



Zero Waste Policy City of Cupertino Resolution No. 17-xxx

POLICY PURPOSE:

The City of Cupertino understands that 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. Furthermore, waste that is not properly contained and responsibly disposed becomes litter or illegally dumped material which results in blight and unsanitary conditions. The purpose of this Zero Waste Policy is to:

- Protect the environment and conserve natural resources
- Prevent pollutants from entering the air, land, and water
- Follow 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.
- Create a more sustainable, efficient economy
- Preserve the environment for future generations

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the City of Cupertino that the City will work to:

1. Reduce the amount of waste being generated and disposed of by Cupertino employees, businesses and residents.
2. Encourage employees, businesses, and residents, through education and the provision of 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.
3. Reduce food waste by purchasing only what can reasonably be consumed. Divert recovered food waste to its highest and best use following the EPA hierarchy of feeding people first, then feeding animals, then producing fuel through anaerobic digestion and finally turning food scraps into compost.
4. 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, single-use products.

5. Acknowledge that lifecycle analyses show that re-usable food ware is generally preferable to single-use containers when materials extraction, fabrication, transport, distribution and disposal are all considered.
6. Reduce the proliferation of unnecessary plastic reusable food service ware and packaging in daily commerce, to the extent practicable. This preventative measure is also intended to mitigate the harmful nature of single-use plastics to the marine environment.
7. Support extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation that shifts financial and physical responsibility for material recovery, at the end of product life, from local government to the producers and sellers.
8. Support legislation and policy that drives producers to minimize environmental impacts through improved product design.
9. Support regional, state and federal efforts to implement laws, policies and regulations that promote zero waste objectives.
10. Require, through the City's waste hauling franchise agreement, steadfast and ongoing efforts by the City's franchisee to maintain a minimum residential and commercial waste diversion rate of 75% with a goal of reaching and maintaining 80% by 2025.
11. Ensure that facilities, infrastructure, and outreach are in place to enable all people in Cupertino to divert all discarded materials correctly and entirely. Properly manage all recovered materials and continue to provide incentives and public training to support proper and effective backyard composting.
12. Pilot and steadfastly work to expand collection and processing programs that result in materials being diverted from the landfill to their highest and best use, and innovative, cost effective programs that reduce waste generation.
13. Require that all private construction projects that come through the City's permitting process, and all City projects (through contract requirements), to recover and divert at least 65% of the construction waste generated by the project.
14. Work locally and regionally to assist in zero waste planning and implementation.
15. Lead by example, implementing zero waste goals for all City buildings by:
 - Adopting and enforcing an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy
 - Making reusable food ware available and encouraging its use
 - Implementing zero waste objectives during event planning and encouraging food take-home and donation immediately after events
16. Adopt policies that favor environmental and economically sustainable practices including Green Building practices.