

RESOLUTION 2020-65

ADOPTING ZERO WASTE AS A GUIDING PRINCIPLE AND SUPPORTING THE CREATION  
OF A ZERO WASTE PLAN

WHEREAS, the City and County of Broomfield (Broomfield) is committed to protecting and enhancing environmental quality in Broomfield now and for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Bromfield City Council is focusing on environmental sustainability as one of Council's priorities; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 80,000 tons of waste is generated in Broomfield each year by residents, businesses, and institutions, and approximately 88% of this amount is sent for landfill disposal; and

WHEREAS, the placement of materials in landfills can cause damage to human health, wastes natural resources, and wrongly transfers liabilities to future generations; and

WHEREAS, waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting are material management options that conserve resources while reducing environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, increased recycling and composting will increase the cost-efficiency of local, publicly-supported recycling facilities and programs; and

WHEREAS, increased recycling saves energy, water, natural resources, reduces air and water pollution, reduces the damage caused by extracting resources from the environment, and reduces the need for landfill facilities; and

WHEREAS, consumers are currently forced to assume the costs of collecting, recycling, and disposing of materials; and

WHEREAS, providing recycling for waste and virgin materials for free send the wrong economic signals to both consumers and producers; and

WHEREAS, a resource recovery-based economy will sustain, on a per-ton basis, up to nine times more jobs than landfilling or incineration, and these jobs will be more productive and meaningful; and

WHEREAS, increasingly, regionally, U.S. and international governments and organizations are adopting the policy that the financial responsibility of collecting, recycling, and disposing of materials belongs with producers; and

WHEREAS, producers should design products to ensure that they can be safely recycled back into the marketplace or nature; and

WHEREAS, most types of waste streams can be eliminated through across-the-board minimum recycling content laws, the use of non-toxic alternatives in product design, and local composting facilities; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that some presently non-recyclable materials are necessary for public health and national security; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that voluntary recycling goals have not, and in all probability cannot achieve waste elimination; and

WHEREAS, with the understanding that government is ultimately responsible for leading by example and establishing criteria needed to eliminate waste, so that manufacturers produce and businesses sell materials that can be safely recycled or composted; and

WHEREAS, the Zero Waste philosophy accepts that the earth's ability to support life is finite and that natural resources must be used in the most efficient and sustainable way possible; and

WHEREAS, the guiding principles of Zero Waste are: managing resources instead of waste; conserving natural resources through waste prevention and recycling; turning discarded resources into jobs and new products, instead of trash; promoting products and materials that are durable and recyclable; and discouraging products and materials that can only become trash after their use.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF BROOMFIELD, COLORADO:

Section 1. Zero Waste is hereby adopted as a guiding principle for all Broomfield operations and for outreach and actions within the community. City Council hereby directs Environmental Stewardship Advisory Task Force and staff to develop a Zero Waste Plan for Broomfield and to recommend and hire a consultant for that purpose. The Zero Waste Plan will be completed by January 2021, and will address the City and County Broomfield, "the organization," and Broomfield, "the community and geographic area." Broomfield is committed to promoting, facilitating, and modeling Zero Waste in the community. The Zero Waste Plan will be designed to achieve the initial goal of: increasing waste diversion for the local government of Broomfield and for Broomfield as a whole, to 50% or better by the year 2025. The ultimate goal of Broomfield's Zero Waste Plan is to eliminate waste (i.e. achieve Zero Waste) by 2035. The Zero Waste Plan will assess Broomfield's current levels of resource use and wastage; identify objectives; and recommend short-, medium-, and long-term actions to reach these 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.

Section 2. City Council hereby directs staff to consider for inclusion in the Zero Waste Plan, green purchasing and waste reduction measures targeting county facilities. City Council directs staff to consider the costs and cost savings associated with these actions; their impact on waste reduction and environmental purchasing practices; their educational value to the community; their operational feasibility; and the appropriate phasing of such actions. Recommended actions to be considered as part of the Plan include, but are not limited to:

1. Standardizing Broomfield purchasing practices to reduce cost, reduce unwanted surplus items, and increase operational and delivery efficiencies.
2. Creating an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) policy to clarify Broomfield's intent to purchase environmentally friendly products whenever and wherever fiscally possible.
3. Changing procurement instructions to vendors requiring that bids and proposals do not waste paper, reduce paper use, to avoid plastic bindings or other packaging.
4. Using "take back" language in procurement documents to require that equipment suppliers take back old equipment for reuse or recycling.
5. Encouraging utilization of reusable packaging.
6. Making waste reduction and diversion a priority through policies, improving in-house equipment and collection services, and urging employees to conserve energy and save money.
7. Quantifying Broomfield's mass balance of inputs (products and services) to outputs (solid wastes, hazardous wastes, recyclables, compostables).
8. Determining current waste diversion levels for county government and countywide.
9. Assessing construction practices and facility operation and maintenance practices for opportunities to reduce the quantity and toxicity of wastes produced and to increase diversion.
10. Implementing waste reduction opportunities at county meetings and events through the use of durable, recyclable, and compostable food service items.
11. Including in the Zero Waste Plan a requirement for an annual report to the City Council that evaluates waste reduction efforts, progress in achieving Zero Waste and other efforts as identified in the Zero Waste Plan.

Section 3. City Council hereby declares its intent to pursue green purchasing and Zero Waste countywide through education, regulatory measures, and public policy. Broomfield will consider the impact of these measures on residents, businesses, and communities, and will conduct inclusive public processes incorporating affected parties. Measures to be considered include, but are not limited to:

1. Requiring volume-based residential trash collection and recycling in Broomfield.
2. Requiring increased diversion of organic waste streams generated in Broomfield for beneficial reuse (as wood mulch) or composting into soil amendments and other products.

3. Supporting the efforts of public, private, and nonprofit entities in providing means for organics recovery.
4. Supporting and promoting increased traditional and non-traditional recycling through modification of the recycling center to accept single stream materials, education and outreach, and support of facilities providing supplementary recycling opportunities.
4. Supporting increased diversion of construction and demolition waste streams.
5. Requiring new development to provide adequate indoor and outdoor space for recycling and other waste diversion containers.
6. Instigating and supporting legislation at the state and local level that supports Zero Waste.
7. Seeking public and private partnerships to leverage limited public resources to accomplish our Zero Waste goals.
8. Incorporating these principles as applicable into updates of Broomfield's Comprehensive Plan.

Section 4. City Council hereby directs members of the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Task Force to draft a Zero Waste Plan as outlined in this document, recommend actions for consideration in the upcoming budget cycle, and identify additional activities that merit consideration.

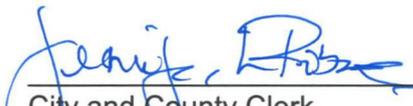
Section 5. This resolution is effective upon its approval by the City Council.

APPROVED on February 11, 2020.

THE CITY AND COUNTY OF BROOMFIELD,  
COLORADO

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City and County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City and County Attorney - ASSISTANT