



# City of Cambridge

## Executive Department

**YI-AN HUANG**  
City Manager

CMA 2026-11  
**IN CITY COUNCIL**  
January 26, 2026

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am writing to recommend the appointment or reappointment of 24 individuals to the Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) for a term of three years, effective January 26, 2026. The RAC is a volunteer body established in the Refuse & Solid Waste Ordinance (Chapter 8.24). It has a minimum number of 9 members, but has historically had a larger membership of 20-24 members. Since establishment in 1991, the RAC has provided advice, recommendations, and assistance to the Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding recycling, food waste diversion, reuse, and waste reduction. The RAC does this through research, feedback, public outreach, and event planning.

The City Manager's Office advertised for new applicants between October 28 and November 30, 2025 in the City's daily digest emails, the Recycle Division monthly e-newsletter, and through the City website. Thirteen current RAC members requested reappointment and DPW staff supporting the committee recommend them all for reappointment; they are knowledgeable and consistently engaged. DPW also received 19 applications for new members. DPW staff interviewed a subset of applicants, and the interview panel recommends the appointment of 11 new members.

### **Re-Appointments**

#### **Dailey Brannin**

Dailey is the Recycling Services Coordinator for Harvard University. Dailey has served for one 3-year term.

#### **Debby Galef**

Debby is a Cambridge resident that encourages neighbors and other residents to divert waste and is also a member of the Pedestrian Committee member. Debby has served for five 3-year terms.

#### **Debby Knight**

Debby is a retired science teacher at the Cambridge Friends School, Recycling Center user, and has developed school gardens & beehives, making community events zero waste. Debby has served for four 3-year terms.



#### Richard Nurse

Richard's career spans 50 years in the polymer/plastics industry. As a resident, Richard is concerned about responsible use of all raw materials, metal, paper, glass, fibers, paints, wood, electronics, and construction products. Richard has served for two 3-year terms.

#### Meera Singh

Meera has extensive work engaging people internationally on promoting sustainable practices in offices and researching unique waste diversion opportunities. Meera has served for four 3-year terms.

#### Helen Snively

Helen has volunteered with Cambridge DPW for at least 10 years. Helen has been active in the community engaging residents throughout the City in composting, gardening and more. Helen has served for one 3-year term.

#### Elka Kuhlman

Elka is an educator and a long-time active resident in Cambridge. Elka was in the initial compost pilot and has been very active in building community within Cambridge. Elka has served for one 3-year term.

#### Stephanie Wasiuk

Stephanie has been active in volunteering to improve recycling and composting at their Life Sciences workplace, at Kennedy-Longfellow School, and in the general public in Cambridge. Stephanie has served for one 3-year term.

#### Tracie Gordon

Tracie is passionate about helping others and improving systems. Tracie would like to engage more seniors and others who may not always be engaged on city issues. Tracie has lots of experience finding innovative systems for waste management. Tracie has served for one 3-year term.

#### Emily Lee

Emily has a deep passion for recycling, and has been the leader of setting up Free Stores at the Cambridge Community Center. Emily has served for one 3-year term.

#### Carlie Peters

Carlie has experience in food systems and helped start recycle/compost programs in college. Carlie has a deep passion for learning about ways to engage the public in reducing waste. Carlie has served for one 3-year term.

#### David Demme

David has more than 30 years experience as an engineer for waste facilities: landfills, waste-to-energy, MRFs (recycling facilities), anaerobic digestors. David has experience preparing solid waste plans, waste characterization studies, and more. David has served for one 3-year term.

#### Rob Vandenabeele

Rob is an educator with a passion for sustainability particularly in the beer market. Rob helped establish an innovative recycling program throughout Massachusetts to upcycle or recycle plastic can carriers. Rob has served for one 3-year term.

## **New Appointments**

### **Olufolakemi Alalade**

'Folakemi serves on several City advisory committees and also runs a nonprofit. She hopes to help increase awareness of recycling efforts Citywide.

### **Brian Goldberg**

Brian is the Assistant Director of Sustainability at MIT. He manages the MIT waste reduction goal strategies, planning, metrics and progress assessment.

### **Eric Herman**

Eric is a new resident and is passionate about waste reduction. Before retirement, Eric chaired several boards while working in State Government.

### **Tristram Dammin**

Tristram is a Wellington-Harrington resident with a passion for the environment. He has volunteered in several capacities and is a member of the Circular Economy Club of Boston.

### **Sugandha Karmacharya**

Sugandha works to more deeply engaging the community in municipal programs and has a deep passion for waste reduction.

### **Suzanne Shaw**

Suzanne is a climate communications expert having worked for the Union of Concerned Scientists as Chief Communications Officer for 25 years. She also volunteers in CPS.

### **Tian Feng**

Tian has extensive knowledge of circulatory efforts from her previous work. She has volunteered with DPW for more than two years and also volunteers with the Head of the Charles. Tian is fluent in Chinese.

### **Monica Yudron**

Monica has lived in Cambridge since 2008 and has extensive experience in systems thinking and has a strong interest in diverting waste from the trash as a resident of a large multifamily building.

### **Ashan Rodriguez**

Ashan is an East Cambridge resident passionate about engaging their community in waste reduction.

### **Ting Zhang**

Ting has been a volunteer with DPW for a few years. Ting has experience in the recycling industry as the VP of Sales for an AI-driven robotics company for recycling facilities.

Jenna Zwanger

Jenna grew up in Cambridge and attended CPS. The experience she brings includes community-driven action and resource stewardship, using games to engage the community, and working at their University's Sustainability Office.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yi-An Huang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Yi-An Huang  
City Manager