

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Ian McKnight
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Sanitation and Environment Committee
Monday, December 8, 2025 – 6:30 pm
This meeting was conducted via Zoom**

Please note: The resolution contained in the committee minutes is a recommendation submitted by the committee co-chairs to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolution is discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Resolution for Approval:

Item 1: Resolution urging New York State Legislators to support [bill A1749/S1464](#) the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act.

Minutes

CB8 Attendance: Bradley Hershenson, Sahar Husain, Addeson Lehv, and John McClement.

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 11

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Item 1: Presentation by Kristin Shevis of Beyond Plastic on the New York State proposed bill on the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act. This bill provides protection to our environment and the communities who live near waste transfer stations, incinerators, and landfills.

(2:19) Kristin Shevis talked about Beyond Plastics, a non-profit established in 2019, whose goal is to end plastic pollution. They work with 160 affiliate groups around the United States and have been working on the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act for 2 years.

(3:36) Kristin highlighted that overconsumption and overproduction of plastic as major issues in New York. Plastics are made from the fracking of fossil fuels like coal, gas, and oil. They are made from 16,000 plus different chemicals, and many are not monitored by any organization, of which 4,000 chemicals are toxic.

(4:47) Kristin added that plastics are hard to recycle, with half of the produced plastics being for single-use packaging only, and expressed that recycling is a myth. The US national recycling rate is less than 6%, with 79% of the plastics ever produced still with us, and 15 million tons of plastic enter our oceans every year, and remain with us forever. Plastics don't break down like other biodegradable materials, instead they break down into smaller portions, meaning they become microplastics. This could develop into nano plastics, which can enter our food and even your bloodstream. There are numerous negative implications of this pollutant, which can impact us in the form of cancer and many other diseases.

(7:13) Additionally, it was said that New York City spends half a billion dollars a year on plastic waste to export outside the city. This will lead to truck traffic and emissions, and therefore, it's an expensive process.

(7:33) Kristin mentioned that if the plastic doesn't end up in a waste fill, then it goes to an incinerator. New York State is home to the highest number of incinerators in the country, at 10 incinerators. With 7 out of those 10 being located in Environmental Justice communities, and hence they face higher rates of cancer, asthma, childhood leukemia, low birth weight, and other serious issues due to the prevalence of incinerators in their neighborhood. This is due to the hazards of toxic chemicals being released when plastic is produced and disposed of.

(8:48) To counteract these issues, Kristin said the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, or the PRRIA bill, is on the Assembly floor, which mandates that plastic packaging be reduced by 30% in 12 years. Additionally, it requires the remaining packaging to be reused or recycled effectively, and companies pay municipalities for waste management of packaging, so that taxpayers are not paying for the cost created by the private companies' use of plastic. Lastly, it focuses on 17 toxic chemicals that will have to be removed from plastic packaging.

(9:43) Companies with \$5 million in sales or more will have to adhere to the regulations in the bill. So, the companies will have to reduce plastic packaging by 30% and 75% of the packaging will have to be recyclable.

(10:13) This bill will save New York State \$1.3 billion, and New York City could see savings of \$818 million.

(11:27) Companies will not be able to use incinerators or chemical recycling, which is toxic for the environment and the people in the area, to count towards the recycling percentage requirement for each firm. Organizations will have to recycle in real terms and use glass, metal, and paper instead.

(11:45) Exemptions to this law are the agriculture cooperatives, infant formula, medical devices, medicines, pesticides, beverages, and some others. This bill has tremendous support from faith leaders, elected officials, and the community.

(16:26) Kristin answered questions from the public and explained that fatty food and heat can release nano plastic toxins in food, which is hazardous for health. She also explained that metal is a good replacement for plastic, which is environmentally safe.

At the conclusion of the presentation and discussion, the Committee unanimously passed the following resolution to call on New York State Legislators to support [bill A1749/S1464](#) on the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act.

WHEREAS, packaging makes up approximately 40% of the waste in New York State; and

WHEREAS, managing waste costs New York taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, most plastic packaging is not recyclable, and reusable and refillable packaging systems are not widely available; and

WHEREAS, plastic causes serious pollution, including litter and the use of toxic chemicals, and reducing toxic chemicals means protection for communities and consumers; and

WHEREAS, companies that produce packaging should be responsible for the costs of managing packaging waste, not just taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Bill 1464/Assembly Bill 1749 would reduce plastic packaging by 30% in 12 years; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Bill 1464/Assembly Bill 1749 requires remaining packaging to be recycled or reused effectively (75% rate); and

WHEREAS, enacting the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, pending in the New York Assembly and the New York Senate, would reduce waste, increase recycling rates, create jobs, reduce toxicity in packaging, provide millions of dollars in savings for local governments and taxpayers, and lower greenhouse gas emissions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 Manhattan urges the New York state legislature to pass and Governor Kathy Hochul to sign into law a strong and effective Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, Assembly Bill 1749/Senate Bill 1464.

Approved: 4-0-0

For: Bradley Hershenson, Sahar Husain, Addeson Lehv, and John McClement.

Item 2: A discussion by DSNY on containerization being rolled out in Community District 8 Manhattan.

24:45) Marissa mentioned that buildings with 1-9 units will have to use bins with lids for their disposal, and Empire bins on the roadside are not required in CD8 currently. She emphasized that by 2032, the whole city will have to use Empire Bins. These are NYC's new, large, locked, on-street trash containers for big apartment buildings that are placed in the parking spots in the street. These are bins with keys that property owners and the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) will have for garbage and recycling material. Once these are in place, then some parking spots will be lost.

She sent the following answers the next day to the questions asked at the meeting. She wrote that each building would receive an Empire Bin exclusively for them, and it cannot be shared with other properties. Empire Bins can hold 4 cubic yards of waste, and they are 74 inches wide, 59.6 inches deep, and 63 inches high. Furthermore, schools in Brooklyn Community Board 2 with Empire Bins are Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School (357 Clermont Avenue), PS 11 (419 Waverly Avenue), Achievement Charter School (510 Waverly Avenue), and Brooklyn Tech High School (29 Fort Greene).

Marissa didn't foresee that CB8 would be required to use them till 2027 or after. She promised to keep us updated on the timeline for Empire Bins for CB8.

Item 3: Old Business - None discussed.

Item 4: New Business - None discussed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 pm.

Sahar Husain and Addeson Lehv, Co-Chairs