

# 2018 Zero Waste Resolution Request To Sonoma County Jurisdictions

APRIL, 2018

The Sonoma County Zero Waste Task Force (ZWTF) hereby asks **the cities, towns and County of Sonoma to adopt a Zero Waste Resolution with substantive goals and policies by 2019**. In support of this request, the ZWTF provides a companion document, **2018 Sonoma County Zero Waste Initiatives**.

The ZWTF was established in 2017 by the Sonoma County AB 939 Local Task Force as a collaborative of stakeholders, including the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, 350 Sonoma, North Bay Jobs with Justice, Sierra Club Redwood Chapter, Compost Coalition of Sonoma County, Zero Waste Sonoma County, North Bay Labor Council, Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority, Sonoma County Conservation Action, Recology Sonoma-Marin, Sonoma County Resource Recovery, local businesses and engaged citizens.

With Zero Waste as a mutual goal, Sonoma County jurisdictions can regain national and statewide leadership through development and implementation of innovative plans, policies and programs that:

- Reduce waste generation and maximize diversion of resources from disposal;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by progressive reduction in the use of landfills;
- Protect public and environmental health by preventing pollutants from entering our air, land, and water;
- Create quality, equitable jobs and inspiring new enterprises, thus strengthening our local economy;
- Protect and preserve our beautiful and thriving county for future generations.

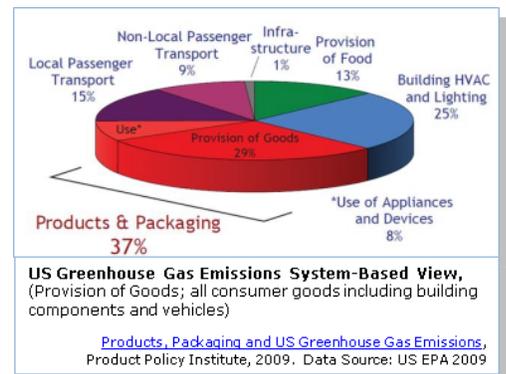
**The ZWTF asks all Sonoma County jurisdictions to:**

- **SET** a goal to divert 100% of waste from landfills by 2030. Commit to reducing the total pounds per person per day – currently 46, by at least 10% each year;
- **SIGN** on to the UN Environmental Program Urban Environmental Accords, which includes commitments to Zero Waste, Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Responsibility;
- **LEAD BY EXAMPLE** by instituting and/or expanding high diversion and Zero Waste goals and programs for all government facilities, events and projects;
- **EDUCATE** the public by expanding the on-going information on the environmental and community benefits of reducing wasteful consumption and increasing diversion through reuse, repair, composting and recycling;
- **MANDATE** all residents, businesses and agencies to participate in composting and recycling programs while also encouraging them to reduce and reuse;
- **UPDATE** and **EXPAND** the Green Purchasing, Environmentally Preferable Procurement (EPP) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies.
- **CREATE** a county-wide Construction and Demolition Reuse and Recycling Ordinance;
- **EMPOWER** jurisdictions and consumers to use their buying power to demand less toxic, easily reused, fully compostable or recyclable, recycled and/or compostable products;
- **ENCOURAGE** manufacturers to produce and market less toxic and more durable, repairable, reusable, compostable and recyclable products, utilizing recycled materials whenever possible;
- **LOBBY** regional, state and federal legislators to implement laws, policies and regulations that promote Zero Waste, Manufacturer Responsibility and Environmentally Preferred Purchasing;
- **INSPIRE** and **INCENTIVIZE** service providers to embrace and collaborate in these efforts;
- **SUPPORT** equitable pay and safe working conditions for material management workers;
- **ENSURE** fiscal sustainability by developing a sound financial model that can sustain high diversion and Zero Waste programs and enable long-term delivery of quality services to the community.

# In-Depth Resources on the Impacts of Wasting, 2018

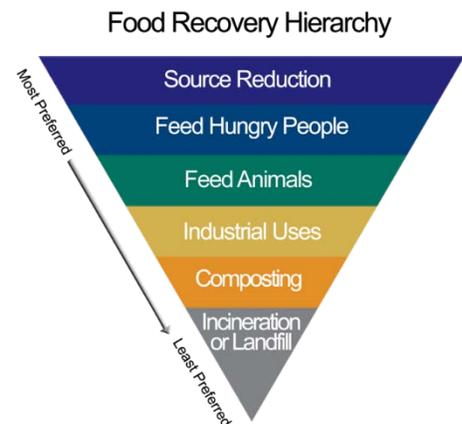
## GLOBAL WARMING

The EPA chart illustrates the provision, transportation and disposal of products and packaging (37%) and provision of food (13%) are responsible for 50% of all US greenhouse gas emissions. In 2015, Sonoma County residents and businesses sent 388,000 tons to the landfill, generating about 173,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent from decomposing organic matter. The [California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2016 – SB 32](#), requires that there be a reduction in GHG emissions to 40% below the 1990 levels by 2030. Zero waste planning supports Sonoma County's 2020 Climate Action Plan.



