

RESOLUTION NO. 17-XXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CUPERTINO ADOPTING A ZERO WASTE POLICY FOR THE CITY OF CUPERTINO

WHEREAS, CalRecycle defines zero waste as a process and a philosophy that involves a redesign of products and consumption, so that all material goods can be reduced, reused or recycled. CalRecycle has also established as a reasonable goal a 90 percent reduction of waste being sent to landfills and incinerators.

WHEREAS, the City Council shares the concerns of other cities and the general public that the generation of waste and the placement of materials in waste disposal facilities such as landfills, negatively impact human health, wastes natural resources, and transfers liabilities to future generations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cupertino Sustainability Commission provided comments which were incorporated into the attached Zero Waste Policy before the commissioners voted unanimously to recommend its approval at the November 16, 2017 commission meeting; 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 this goal for their jurisdictions, including the counties of Santa Clara, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo and Del Norte in California; the cities of Irvine, Mountain View, Oakland, Palo Alto, San Diego, San Francisco, San José, San Juan Capistrano, and Sunnyvale in California; Seattle in Washington, Toronto in Canada, Canberra in Australia, the state of New South Wales in Australia, and 45% of New Zealand's local government councils; 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' re-design 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, achieving a zero waste community requires a shift away from the current "end of life" focus on recycling, composting, and landfilling to one based upon the modern-era materials management hierarchy: first prevent waste, next reduce and reuse, and finally recycle and compost; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of this zero waste policy and its guiding principles supports Goal 4 of the City of Cupertino's 2015 Climate Action Plan to "Reduce Solid Waste"; and

WHEREAS, a January 5, 2010 study by the Sierra Club's Landfill-Gas-to-Energy Task Force identified that, in the short term, methane is 100 times more potent a greenhouse gas (GHG)

than carbon dioxide. Methane is released from even the best designed and managed landfills, therefore, eliminating organics from landfills will reduce the amount of methane produced; 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% of all GHG emissions are related to the extraction of resources and the use of energy in the production of goods and services. Reuse eliminates the need to extract additional resources and reduces GHG emissions from disposal in landfills; and

WHEREAS, strategies to reach zero waste can help to promote the over-arching goal of each generation leaving less of an environmental footprint and thus allowing nature to restore ecological systems;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby adopts the attached zero waste policy for the City of Cupertino and directs City Administration to implement this policy and take all reasonable steps necessary to achieve full implementing through a continual improvement approach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council wishes to assume a leadership role, partnering with other local, regional and international zero waste communities and sustainability advocates to pursue and advocate for strategies and incentives to advance zero waste principles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council wishes to partner with schools in the Cupertino School District, such as Christa McAuliffe Elementary which participates in a zero waste program wherein students are trained to recognize waste materials, and sort them accordingly for recycling or disposal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council desires to support local, state and federal policies that promote zero waste principles and that help develop a well-planned statewide waste minimization and recycling infrastructure.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Cupertino, State of California, this 19th day of December 2017, by the following vote:

Vote

Members of the City Council

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Grace Schmidt, City Clerk
City of Cupertino

Darcy Paul, Mayor
City of Cupertino