Manhattan and responses are due next month. Construction is expected to begin at the end of this summer pending the issuance of a permit by the Army Corps of Engineers. DDC will also be able to begin the procurement process for construction of the Southwest Brooklyn MTS after NYS DEC permits to construct are issued sometime next month. We are finalizing negotiations with vendors for the transport and disposal contracts for waste from the MTSs, and anticipate that awards will be made in early FY 2013.

A design contract that includes preparation of demolition plans for the existing facilities on the site of the new Gansevoort Street MTS and Environmental Center is expected to be awarded by the end of FY 2012. This new facility will transfer all of Manhattan's residential paper and metal, glass and plastic recyclables. As I reported to you back in March, the City continues to aggressively lobby the State to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding and provide its \$25 million share to the Hudson River Park funding. The opening of the new Gansevoort MTS and Environmental Center will enable the West 59th Street MTS, which currently handles Manhattan paper recyclables, to be used for the transfer of commercial waste generated in Manhattan.

Conclusion

In closing, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify today about the Department's programs and operations that benefit all New Yorkers, and our proposed initiatives to advance the Administration's commitment to further greening the City. I know that the Council has always recognized the importance of the vital role the Department plays to keep communities across the City clean, healthy and safe. With your assistance and support we will continue to maintain and improve quality of life for all and advance New York City as a global sustainability leader for years to come.

My staff and I will now be happy to answer your questions.