



DATE: October 29, 2019

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: **Adopt Zero Waste Plan**

RECOMMENDATION

Review and approve the City of Mountain View Zero Waste Plan.

BACKGROUND

On June 11, 2019, the City Council reviewed a Draft Zero Waste Plan ([Attachment 1](#)). The Zero Waste Plan (Plan) is intended to serve as the road map to achieve the City's adopted goal of reducing generated and disposed waste such that 90 percent of materials are diverted from landfill by 2030 (City Council Policy K-22 – Zero Waste). The Plan also serves as a basis for development of new and revised agreements for collection, processing, and landfill services to replace those expiring at the end of 2021.

The Plan contains a total of 39 initiatives subdivided into Short-Term, Medium-Term, and Long-Term time frames, with diversion potential, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction, staff effort required, and one-time costs estimated for each initiative. The Plan does not estimate ongoing costs related to the amended service agreements as these costs are subject to negotiation with service providers.

Taken all together, by 2030, the actions contained in the Plan are estimated to divert an additional 28,200 tons of material from the landfill annually, reducing GHG emissions by 40,380 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e}). Accordingly, the Sustainability Action Plan-4 includes achievement of the Zero Waste Plan as an important component and lists a number of zero waste initiatives, including several recommended by the Environmental Sustainability Task Force-2.

ANALYSIS

The Final Zero Waste Plan (Attachment 2) incorporates revisions made in response to comments received on the Draft from Council and the public prior to and at the June 11,

2019 Council Study Session. Response to Council direction is summarized below and response to all comments can be found in Attachment A of the Plan (Pages A-8 through A-11).

1. **Consider moving *Technical Assistance to Schools* from the Medium-Term to the Short-Term.**

Response: The main consideration in adding initiatives to the Short-Term is the availability of staff to implement the projects. In order to reduce the impact of moving this significant effort forward, staff has proposed splitting the schools project into two phases. *Technical Assistance to Schools – Phase 1* (Initiative 3) would occur in Fiscal Year 2020-21 and will involve the development of a School Zero Waste Plan. This will require working with the school districts and private schools to develop the collaborative approach needed to implement an ongoing support program but will have less of an impact on staff resources. To accommodate this shift, the *Increase Bag Charge* (Initiative 13) has been moved from the Short-Term to the Medium-Term. *Technical Assistance to Schools – Phase 2* (Initiative 12) can begin the following year with full implementation of the program at all school district sites, which will be a more staff-intensive effort.

2. **Consider moving *Waste Reduction for Diapers* and *Waste Reduction for Pet Waste* to earlier years.**

Response: These two initiatives require relatively small staff time commitments and have been moved from the later years of the Medium-Term period to the beginning (now Initiatives 25 and 26).

3. **Revise *Every Other Week Garbage* to include evaluation of additional options to reduce the volume of trash collected from residents.**

Response: This initiative has been retitled “Incentives for Reducing Garbage Collection” and revised to include the evaluation of options, one of which could be every-other-week garbage collection, to reduce the amount of trash that is placed out for collection by residents (Initiative 30). Such measures would hopefully encourage residents to separate all recycling and organics for placement in those respective containers. Such a measure would only be necessary if earlier initiatives are not resulting in a significant increase in residential diversion.

Revisions to the Plan made based on comments received from the public include moving Initiative 24, *Commercial Food Donations*, up to an earlier year of the Medium-Term (which better matches upcoming State requirement timing); adding the

promotion of rescue organizations to Initiative 23, *Promote Reuse, Rental, Repair and Rescue*; and adding a consideration of requiring 100 percent diversion of soils and metals to the City's Construction and Demolition Ordinance (Initiative 20, *Increase Construction and Demolition Diversion Requirements*).

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated staffing and one-time cost impacts based on the initiatives in the Plan are shown below:

	Staffing Levels	One-Time Costs
Current Permanent Staffing	3.0 Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)	
Short-Term Initiatives	+ 1.5 FTE (4.5 Total)	+ \$214,000
Medium-Term Initiatives	+ 1.0 FTE (5.5 Total)	+ \$ 30,000
Long-Term Initiatives	+ 0.80 FTE (6.3 Total)	+ \$145,000

The staffing needed to implement zero waste initiatives could be provided with a combination of new City staff, hourly assistance, contract assistance, or incorporation into service provider agreements. Staff will evaluate the need for actual staffing and one-time expenditures related to the Plan initiatives for each fiscal year and will propose appropriations as part of the annual budget process. No additional appropriation is needed at this time.

Ongoing costs for initiatives that require service provider contract changes are as yet unknown and will be evaluated by Council during the approval process for those agreements. All staffing, one-time costs, and ongoing contract costs for zero waste initiatives will be paid by the Solid Waste Management Fund.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not adopt the Zero Waste Plan.
2. Provide direction to staff to incorporate further revisions to the Plan.

PUBLIC NOTICING

Agenda posting, e-mail sent to interested community members, businesses, and stakeholders, and social media posts.

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Attachments: 1. [June 11, 2019 City Council Study Session Report](#)
2. Zero Waste Plan