



# ADVANCING WASTE REDUCTION IN MULTI-FAMILY BUILDINGS

## RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS CAN BETTER SUPPORT NYC'S ZERO WASTE GOALS

NYC seeks to reduce the volume of solid waste sent to landfill and incinerators in the next few decades to lessen the climate impacts of our current methods of solid waste management. Increasing waste prevention, diversion, reuse and recycling is essential to meeting NYC's Zero Waste goal.

Most New Yorkers live in multi-family dwellings, especially in Manhattan with its dense forest of tall apartment buildings. Recycle rates are lower there than single-family and smaller homes, thus there is a huge upside to improving rates of recycling diversion and waste prevention in these places.



## CHALLENGES OF RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING

Many factors render it difficult to boost recycling rates in large multi-family buildings.

- Space limits
- Diverse languages
- Anonymity
- Resident turnover
- Staff workload
- Lack of financial incentives
- No one-size-fits-all solution
- Engaging residents

## FINDING SOLUTIONS

The Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board's Residential Recycling and Reuse Committee visited many buildings around Manhattan, interviewing residents, building management, and supers. The most successful buildings created cultures where recycling, re-use, sharing, composting and other green initiatives were accepted as standard, encouraged, supported and enforced.



# MSWAB RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING GUIDES



The Residential Recycling and Reuse Committee published findings in two free guides. Download them by clicking the titles below:

## [Creating a Culture of Recycling and Reuse in Your NYC Multi-family Building](#)

### Creating a Culture of Recycling and Reuse in Your NYC Multifamily Building

Strategies, Tools and Inspiration for New York City Building Owners, Property Managers, and Interested Superintendents and Residents

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## [Engaging Residents of Your NYC Multi-Family Building in Organics Collection](#)

### Engaging Residents of NYC Multifamily Buildings in Organics Collection

Strategies, Tools and Inspiration for New York City Building Owners, Property Managers, and Interested Superintendents and Residents

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## USEFUL IDEAS WITHIN THE GUIDES

1. Find building Recycling Champion(s) to help build the case for management.
2. Set up Infrastructure such as bins and signage.
3. Encourage staff to enroll in DSNY's Zero Waste Building Maintenance Program.
4. Engage residents with posters, events, goodies, meetings, BuildingLink, tutorials.
5. Address issues, celebrate success, control participation via fines.
6. Quantify progress. Add E-Cycle or refashionNYC, sharing, or swaps.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



- Download our [Case Studies](#)
- Find a community composting station [www.manhattanswab.org/covid19-recycling-resources](http://www.manhattanswab.org/covid19-recycling-resources)
- Read history at [www.zerowastedesign.org](http://www.zerowastedesign.org)
- <https://www.lesecologycenter.org/>
- Contact: residential-recycling-and-reuse-committee@googlegroups.com