

City of Olympia, Washington
RESOLUTION NO. M-1641

A RESOLUTION adopting a vision of achieving Zero Waste; and directing the Public Works Department to include this vision in the Solid Waste Management Plan.

WHEREAS, Zero Waste is a vision and design principle aimed at changing our society's wasteful practices and moving towards a society that views all solid material as a valuable resource and therefore uses materials and energy so efficiently that nothing is disposed of as "waste;" and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste incorporates the values of sustainability by promoting producer and consumer responsibility in order to prevent waste from occurring and recover discarded materials as resources for reuse and recycling; and

WHEREAS, for Olympia, achieving Zero Waste would mean that all products and packaging consumed or sold in Olympia can be either reused or recycled; all household and business discards are recovered for reuse or remanufacture, and therefore the need for landfill disposal is eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia Sustainable City Philosophy states: "The City of Olympia acknowledges its responsibility for leadership in creating a sustainable community locally, regionally, and globally. A sustainable community is one that persists over generations and is far-sighted enough, flexible enough, and wise enough to maintain its natural, economic, social, and political support systems;" and

WHEREAS, one of the City Council's goals for 2005-06 is to "put sustainability into action so that we do our part to save the planet;" and

WHEREAS, the Waste Not Washington Act of 1989 (ESHB 1671) declared waste reduction and recycling as the fundamental strategies of solid waste management; established a state goal of fifty (50) percent recycling by 1995; and required local governments to include waste reduction and recycling elements in their comprehensive solid waste management plans; and

WHEREAS, in 1991 Olympia passed Ordinance No. 5141 instructing the City Manager to implement policies and programs to maximize the reduction and recycling of City-generated waste and to procure and promote the use of recyclable products; and

WHEREAS, in 1994 Olympia adopted a Comprehensive Plan that states: "Olympia no longer simply collects trash from households and businesses and hauls it to the landfill for disposal. Olympia manages waste as a resource. It is a resource that creates jobs, diversifies the local economy, protects the environment and creates a sustainable future for our citizens." and,

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan also set three goals for solid waste management, including Goal PF 17: "To manage solid waste to realize its full potential for environmental, economic and social benefits;" and

WHEREAS, the trend in waste management in the 21st century is to move beyond recycling to a closed-loop, "cradle-to-cradle" system where nothing is ever ultimately discarded – where there is "zero waste – or darn close;" and

WHEREAS, in 2004 Beyond Waste, the State of Washington's 30-year solid waste and hazardous waste management plan set a vision of moving beyond waste "to a society where waste is viewed as inefficient and where most wastes and toxic substances have been eliminated;" and

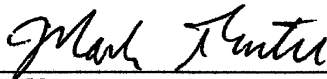
WHEREAS, adopting a Zero Waste vision is consistent with, and explicitly validates, Olympia's Sustainable City Philosophy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby adopts a vision of achieving Zero Waste, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City focus planning efforts on strategies towards achieving this vision, and to work with all City Departments to identify and implement internal Zero Waste strategies; and

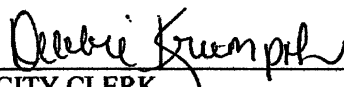
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Olympia will assume a leadership role, partnering with other Zero Waste local, regional, and international communities and sustainability advocates to actively pursue strategies to advance Zero Waste principles for materials management, system re-design, highest and best use of discarded products and materials, and a closed-loop sustainable production and consumption society, so that Olympia remains a healthy and vibrant community for families and individuals to live, work, and play for generations to come.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this 27th day of June, 2006.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CITY ATTORNEY

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