

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2020-187

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA ADOPTING A COUNTYWIDE GOAL OF ZERO WASTE BY 2030

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Rosa is a member of Zero Waste Sonoma which is a joint powers authority; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Zero Waste Sonoma is to change the culture in Sonoma County by exceeding waste diversion rates required by State law AB 939; and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste Sonoma's programs include household hazardous waste, composting, wood waste recycling, planning and education; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Local Task Force on Integrated Waste Management (LTF) is an advisory body created to advise the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors as well as Zero Waste Sonoma; and

WHEREAS, the LTF recommended that the Board of Directors of Zero Waste Sonoma adopt a resolution establishing a goal of Zero Waste by 2030; and

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2019, Zero Waste Sonoma adopted by resolution a goal of Zero Waste by 2030, and directed Zero Waste Sonoma to present the resolution to member jurisdictions for their consideration; and

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

WHEREAS, the US EPA has estimated that 50% of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are caused by the extraction, production, transportation, and use of goods including food, products and packaging; and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste by 2030 focuses on initiatives to minimize GHG production through organic and compostable waste diversion and therefore supports Sonoma County's Climate Initiative; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Sonoma County residents and businesses sent 420,865 tons of waste to the landfill, generating approximately 103,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (2016 Center for Climate Protection Greenhouse Gas Report); 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, although the substantial recycling progress to date has been slower than expected, waste disposal rates per person per day have increased by 35% since 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Central Landfill has a remaining capacity of 26 years; and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste principles, in accordance with CalRecycle’s 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, by adopting this resolution, the City of Santa Rosa will assume a leadership role by setting Zero Waste as a goal; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2020, the Santa Rosa City Council assumed this leadership role by unanimously adopting the Santa Rosa Zero Waste Master Plan which aims to address pollution caused by solid waste by creating a framework for the implementation of strategies that will not only reduce waste, increase recycling and composting, but shift the way residents and businesses regard waste.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Santa Rosa hereby supports the pursuit of Zero Waste as a long-term goal in order to reduce GHG emissions, landfill waste and general pollution through action plans and measures that include encouragement of residents, businesses, and agencies to judiciously use, reuse, and recycle materials, while at the same time motivating businesses to manufacture products that are more durable, repairable, reusable, and recyclable.

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

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council sets the goal of Zero Waste by 2030, including through the following efforts:

- Reducing total pounds disposed per person per day of franchised material, currently 2.8 pounds per day, by 10% annually through 2030;
- Achieving 75% diversion from landfill by 2030;
- Educating the public regarding the environmental and community benefits of reducing wasteful consumption and increasing diversion through reuse, repair, composting, and recycling; and
- Strongly encourage all residents, businesses, and agencies to participate in composting and recycling programs while also encouraging them to reduce and reuse.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED this 10th day of November, 2020.

AYES: (7) Mayor Schwedhelm, Vice Mayor Fleming, Council Members Dowd, Olivares, Rogers, Sawyer, Tibbetts

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ATTEST: _____ APPROVED: _____
City Clerk Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney