

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
RESOLUTION NO.
SERIES 2018

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING CITY COUNCIL POLICY K-22,
ZERO WASTE POLICY

WHEREAS, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) required that all California jurisdictions achieve a landfill diversion rate of 50 percent by the year 2000, and reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost all discarded materials to the maximum extent feasible before landfilling or other destructive disposal method is used; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the California Integrated Waste Management Board set a goal of Zero Waste in its strategic plan for the State; and many cities, councils, counties, and states worldwide have adopted a goal of achieving zero waste, including the Counties of San Francisco, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, and Del Norte in California; and the cities of Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Alameda, and Berkeley in California; and

WHEREAS, the Zero Waste International Alliance defines zero waste as a process and philosophy that involves a redesign of products and consumption, so that all material goods can be redesigned, reduced, reused, recycled, or composted, such that 90 percent reduction of waste being sent to landfill is achieved; and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste principles promote the highest and best use of materials to eliminate waste and pollution, emphasizing a closed-loop system of production and consumption, moving in logical increments toward the goal of zero waste through the core principles of:

- Improving “downstream” reuse/recycling of end-of-life products and materials to ensure their highest and best use;
- Pursuing “upstream” redesign strategies to reduce the volume and toxicity of discarded products and materials, and promote low-impact or reduced consumption lifestyles;
- Fostering and supporting use of discarded products and materials to stimulate and drive local economic and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, a 2009 study by the U.S. EPA, Opportunities to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Materials and Land Management Practices, highlights that 44 percent of all GHG emissions are related to the extraction of resources and the use of energy in the production of goods and services and waste reduction, reuse, and recycling activities directly reduce these emissions; and

WHEREAS, 2016 Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction legislation (SB 1383), in order to reduce methane emissions, requires a Statewide reduction in organics placed in landfills of 75 percent from the 2014 level; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of this zero waste policy and its guiding principles supports both the City's Communitywide Climate Action Plan and its Municipal Operations Climate Action Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Mountain View hereby adopts City Council Policy K-22, as shown in Exhibit A attached to this resolution, and directs City staff to implement this policy through the periodic preparation of Action Plans for Council consideration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Mountain View will continue taking a leadership role, partnering with other local and regional zero waste and sustainability advocates, to actively pursue and advocate for strategies and incentives to advance zero waste principles for materials management, system redesign, highest and best use of discarded products and materials, and a closed-loop, sustainable production and consumption society.

TS/2/RESO
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CITY COUNCIL POLICY

SUBJECT: ZERO WASTE

NO.: K-22

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a Zero Waste goal for the City of Mountain View and to set standards to guide the City in its waste handling, prevention, and reduction efforts. The generation of waste, and the placement of materials in waste disposal facilities such as landfills, negatively impacts human health, wastes natural resources, and transfers liabilities to future generations. The City is committed to responsible waste management that:

- Protects the environment and conserves natural resources.
- Minimizes pollutants from entering the air, land, and water.
- Follows the principle of highest and best use so that reducing and reusing waste materials occurs first, followed by recycling and composting, so that eventually no material goes to landfill or high-temperature destruction.
- Creates a more sustainable, efficient economy.
- Preserves the environment for future generations.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the City of Mountain View that the City will:

1. Work to reduce the amount of waste generated and disposed of by Mountain View employees, businesses, and residents with a goal that 80 percent of materials are diverted from landfill by 2020 and 90 percent by 2030.
2. Adopt a continual improvement approach to reducing waste generation and disposal, utilizing relevant data and current scientific research to develop financially realistic strategies and measures targeting remaining materials in the waste stream. For example, current research around sustainable materials management offers principles based on life-cycle analysis for reducing the total environmental impact of materials, focusing our attention on more than just recyclability and weight-based diversion.

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3. Encourage employees, businesses, and residents, through education and the provision of services and infrastructure, to reuse and recycle materials judiciously and pursue source reduction by selecting products or processes that use fewer natural resources, are minimally packaged, and minimize or eliminate the use of toxic materials.
4. Support efforts to reduce wasted food by recovering usable food to feed hungry people.
5. Educate consumers to use their buying power to demonstrate a preference for less-toxic, durable, reusable, recycled, or composted products and materials over unsustainable, toxic, disposable, or single-use products.
6. Reduce the proliferation of plastic food service ware and packaging in daily commerce, to the extent practicable.
7. Support extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation and efforts that shift financial and physical responsibility for material recovery, at the end of product life, from local government to the producers and sellers (Mountain View Resolution No. 17329, adopted October 2008).
8. Support regional, State, and Federal efforts to implement laws, policies, and regulations that promote zero waste and sustainable materials management objectives.
9. Lead by example and implement waste management plans with high diversion goals for all City facilities and events.

Revised: _____, Resolution No. _____

Effective Date: _____, Resolution No. _____

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