



DATE: June 19, 2018

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: **Adopt a Resolution Introducing City Council Policy K-22, Zero Waste Policy**

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution Adopting City Council Policy K-22, Zero Waste Policy, to be read in title only, further reading waived (Attachment 1 to the Council report).

BACKGROUND

At the April 24, 2018 Council Study Session, staff introduced a draft zero waste policy as the first step in the development of new waste collection, processing, and disposal agreements for the period following expiration of the current agreements in 2021. At the Study Session, Councilmembers indicated general support for the policy, and no changes were made to the draft policy following the Council's review.

ANALYSIS

The policy establishes an overall quantitative goal to reduce generated and disposed waste such that 90 percent of materials are diverted from landfill by 2030. Mountain View's 2016 diversion rate was 78 percent (the 2017 rate is not yet available). The policy also calls for a continual improvement approach to reducing waste based on relevant data and current scientific research. For example, recent research using life cycle analysis suggests that the total environmental impact of materials must be considered, rather than simply focusing attention on recyclability. Other ways to measure progress besides weight-based diversion may be developed based on this research and should be incorporated into future waste reduction planning efforts.

Achieving 90 percent diversion will require actions in addition to programs that the City has direct control over implementing. Changes are required in private-sector practices related to product design, purchasing, use, and "end-of-life" management, whether voluntary or in response to State or national regulatory mandates. These changes are already beginning to happen, such as recent California legislation requiring

manufacturer responsibility for paint, mattress, and carpet recycling and disposal. However, for the most part, the City cannot exert direct control over decisions regarding these practices. Therefore, the policy calls for City support of legislation and other actions that can result in this “producer responsibility.”

Other important policy points include maintaining focus on education and services that encourage residents to reduce overall waste generation, including that which can be recycled or composted; supporting efforts to rescue edible food to feed hungry people; and working to reduce the proliferation of single-use disposable products and packaging.

The proposed zero waste policy will memorialize many of the practices the City has been embracing since the first Environmental Sustainability Action Plan was adopted by the City Council in 2009. It will serve as a long-term guide for the City’s commitment to reducing waste and provide a structure for development of the new solid waste agreements. After the City’s zero waste goals are formalized in the policy, a focused set of actions consistent with the policy will be developed to guide the new agreement development process.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with adoption of the zero waste policy. However, the policy does presume that future actions will be taken by the City to further reduce overall waste and waste disposed in landfills. The costs and relative benefits of such actions will be evaluated at the time specific programs are proposed.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Decline to adopt a zero waste policy.
2. Propose revisions to the policy.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting.

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Attachment: 1. Resolution with Attached Zero Waste Policy (K-22)