

RESOLUTION NUMBER 8044

A Resolution Supporting the Creation of a Zero Waste Plan and Setting Waste Reduction Goals for the City of Missoula.

WHEREAS, Montana's current recycling rate of 22% is well below the national average of 35% and anecdotal evidence shows that the City of Missoula's recycling rate is below the state average; and

WHEREAS, in an average year the Missoula Landfill is lined with over 210,000 tons of material from the City of Missoula and surrounding communities, which represents a waste of valuable resources, increases the emission of greenhouse gases, and will transfer the liabilities associated with disposal to future generations after the responsibilities of the current operator have been fulfilled; and

WHEREAS, the Missoula City Council recognizes the life span of the open area of the Missoula Landfill is estimated to be 15 years at the City of Missoula's current rate of growth and disposal and the lifespan of the landfill property is estimated to be 79 years when fully developed; and

WHEREAS, the cost of landfill disposal is likely to continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, increasing reuse, recycling and composting can create new entrepreneurial and employment opportunities in the City of Missoula; and

WHEREAS, reducing disposal in landfills reduces emissions such as those required to convert natural resources into new goods and transport them to market as well as fugitive landfill emissions caused by discarded organic matter including food scraps, grass clippings, cardboard, and carpet; and

WHEREAS, through education, engagement of local business and non-profit leaders, leadership from citizens and local government, the Missoula community can lead the region in moving toward Zero Waste; and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste is a goal and guiding principle that places a value on materials that would otherwise be thrown away; and

WHEREAS, Zero Waste principles strive to avoid excess production, reduce volume of waste, and promote conservation and recovery of resources by not burning or burying them; and

WHEREAS, a Zero Waste goal aligns with IPP-12 Waste Stream Reduction Policy of the City of Missoula Conservation & Climate Action Plan, and the City of Missoula Growth Policy highlights Zero Waste as one of its Environmental Quality Goals and references community waste reduction education as one of the "near term" actions;

WHEREAS, a working group including City staff, community members and representatives from local non-profit and for profit entities, will be formed to create the Zero Waste plan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missoula City Council supports the creation of a Zero Waste Plan and the setting of waste reduction goals for the City of Missoula "the organization," and the City of Missoula, "the community and geographic area;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Missoula hereby adopts the concept of Zero Waste as defined by Zero Waste International Alliance as a guiding principle for all municipal operations, outreach, and programs and actions within the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Missoula City Council hereby directs staff/employees to facilitate the development of a Zero Waste Plan to be completed two years from the date of adoption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Zero Waste Plan will be designed to achieve the goal of waste diversion for the City of Missoula to 90% by the year 2050, with interim goals of 30% or better by 2025, 40% or better by 2030, and 60% or better by 2040; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Zero Waste Plan will include a baseline study of the City of Missoula's current rate of disposal; identify objectives; and recommend short-, medium-, and long-term actions to reach the designated Zero Waste goals. The Zero Waste Plan will, within budget constraints, seek to effectively, efficiently, and quickly address the issues identified, as well as allow for a public process to address recommended actions.

This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Missoula, Montana, this 8th day of February, 2016.

/s/ John Engen

John Engen
Mayor

/s/ Martha L. Rehbein

Martha L. Rehbein
City Clerk, CMC