



## **CCOC Circles – Waste Management**

### **What We Heard at the Waste Management Circle**

In October, tenants gathered for CCOC’s Circle on Waste Management to share ideas on improving garbage, recycling, and composting practices across buildings. The discussion focused on making waste processes clearer, cleaner, safer, and more accessible for everyone.

**Key areas we heard about were:**

#### **1. Communication and Education**

Tenants emphasized the need for better signage with pictures, diagrams, and multilingual information to help everyone understand waste sorting better. They suggested offering short orientations or guided tours of garbage rooms to new tenants. Peer-to-peer learning and regular reminders through posters or community boards were also encouraged to build better waste management habits.

#### **2. Accessibility and Safety**

Many tenants noted that garbage and recycling rooms remain difficult to access. The lack of automatic door openers and the presence of tall bins make disposal challenging for wheelchair users and others with mobility barriers. Improved lighting and consistent cleaning were also requested to make these areas safer, along with action on reports of trespassers sleeping in waste rooms.

#### **3. Maintenance and Contractors**

Concerns were raised about cleanliness and pest control, with tenants calling for more frequent bin washing, better ventilation, and proper tools for cleaners and contractors.

#### **4. Tenant Onboarding and Support**

Participants highlighted that most new tenants often struggle with CCOC’s recycling rules. A proposed “Welcome Committee” or peer mentoring system could help newcomers learn proper waste procedures. Tenants also asked for support accessing/replacing bins—especially in townhouses where residents must order them independently.

#### **5. Motivation and Incentives**

Many tenants preferred positive reinforcement over punitive measures. They suggested using small incentives—like pizza parties, recognition, or stipends—to encourage





participation in recycling or sustainability workshops, making the process more fun and community-driven.

## **6. Waste Room Design and Improvements**

Several buildings need upgrades to garbage rooms, including better layout, signage, and smaller bins to improve accessibility. Other suggestions included consistent sign materials across all sites and introducing bottle collection stations to reduce litter and promote recycling.

*Feedback from this session is being reviewed by the Management Committee to assess feasibility and identify both short- and long-term improvements. Staff will bring forward recommendations to enhance waste management practices across CCOC buildings.*

*More details about the upcoming February CCOC Circle  
will be coming soon – stay tuned!*