## EDIBLE FOOD DISCARDS

The 2017 Sonoma County Hunger Index reports that 32% of Sonoma County households were food insecure at some time during the year. It has been well documented that Americans throw out an average of 400 pounds of food per person per year representing up to \$218 billion dollars (1.3% of our GDP). By committing to the [EPA Food Waste Hierarchy](#) to feed people, feed animals, and feed the soil, we can reduce hunger in our community while mitigating the environmental impacts of food discards. Recent California legislation to reduce the landfilling of organics includes: [Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling of 2014 - AB 1826](#), (requiring businesses that generate organic wastes to arrange for organic waste recycling services), and [Short Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Act of 2016 - SB 1383](#) - (requiring a 20% reduction of edible food waste by 2025 and a 40% reduction in methane levels by 2030).



## GREEN PURCHASING AND GREEN BUILDING

Sonoma County was an early leader in Environmentally Preferable Procurement, Green Purchasing and Construction and Demolition Reuse and Recycling. The existing ordinances, policies and programs would greatly benefit from being brought up to date and standardized while still balancing environmental considerations with performance, availability and financial costs.

## EQUITABLE JOBS

[The BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Summary, 2016](#) lists refuse and recyclable material collectors as the fifth most dangerous U.S. occupation. Yet it is a common industry practice to shortchange workers – some who are long term temporaries- by not providing appropriate pay, benefits or training.

Further references on all listed at end of document. Contact Leslie Lukacs at [llukacs@scsengineers](mailto:llukacs@scsengineers) or (707) 484-0441 or Portia Sinnott at [PortiaSinnott@zerowasteusa.org](mailto:PortiaSinnott@zerowasteusa.org) or (707) 824-9931

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# Suggestions for 2018

## Sonoma County Zero Waste Initiatives

**EMBARGOED DRAFT, APRIL 4, 2018-** The Sonoma County Zero Waste Task Force (ZWTF) has agreed upon the following initiatives to offer jurisdictions ideas and actions for consideration in their zero waste plans. These initiatives are organized in six sections: Reduce, Recover/Reuse, Education and Outreach, Green Purchasing, EPR and EPP, Service Providers and Workforce, and Fiscal Sustainability.

### A. REDUCE

- Support programs and incentives to reduce the manufacture and use of materials that are non-recyclable or hazardous.
- Incentivize use of locally extracted, manufactured or recycled and reused materials including construction materials, compost and mulches.
- Advocate for products designed for on-going use that are 100% recyclable and incorporate the highest post-consumer recycled content possible.
- Foster the development and commercialization of technologies that support Zero Waste including the collection, sorting, and processing of segregated discards.
- Require and incentivize restaurants, caterers, grocery stores, and other venues and businesses to donate excess edible food to food distribution programs consistent with state laws.
- Expand and develop ordinances to reduce distribution of single-use goods (such as single-use plastic bags not covered by current policy, take-out food packaging, straws, etc.). Expand support of “Sip it Sonoma” campaign where restaurants provide straws only upon request.
- Adopt and implement voluntary then mandatory sales and disposal bans for toxic, non-recyclable or compostable materials as well as single-use, disposable and problematic products.
- Provide grants and loans for not-for-profit organizations that remove debris from our watersheds and beaches, rescue surplus food, repair durables, and collect and redistribute reuseable goods.
- Create a county-wide Construction and Demolition Reuse and Recycling Ordinance.

### B. RECOVER/REUSE

- Develop incentive programs for the establishment and expansion of local businesses that recycle and reuse materials as feedstocks such as paper, compost and building materials.
- Provide economic incentives to encourage manufacturers to use locally recycled and reusable materials.
- Promote the development of reuse infrastructure such as take-back programs for refillable glass containers, bulk beverage containers (growlers and kegs) and propane tanks.
- Incentivize establishment and expansion of bulk sections in grocery and hardware stores and farm stands.
- Enhance the promotion of re-use networks such as Free-Cycle and events such as Repair Fairs, Clothing Swaps and Tool Exchanges
- Provide grants and loans for tool lending libraries, equipment rental and repair businesses and creative reuse depots for teachers, students and artists.

## C. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Expand programs to educate residents and businesses on the environmental and community benefits of reducing wasteful consumption and increasing diversion, as well as the processing and marketing of compostables and recyclables.
- Partner with local school districts and private schools to expand waste reduction and recycling programs including the Zero Waste Lunch and Green Schools programs.
- Expand multi-family outreach programs for owners, property managers and residents.
- Ensure recycle bins with clear and consistent signage are accessible in public places and businesses.

