

2018 Zero Waste Resolution Request

August, 2018

The Sonoma County Local Task Force on Integrated Waste Management (LTF) recommends that the Sonoma County Solid Waste Management Agency (Agency) adopt a Zero Waste Resolution with substantive goals and policies. In support of this recommendation, the LTF provides two companion documents, the “2018 Sonoma County Zero Waste Initiative Suggestions“, and a “Sample Zero Waste Resolution for Sonoma County Jurisdictions“. The LTF offers these suggested initiatives and the companion resolution as a guide and welcome the Agency and each jurisdiction to adjust the resolution to reflect individual community’s needs.

The LTF established a Zero Waste Ad Hoc Committee in 2017 to collaborate with stakeholders, including the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, 350 Sonoma, North Bay Jobs with Justice, Sierra Club Redwood Chapter, Compost Coalition of Sonoma County, Zero Waste Sonoma County, North Bay Labor Council, Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority, Sonoma County Conservation Action, Recology Sonoma-Marin, Sonoma County Resource Recovery, local businesses, and engaged citizens. The LTF seeks to build on previous collaborative policy efforts such as the good work of the Solid Waste Advisory Group (SWAG), which adopted a policy of reaching 80% diversion by 2015 and 90% diversion by 2020.

With Zero Waste as a mutual goal, Sonoma County jurisdictions can regain national and statewide leadership through development and implementation of innovative plans, policies, and programs that:

- Reduce waste generation and maximize diversion of resources from disposal
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by progressive reduction in the use of landfills
- Protect public and environmental health by preventing pollutants from entering our air, land, and water
- Create quality, equitable jobs and inspiring new enterprises, thus strengthening our local economy
- Protect and preserve our beautiful and thriving county for future generations

The LTF recommends that the Agency and all Sonoma County jurisdictions:

- SET a Zero Waste goal to divert 100% of waste from landfills by 2030 and commit to reducing the total pounds per person per day, currently 4.6, by at least 10% per year
- LEAD BY EXAMPLE by instituting and/or expanding high diversion and Zero Waste goals and programs for all government facilities, events, and projects
- EDUCATE the public by expanding the ongoing information on the environmental and community benefits of reducing wasteful consumption and increasing diversion through reuse, repair, composting, and recycling

- ENCOURAGE all residents, businesses, and agencies to participate in composting and recycling programs while also encouraging them to reduce and reuse
- UPDATE and EXPAND the Green Purchasing, Environmentally Preferable Procurement (EPP) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies
- CREATE a countywide Construction and Demolition Reuse and Recycling Ordinance
- EMPOWER jurisdictions and consumers to use their buying power to demand less toxic, easily reused, fully compostable or recyclable products, utilizing recycled materials whenever possible
- ENCOURAGE manufacturers to produce and market less toxic and more durable, repairable, reusable, compostable and recyclable products and/or recycled products
- LOBBY regional, state, and federal legislators to implement laws, policies, and regulations that promote Zero Waste, Manufacturer Responsibility, and Environmentally Preferred Purchasing
- INSPIRE and INCENTIVIZE service providers to embrace and collaborate in these efforts
- SUPPORT equitable pay and safe working conditions for material management workers
- ENSURE fiscal sustainability by developing a sound financial model that can sustain high diversion and Zero Waste programs and enable long term delivery of quality services to the community

Adopted this 14th day of June 2018 by unanimous vote of members present