Sweep is a Streets Department program created in June 1991 to educate Philadelphia citizens about their responsibilities under the Sanitation Code. Initially, SWEET focused on commercial areas. As the program has grown, officers have expanded their patrols city-wide.

SWEET enforces the law against violators through intensive street patrols by uniformed enforcement officers. Through education and enforcement, SWEET supports and enhances individual and community efforts to maintain a clean city. A clean area improves the image, environment, and conditions of business districts and residential neighborhoods, making the City more aesthetically pleasing to residents, workers, business owners, and tourists.

Why is SWEET essential?
A clean city is a better place to live and work. A litter-free environment will enhance the city’s image and economic vitality and, as a result, will attract tourists, shoppers, and businesses. Compliance with the Sanitation laws is cost effective, since keeping litter off the streets is less expensive than cleaning them.

How does SWEET operate?
Specially-trained Sanitation enforcement officers meet with residents and individuals responsible for the operation of businesses and apartment buildings to review clean-up responsibilities. SWEET officers will work with residential communities to address problem locations. In instances of non-compliance, SWEET officers issue warnings and citations to the appropriate individuals.

What are the benefits of SWEET?
SWEET is a comprehensive, centralized, and accessible resource for information about the Sanitation Code. To help make Philadelphia a cleaner and safer place to live and do business, SWEET increases awareness of the Sanitation Code, reduces the number of violations, and holds violators accountable.

How can citizens and business owners/operators comply with SWEET?
Recycling Bins: Residents may pick up a recycling bin at a Streets Department Sanitation Convenience Center. Monday to Saturday, 8am –6pm. Please call first to find out if the containers are in stock. Residents may also use any household container and mark it “RECYCLING.” Contact the Customer Affair Unit at 215-686-5560 or visit www.philadelphiastreets.com for center locations.

Trash/Recycling Timetable:
Winter: October 1 through March 31, trash and recycling should be set out between 5:00 PM the night before collection day and 7:00 AM the day of collection.
Summer: Set-out times from April 1 to September 30 will return to 7:00 PM the night before and by 7:00 AM the day of collection.

Early Collection: (Vine St. to South St., from Schuylkill River to Delaware River): Winter: Set out between 6:00 PM the night before collection day and 6:00 AM on the day of collection. Summer: Set out between 8:00 PM the night before collection day and 6:00 AM on the day of collection at your regularly authorized pickup site

Recycling: Recycling is collected citywide every week. Residents are able to place all recyclables in a container next to their trash for curbside collection on the same day as their trash day. Along with steel and aluminum cans, glass jars and bottles, flattened cardboard and #1 through #7 plastics (numbers on bottom), cartons – refrigerated (milk, juice, etc.) and shelf-stable (soup, broth, etc.) – may be included with recyclables. For more information, please contact Streets’ Recycling hotline at 215-685-RECYCLE (7329), or 215-685-7329, or visit www.phillyrecyclingpays.com.

Commercial Recycling
The City of Philadelphia’s Commercial Recycling Regulations went into effect on October 15, 1994. All buildings served by private trash haulers and the haulers themselves are affected by the recycling rules. Retail stores, offices, larger apartments, institutions, and government agencies must use approved licensed haulers. A list of these can be obtained from the Recycling Office at 215 686-5444.

Helpful Cleaning Tips:
• All cardboard boxes should be broken down and set out for recycling on October 1 through March 31.
• Your property and sidewalk must be kept free of trash and litter. Sweep litter into proper containers, never into the street.
• Businesses that sell food for takeout should provide trash receptacles at all points of access.
• It is the property owner’s responsibility to inform tenants about the City of Philadelphia’s guidelines for trash and recycling collections. Property owners are responsible for their properties, including tenant activity.
• Within six (6) hours of the end of a snowfall or freezing rain, you must clear a path at least 36 inches wide on your sidewalk including curb cuts. Do not shovel the snow into the street.
• City litter baskets are for pedestrian use only. Do not use them to dispose of household trash.

PHONE NUMBERS
Call one number 215-686-5560
Cell Phone call *FIX
For the Streets Department’s Customer Affairs Unit
• Trash and Recycling Collection
  Recycling Hotline 215-685-RECYCLE (215-685-7329)
• Illegal dumping/clean-up
• Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee (PMBC, Block Captains)
• SWEET
• Pothole and street repair
• Traffic signals and signs
• Alley lighting
• Street lighting

Visit us at www.philadelphiastreets.com
Solid Waste Recycling Plan
In accordance with the Commercial Recycling Regulations, an official Philadelphia Commercial Solid Waste Recycling Plan must be filed with the Philadelphia Recycling Office and posted in a public area within your premises.

Trash/Recycling Timetable
Trash/recycling must be set out not more than two hours prior to collection. For collection scheduled after business hours, trash/recycling must be set out no more than 30 minutes prior to the close of business. Dumpsters not licensed for public right-of-way placement must be kept inside the business premises until the proper set-out time.

Trash/Recycling Containers
- Regulations require rigid containers equipped with lids for all trash set out for private collection. Each lid must be securely closed when waste is in the receptacle and containers must be fully leakproof.
- Cardboard boxes may never be used as containers for trash/recycling.
- City litter baskets are for pedestrian use only. Do not use them to dispose of your trash.

Trash/Recycling Setouts
- Wood scraps along with tree and brush cuttings shall be cut in pieces small enough to fit in a receptacle for set out.
- Effective December 1, mattresses and box springs must be bagged and sealed in plastic mattress bags for collection. Mattresses and box springs not properly bagged will not be collected nor accepted at our Sanitation Convenience Centers.

Trash/Recycling Weekly Limits
- Rubbish (including yard waste if not leaf season):
  - Premises with 1 unit/single family: 4 cans or 8 bags (32 gallon maximum)
  - Premises with 2 to 6 units: 6 cans
  - Premises with businesses: 6 cans
  - Two bags may be substituted for one can.
- No bag or container may weigh more than 40 pounds.
- Private collection is required if you exceed these limits, if your building includes more than six units. To arrange for private collection, look in the Yellow Pages under “Rubbish and Garbage Removal.” Businesses contracting for private trash services are not entitled to any collection by the City.

Recycling - No limit
- Yard waste during leaf season - No limit