

CITY COUNCIL POLICY

SUBJECT: ZERO WASTENO: 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.
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, re-usable, 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 shifts 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.