



Creating a Zero Waste Resolution: Checklist for Success

Set your community up for success on the road to Zero Waste by incorporating these key elements into your Zero Waste Resolution:

- ❑ **Create an official policy.** Get serious about your Zero Waste commitment by putting a policy on the books rather than just tossing around the term at press conferences. This can be done through a standalone resolution, ordinance or bylaw, or it can be incorporated into other sustainability or planning documents.
- ❑ **Set a date to reach Zero Waste.** Create a timeline to reach Zero Waste and set interim targets to keep your community or business on track and accountable. Aim to reduce your waste going to the landfill by 90% below current levels. *Example language: Reduce per capita waste disposal by 75% by 2020 and by 90% by 2030. Reach 75% recovery by 2020 and Zero Waste by 2030.*
- ❑ **Establish a waste reduction goal.** Zero Waste is not just about keeping materials out of landfills—it's about better managing a limited amount of natural resources to meet the needs of a growing global population. Commit to Zero Waste, not just better recycling, by setting targets to reduce your waste generation per capita below current levels. *Example language: Reduce waste generation per capita by 25% by 2030.*
- ❑ **Exclude waste incineration as a form of diversion.** When resources are burned they can no longer be used again to make new products, which makes energy recovery technologies incompatible with Zero Waste. Give priority to reuse, recycling, composting and waste reduction by prohibiting new mass burn or waste conversion technology projects. *Example language: Current landfilling, waste incineration and thermal waste-to-energy technologies do not meet the goals of Zero Waste.*
- ❑ **Develop a Zero Waste plan with specific action steps.** Direct municipal staff or other resources to develop a community Zero Waste plan within a set period of time. The plan should address timelines, funding mechanisms, data collection and roles and responsibilities. Identify the policies, programs and infrastructure most needed in your community to reach your goals, such as investing in an organics recovery facility, increasing business recycling or supporting producer responsibility legislation. *Example language: GOVERNMENT NAME staff will create a Zero Waste plan within six months.*
- ❑ **Lead by example.** Demonstrate your leadership and commitment to Zero Waste by setting a Zero Waste goal for government operations. Work with individual departments to reduce waste, purchase green products, make all government meetings and events Zero Waste, and make your efforts highly visible through public recycling bins. *Example: GOVERNMENT NAME hereby adopts the philosophy of Zero Waste as a long-term goal for the community and all government operations.*