

SAMPLE ZERO WASTE RESOLUTION FOR SONOMA COUNTY

RESOLUTION NUMBER _____

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOARD/COUNTY/CITY OF _____ ADOPTING A GOAL OF ZERO WASTE BY 2030 on _____

WHEREAS, on _____, the Sonoma County Local Task Force on Integrated Waste Management recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution establishing a goal of Zero Waste by 2030; and

WHEREAS, this recommendation builds on all previous efforts including but not limited to the County Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP) and the Solid Waste Advisory Group (SWAG) as well as state initiatives and requirements; and

WHEREAS, the City of _____ has met and exceeded the 50% diversion goal set by the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) by substantially reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting before landfilling, and is now working toward the statewide 75% recycling, composting, or source reduction of solid waste by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the US EPA has estimated 50% of all GHG emissions are caused by the extraction, production, transportation, and use of goods, including food, products and packaging, and that Zero Waste minimizes GHG production and therefore supports Sonoma County’s Climate Initiative; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Sonoma County residents and businesses sent 420,865 tons to the landfill, generating approximately 103,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (Center for Climate Protection Greenhouse Gas Report for 2016) from decomposing organic matter; and

WHEREAS, the Short Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Act of 2016 (SB 1383) requires a 20% reduction of edible food waste by 2025 and a 40% reduction in methane levels by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the substantial recycling progress to date has been slower than expected and, since 2012, waste disposal per person per day has increased by 35%; and

WHEREAS, the Central Landfill, a very valuable resource worth preserving, has a remaining capacity of 29 years; and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste principles, in accordance with CalRecycle’s (California Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery) Zero Waste Hierarchy, promote the highest and best use of materials, emphasize a closed loop system of production and consumption, and move in logical increments toward the goal of reducing waste generation and landfill disposal by more than 90% through:

- Improving “downstream” reuse and recycling of end-of-life products and materials to ensure their highest and best use

- Pursuing “upstream” re-design strategies to reduce the volume and toxicity of discarded products and materials and promote less wasteful lifestyles
- Fostering and supporting the use of discarded products and materials to stimulate and drive local economic workforce development
- Preserving land for sustainable development and green industry infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, a resource recovery based economy will create and sustain more productive and meaningful jobs than a disposal based economy; and

WHEREAS, the City of _____ will assume a leadership role setting Zero Waste as a goal;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of _____ hereby encourages the pursuit of Zero Waste as a long term goal in order to eliminate waste and pollution in the manufacture, use, storage, and recycling of materials. This goal can be achieved through action plans and measures that significantly reduce waste and pollution. These measures will include encouragement of residents, businesses, and agencies to judiciously use, reuse, and recycle materials, and motivation of businesses to manufacture and market less toxic and more durable, repairable, reusable, recycled, and recyclable products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of _____ hereby adopts the concept of Zero Waste as defined by Zero Waste International Alliance as a guiding principle for all municipal operations, outreach, and programs and actions within the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of _____ sets the goal of Zero Waste by 2030 and commits to:

- Empowering these actions and the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency;
- Reducing the total pounds per person per day, currently 4.6, by at least 10% each year;
- Institute and/or expand high diversion and Zero Waste goals and programs for all government facilities, events, and projects;
- Educate the public regarding the environmental and community benefits of reducing wasteful consumption and increasing diversion through reuse, repair, composting, and recycling;
- Strongly encourage all residents, businesses, and agencies to participate in composting and recycling programs while also encouraging them to reduce and reuse;
- Update the Green Purchasing, Environmentally Preferable Procurement (EPP), and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies;
- Support adoption and implementation of the countywide Construction and Demolition Reuse and Recycling Ordinance;
- Adopt land use policy to facilitate the siting and permitting of processing and end market infrastructure that will be needed to manage the volume of material from higher levels of diversion;
- Support equitable pay and safe working conditions for material management workers;

- Develop 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 _____ day of _____, by the following vote: