

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION



Meeting Date:	October 28, 2008	Item Number: RS-9N
Type of Item:	Consent R-2008-98 and R-2008-99	
Presented by:	Dale Rademacher, Director, PWWU, x 8355 Charles Kamenides, Street Maintenance and Solid Waste Operations Manager, x8418 Ron Shaw, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, x8379	

SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE: Resolution declaring Longmont a Zero Waste Community and Resolution supporting the Colorado Climate Action Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Zero Waste:

This Zero Waste resolution proclaims Longmont is a “Zero Waste Community” and encourages the pursuit of zero waste as a long term goal and incorporation of zero waste provisions and actions into all aspects of its organizational culture.

The guiding principles of a Zero Waste Community 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,
- creating incentives and policies for manufacturers to design products for recovery rather than disposal, and to reduce the production and use of toxic materials,
- holding manufacturers liable for the waste created by their products because manufacturers have the greatest influence over product design and impact,
- creating the infrastructure for materials to be conveniently collected for recycling, composting, and reuse within the community, and
- discouraging the purchase and use of products and materials that can not be recycled or reused.

The Longmont Board of Environmental Affairs recommends that City Council support the Zero Waste resolution. A copy of the Zero Waste resolution is attached.

Colorado Climate Action Plan:

This resolution declares the City’s intent to support, as appropriate, the strategies contained in the statewide Climate Action Plan. Staff are directed to develop applicable programs and



Colorado Climate Action Plan:

In November 2007 Governor Bill Ritter released the Colorado Climate Action Plan, a call to action that establishes firm goals and clear strategies to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, and also provides simple suggestions so everyone in Colorado can address global warming.

The plan was developed over several months, in a collaborative process that included business and community leaders, conservationists, scientists and concerned citizens. It promotes energy efficiency measures that will reduce demand for electrical energy and lower utility bills; builds on the state's recently expanded Renewable Portfolio Standard and looks for ways to develop our renewable energy supplies even further; includes an ambitious goal for making cars and trucks run more cleanly and efficiently while saving consumers money at the pump; and provides an exciting new opportunity for rural Colorado by creating economic incentives for major utilities and industries to pay farmers and ranchers to sequester more carbon in the soil.

Colorado's greenhouse gas emissions are steadily climbing. The state's emissions in 2005 were 35 percent higher than in 1990 and under a business-as-usual scenario, are projected to grow to 81 percent above 1990 levels by the year 2020. The goal of the Colorado Climate Action Plan is to mobilize Colorado's businesses, governments and citizens in an effort to first slow and halt the increase and then reduce emissions to 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020. This goal was established because it is believed to be achievable, will make a material difference, and will put the state on the path to making the even steeper emissions reductions that the world's scientists say we must achieve by the middle of this century.

ATTACHMENTS:

Colorado Climate Action Plan

policies that reflect the Climate Action Plan strategies and that are consistent with the development and implementation of the City's Integrated Environmental Plan.

The Climate Action Plan was presented to City Council on July 29, 2008. Staff presented the statewide greenhouse gas reduction goals contained in the plan. Following that presentation, Council directed staff to prepare an appropriate resolution for Council consideration. This resolution does not establish any greenhouse gas reduction goals for the city. Staff will establish such goals as part of the City's Integrated Environmental Plan (IEP). The IEP will be discussed with Council later in the year.

The Longmont Board of Environmental Affairs recommends that City Council support the Colorado Climate Action Plan. A copy of the Colorado Climate Action Plan resolution is attached.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Staff and the Board of Environmental Affairs recommend that council approve both the Zero Waste and Climate Action Plan resolutions.

FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:

BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS:

Zero Waste:

The Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board (RCAB), which is made up of twenty members (one appointed representative from each of the cities and towns in the county, the unincorporated county, the City and County of Broomfield, CU Recycling, Eco-Cycle, and the Center for ReSource Conservation; and five at-large members) was tasked with developing policy and action recommendations for a long range county-wide solid waste management plan. Longmont's appointed representative is Brian Hansen and the At-Large member for Longmont is Sherry Malloy.

Adopting the Zero Waste philosophy is a way to organize different programs and strategies that are required to go beyond recycling. The Zero Waste model not only looks at enhanced recycling programs but also looks at purchasing habits as well as the life cycle of materials, from design, manufacturing, use and disposal, and encourages ways to eliminating waste in all the phases of a product's life.

Just like the successful recycling efforts that has been fostered throughout Boulder County, the zero waste approach needs to be a collective effort of more than one person, company, organization or municipality. To date Boulder County and the City of Boulder have both adopted similar zero waste resolutions.

