

STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 6, 2011

TO: City Council

FROM: Robert A. Clarke, Interim Public Works Director
Jacques DeBra, Utilities Manager

SUBJECT: Zero Waste Resolution

Recommendation

Approve the attached Zero Waste resolution that would provide the basis for the development of a solid waste resource management plan to prioritize recycling program actions, evaluate sanitation service costs, and assess long range sanitation rate impacts.

Fiscal Impact - Summary

None.

Council Goals

This action supports the following City Council goals:

- Prioritize actions to implement the Climate Action Plan across all council goals.
- Achieve long term financial stability (with utility rates).

Executive Summary

The City provides sanitation services to the community through a waste disposal and recycling contract with Davis Waste Removal. The Public Works Department is responsible for managing the solid waste contract and conducting public outreach and education to meet the state's long range recycling goals.

Public Resources Code (PRC) section 41780 established and required a 50 percent reduction of solid waste disposal by cities and counties by the year 2000. The City's current diversion rate exceeds 50 percent. The planning requirements in this section require waste diversion from landfill or transformation facilities through source reduction, recycling, and composting activities identified in city, county and regional agency Source Reduction and Recycling Elements (SRRE). The City has an SRRE that is updated as required.

California Assembly Bill (AB 341) was signed by the governor in early October 2011, increasing the current State goal from 50 to 75 percent diversion rate by the year 2020. Davis is currently accomplishing a 60% diversion rate.

In March 2011, the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) approved staff's recommendation to achieve a goal of reducing the amount of waste sent to the landfill from 3 pounds/person/day to 1.9 pounds of waste generated per person, per day in Davis (equivalent to a 75 percent diversion rate) by 2020. The NRC further recommended that the City Council adopt a zero waste goal with a 2025 planning horizon to guide future recycling and waste diversion efforts.

At their June 2011 meeting, the NRC approved the attached zero waste resolution for consideration by the City Council to serve as a foundational element of the City's solid waste planning effort. Many communities in California have adopted similar policies to guide waste reduction efforts and prioritize efforts over time.

The long range plan for meeting solid waste reductions will have an impact on future sanitation rates because a large portion of costs for solid waste disposal are fixed. Part of the solid waste challenge over time will be to meet long-range State mandated recycling goals while maintaining reasonable sanitation rates. Rate impacts can be managed by evaluating solid waste disposal service levels and costs, and structuring services to minimize cost impacts.

With the signing of AB 341, which increases the State mandated diversion rate, staff recommends that the City Council approve the zero waste resolution and goal of reaching 1.9 pounds of waste generated per person, per day in Davis by 2020.

What is Zero Waste?

Zero waste is defined as follows by CalRecycle:

The zero-waste philosophy focuses on the most efficient use of natural resources in order to maximize the reduction of waste and protect the environment. It also includes but is not limited to maximizing recycling and ensuring that products are made to be reused, repaired or recycled back into the environment. Zero-waste involves utilizing the most effective industry processing or manufacturing practices to efficiently conserve the use of raw materials, including front-end design for efficiency while educating consumers. It includes promoting technology to encourage source reduction on the front end and recycling and other technologies on the back end, and harnessing the energy potential in "waste" by using new and clean technology to convert the material directly into green fuel or gas to produce electricity.

Staff is currently developing a solid waste resource plan which is scheduled for review at the March 2012 NRC meeting then to City Council for approval thereafter. There will be opportunities for community involvement in the planning process, and recommended sanitation rates would be presented for discussion that keep the City on track for meeting long range diversion rate goals. And staff will continue to make improvements to the recycling program such as receiving all plastics and implementing the pilot commercial organics food waste program that will help the City get closer to reaching its future waste diversion target.

Attachment

- Zero Waste Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 11-XXX, SERIES 2011

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DAVIS
ADOPTING A GOAL TO REDUCE WASTE THROUGH ZERO WASTE STRATEGIES**

WHEREAS, the City of Davis has taken steps towards promoting optimizing the use of resources and materials, including programs and policy goals to reduce, reuse, compost and recycle materials that would otherwise be landfilled; and

WHEREAS, the City of Davis has already achieved the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939) that requires all California jurisdictions achieve a landfill diversion rate of 50 percent by the year 2000 and reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost all discarded materials to the maximum extent feasible before any landfilling or incineration of waste; and

WHEREAS, AB 341 has been signed by the Governor and increases the current AB 939 state goal to 75 percent of waste diverted from the landfill by 2020; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the residents of Davis landfilled 3 pounds of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) per person per day (60% diversion equivalent) and employees landfilled 13.5 pounds of MSW per day (59% diversion equivalent); and

WHEREAS, the seventh strategic priority of the California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle) 2001 Strategic Plan is promoting a "zero-waste California," where the public, industry, and government strive to reduce, reuse, or recycle all municipal solid waste materials back into nature or the marketplace in a manner that protects human health and the environment and honors the principles of California's Integrated Waste Management Act; and

WHEREAS, the Zero Waste International Alliance adopted the following definition of Zero Waste on November 29, 2004 to assist communities in defining Zero Waste:

Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use.

Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them.

Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health.; and

WHEREAS, Optimizing Reducing, Reusing, Recycling and Rebuying (OR⁴) exemplifies the Zero Waste Alliance definition and supports local, state, and regional Zero Waste policy by setting the goal to Optimize Reducing, Reusing, Recycling and Rebuying materials; and

WHEREAS, On July 6, 2010 the Davis City Council adopted a resolution supporting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) principals in support of statewide efforts to hold producers responsible for Universal Waste products and other product waste management costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Davis Climate Action and Adaptation Plan year one work plan recommends adopting a Zero Waste Goal and beginning a planning process; and

WHEREAS, the City of Davis Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Waste Reduction Objective 1 is to reduce total solid waste generated by 10 percent and Objective 2 is to recover 75 percent of all waste generated by 2020; and

WHEREAS, at the March 2011 Natural Resources Commission meeting, the City of Davis Recycling Program presented its goal of achieving 1.9 pounds of waste generated per person, per day (75 percent diversion equivalent) by 2020, as calculated by CalRecycle.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Davis hereby adopts a goal of 1.9 pounds of waste generated per person, per day (75 percent diversion equivalent) by 2020, as calculated by CalRecycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Works Department will develop a resource management plan (Plan) by 2012 in collaboration with the Natural Resources Commission which incorporates specific, feasible and quantifiable waste reduction goals and identifies specific zero waste implementation actions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Natural Resources Commission will periodically review and update the Plan at least every five years.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Davis on this 6th day of November, 2011 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ATTEST:

Joseph F. Krovoza
Mayor

Zoe S. Mirabile, CMC
City Clerk