## D. GREEN PURCHASING, ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PROCUREMENT POLICIES (EPP) AND EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)

- Incorporate EPP and EPR principles and practices into all government operations and events.
- Update and expand the Sonoma County Green Purchasing Policy as well as all relevant regulations, specifications and solicitation language.
- Support and adopt EPR policies which require producers, rather than the general public or ratepayers, to cover the costs of recycling and disposal of products, especially hard-to-manage items like pharmaceuticals, carpets, mattresses, etc.
- Encourage local businesses to adopt EPP and EPR principles and practices, and recognize businesses that showcase exemplary green purchasing practices.

## E. SERVICE PROVIDERS AND WORKFORCE

- Establish Zero Waste as a goal within franchise hauling agreements, with phased diversion milestones, reasonable rates and financial incentives, transparent reporting and rigorous annual compliance reviews to ensure services are of the highest caliber and all materials are put to the highest and best use.
- Give preferential hiring to local workers and develop training partnerships with community colleges, workforce agencies and apprenticeship programs.
- Bar long-term use of temporary workers and encourage full-time employment by requiring that part-time employees be offered additional hours before new employees are hired.
- Support whistleblower protections for those who point out violations of labor or health and safety laws, noncompliance with a union contract provisions, or inefficiencies and lack of quality control.

## F. FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Develop and maintain a sound financial model that can sustain high diversion and Zero Waste programs and enable long-term delivery of quality services. Include responsible phase-out of the landfill when it ceases to be operationally cost effective. Explore opportunities and methods to harvest buried resources from existing landfills. Consider environmental and social costs in all decision-making and budget decisions.
- Increase recycling market development programs utilizing funding at the state level.
- Develop long-term fee-based options to address the impact of waste diversion activities on the General Fund and Integrated Waste Management Fund. Explore alternative revenue streams such as implementing Impact Fees or Extended Producer Responsibility Fees. Track remaining landfill capacity to assess future alternatives to the Disposal Facility Tax.
- Continue to support the statewide landfill surcharge to fund local programs and facilities, including an exemption for locally enacted landfill fees or other statewide solutions to address low-cost regional landfill issues.

# References

## GLOBAL WARMING

- Regional Climate Protection Agency, Climate Action 2020 and Beyond, <http://rcpa.ca.gov/projects/climate-action-2020/>
- Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection, 2015 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update, Authority, <http://rcpa.ca.gov/data-and-reports/sonoma-county-greenhouse-gas-inventory/>
- USEPA, West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum, <https://westcoastclimateforum.com/>
- California Department of Food and Agriculture, California's Healthy Soils Initiative, <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/healthysoils/>

## EDIBLE FOOD DISCARDS

- Sonoma County Food Recovery Coalition, Making Connections for Donating and Receiving Food, <http://ucanr.edu/sites/SCRFC/>
- Natural Resources Defense Council, Wasted: How America Is Losing Up to 40 Percent of Its Food from Farm to Fork to Landfill, [www.nrdc.org/resources/wasted-how-america-losing-40-percent-its-food-farm-fork-landfill](http://www.nrdc.org/resources/wasted-how-america-losing-40-percent-its-food-farm-fork-landfill)
- USEPA, 2016, Food: Too Good To Waste Implementation Guide and Toolkit, [www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-too-good-waste-implementation-guide-and-toolkit](http://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-too-good-waste-implementation-guide-and-toolkit)

## GREEN PURCHASING AND GREEN BUILDING

- Alameda County Waste Management Authority, Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Model Policy, [www.stopwaste.org/resource/policies/environmentally-preferable-purchasing-model-policy](http://www.stopwaste.org/resource/policies/environmentally-preferable-purchasing-model-policy)
- San Francisco Department of Environment, SF Approved, [www.sfapproved.org](http://www.sfapproved.org)
- CALGreen, Construction Waste Management Requirements, 2014 [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/Library/CandDModel/Instruction/CALGreenTbl.pdf](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/Library/CandDModel/Instruction/CALGreenTbl.pdf)
- CalRecycle, Construction and Demolition Diversion Informational Guide, [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/Library/CandDModel/](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/Library/CandDModel/)

## EQUITABLE JOBS

- Los Angeles Network for a New Economy, Cleaning Up Waste and Recycling Management and Securing the Benefits: A Blueprint for Cities, <http://laane.org/research/?type=waste-recycling>
- GAIA, Safe & Sustainable Recycling: Protecting Workers who Protect the Planet, <http://www.stopwaste.org/resource/policies/environmentally-preferable-purchasing-model-policy?page=search>
- GAIA, Recycling Jobs: Unlocking the Potential for Green Employment Growth, <http://www.no-burn.org/wp-content/uploads/Recycling-Jobs-Unlocking-Potential-final.pdf>