The adoption of this resolution would provide the guidance for the city and its departments to follow the principals of a zero waste community.

1 RESOLUTION R-2008- 98

2 A RESOLUTION OF THE LONGMONT CITY COUNCIL DECLARING
3 LONGMONT A ZERO WASTE COMMUNITY AND ENCOURAGING THE PURSUIT OF
4 ZERO WASTE

5
6 WHEREAS, an estimated 38,000 tons of waste is generated in the City of Longmont
7 (“City”) each year by residents and approximately 73% of this amount is sent for landfill
8 disposal; and

9 WHEREAS, although more than 27% of the waste generated in the City is being recycled
10 higher levels of recycling and reuse can be achieved; and

11 WHEREAS, the ~~placement-improper disposal~~ of materials ~~in-waste-disposal facilities,~~
12 ~~such as landfills and incinerators,~~ wastes natural resources, transfers environmental and financial
13 liabilities to future generations, increases the release of Greenhouse Gases (“GHG”), and has the
14 potential to cause damage to human health both now and in the future; and

15 WHEREAS, avoiding the creation of waste or discards in the first place is the most
16 economically efficient and environmentally sustainable resource management strategy; and

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

19 WHEREAS, with the appropriate economic incentives, manufacturers can and will
20 produce and businesses will sell products that are durable and repairable and that can be safely
21 recycled back into the marketplace or nature; and

1 WHEREAS, government can encourage waste reduction and recycling by fostering the
2 economic and regulatory environment that supports these activities and through leading by
3 example; and

4 WHEREAS, the City has positioned itself as an environmental leader among local
5 governments by adopting environmental initiatives, programs and policies including the broad
6 community vision contained in the Focus on Longmont Plan, City recycling and environmental
7 purchasing policies; and

8 WHEREAS, the guiding principles of a Zero Waste Community are:

- 9 • managing resources instead of waste,
- 10 • conserving natural resources through waste prevention and recycling,
- 11 • turning discarded resources into jobs and new products instead of trash,
- 12 • promoting products and materials that are durable and recyclable,
- 13 • creating incentives and policies for manufacturers to design products for recovery
14 rather than disposal, and to reduce the production and use of toxic materials,
- 15 • holding manufacturers liable for the waste created by their products because
16 manufacturers have the greatest influence over product design and impact,
- 17 • creating the infrastructure for materials to be conveniently collected for recycling,
18 composting, and reuse within the community, and
- 19 • discouraging the purchase and use of products and materials that can not be
20 recycled or reused.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO,
22 RESOLVES:

1 Section 1

2 The City hereby declares itself a Zero Waste Community and encourages the pursuit of
3 Zero Waste as a long-term goal in order to eliminate waste and pollution in the manufacture, use,
4 storage, and recycling of materials. City Council will support this goal to the extent allowed by
5 the City’s business plan and annual budget processes, by initiating action plans and measures
6 that significantly reduce waste and pollution across all sectors of the community. These measures
7 will include:

- 8 • encouraging residents, businesses and agencies through incentives and legislation
9 to judiciously use, reuse, recycle and compost materials,
- 10 • giving preference to environmentally-designed products and companies through
11 government purchasing policies,
- 12 • motivating businesses to manufacture and market less toxic and more durable,
13 repairable, reusable, recycled, and recyclable products,
- 14 • investing in resource recovery infrastructure to keep materials in the production
15 cycle and promoting industries that use recycled feedstocks, and
- 16 • employing mandatory programs only if the resource recovery infrastructure exists
17 and if convenient, voluntary programs prove not to be successful.

18 Section 2

19 The City will review its own policies, contracts, and standard operating procedures to
20 incorporate, to the extent allowed by the City’s business plan and annual budget processes, Zero
21 Waste provisions and actions into all aspects of its organizational culture to encourage the use of
22 materials and products that are durable, repairable, and reusable, have a minimum of packaging,
23 toxic content or chemical hazard potential, are resource and energy efficient in their

1 manufacture, use and disposal, and in their use or disposal minimize or eliminate the City's
2 potential environmental liability.

3 Section 3

4 The Council repeals all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution, but
5 only to the extent of such inconsistency.

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7 Passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2008.
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11 MAYOR

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13 ATTEST:

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17 CITY CLERK

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20 APPROVED AS TO FORM

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23 _____
24 ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

_____ DATE

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28 PROOFREAD

_____ DATE

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31 APPROVED AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

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34 _____
35 ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT

_____ DATE

36 File: 7719
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