



**DATE:** October 10, 2019  
**TO:** Planning Committee/Recycling Board  
**FROM:** Meghan Starkey, Senior Management Analyst  
**SUBJECT:** Municipal Panel: Climate Action Plans & Recycling

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### **SUMMARY**

Climate action planning and solid waste and recycling services are often thought of as separate functions within local government, with only minimal overlap related to transportation and recovery of discarded materials. Recently, however, evolution of thinking in both climate action planning and recycling has created new opportunities for collaboration.

At the Planning Committee/Recycling Board meeting, staff from Albany, Dublin, and Fremont will share their experiences in materials management strategies to lessen the environmental impacts and emissions associated with all aspects of material consumption, not just when they are put into a bin of one kind or another.

### **DISCUSSION**

On a global scale, nearly half of all emissions come from the production of materials: anything from consumer goods, to concrete, to food, generates impacts well before delivery of the product to the community. An increasing understanding that “materials matter” is informing climate action thinking, and pointing out the potential to reduce climate impacts by lessening these upstream impacts of materials, regardless of where they occur. Simultaneously, recent developments in international recycling markets and state legislation regarding organics is pressuring recycling programs from another direction but with the same conclusion: preventing materials from being produced lessens the negative impacts and cost of handling them later. Strategies that speak to both sides of materials are increasingly becoming common in climate action plans. These ideas and more will be shared with the Planning Committee/Recycling Board at the October 10 meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.