



Model resolution supporting Zero Waste as a guiding principle and supporting the creation of a Zero Waste plan

WHEREAS, the purpose of government is to improve the lives of its citizens, and this is accomplished by: managing a community's resources and assets for the common good of its citizens; ensuring, to the best of its ability, that the quality and diversity of its economic, environmental and social resources are preserved; and, that these resources are carried into the future in order that subsequent generations may enjoy a suitable quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the guiding principles of Zero Waste are: managing resources instead of waste; conserving natural resources through waste prevention and recycling; turning discarded resources into jobs and new products instead of trash; promoting products and materials that are durable and recyclable and made from non-toxic materials; and discouraging products and materials that can only become trash after their use; and

WHEREAS, an estimated ____ tons of waste is presently generated in GOVERNMENT NAME each year by residents, businesses, and institutions, and approximately ____% of this amount is sent for landfill disposal; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that voluntary recycling goals have not, and in all probability cannot, achieve high levels of resource recovery and waste reduction; and

WHEREAS, current landfilling, waste incineration and thermal waste-to-energy technologies do not meet the goals of Zero Waste and can cause damage to human health and the environment, waste natural resources, and wrongly transfer liabilities to future generations; and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste redesigns our systems of resource use, minimizes resource consumption, and eliminates waste whenever possible in order to conserve energy, mitigate climate change, reduce water usage, prevent the creation of toxins, and stop ecosystem destruction; and

WHEREAS Zero Waste captures our discards and uses them, instead of natural resources, to make new products, creating far less pollution and feeding the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the reuse and recycling of discarded products and materials can stimulate and drive local economic development and job creation; and

WHEREAS, a commitment to Zero Waste means managing materials according to their highest and best use based on:

- maximizing downstream resource recovery through recycling and composting;
- maximizing midstream longevity through reuse, repair, sharing and durable design; and
- maximizing upstream waste prevention strategies that reduce the volume and toxicity of discarded products and materials;



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by GOVERNMENT NAME:

The GOVERNMENT NAME hereby adopts the philosophy of Zero Waste as a long-term goal for the community and all GOVERNMENT operations in order to eliminate waste and pollution in the extraction, manufacturing, use, storage and recycling of products and materials.

GOVERNMENT NAME hereby directs staff to develop a Zero Waste plan for GOVERNMENT NAME within ____ months with the goal to reduce per capita waste disposal by 90% by YEAR with an interim milestone of 75% reduction by YEAR.

The Zero Waste Plan will assess the GOVERNMENT NAME'S current levels of resource use and waste generation; identify objectives; and recommend short-, medium-, and long-term actions to reach these objectives including infrastructure, policies, programs and community engagement. The Zero Waste plan will, within budget constraints, seek to effectively, efficiently, and quickly address the issues identified, as well as allow for a public process to address recommended actions.