

**CITY OF ARCATA  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
STUDY SESSION ON ZERO WASTE ACTION PLAN**

COUNCIL CHAMBER  
736 F Street, Arcata

JANUARY 30, 2017  
Monday, 5:30 PM

**AGENDA**

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Special accommodations for the disabled who attend City meetings can be made in advance by contacting the City Clerk at 822-5953. Assistive listening devices are available.

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Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, all writings or documents relating to any item on this agenda which have been provided to a majority of the City Council, including those received less than 72 hours prior to the City Council meeting, will be made available for public inspection in the agenda binder located on the counter in the lobby at Arcata City Hall, 736 F Street, during normal business hours, and on the City's website at [www.cityofarcata.org](http://www.cityofarcata.org).

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PLEASE NOTE: Speakers wishing to distribute materials to the City Council at the meeting are requested to provide 10 copies to the City Clerk.

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- I. CALL TO ORDER.**
- II. INTRODUCTIONS.**
- III. DISCUSSION.**
  - A. Zero Waste Action Plan Background, Mark Andre.**

2016-2017 City Council Priority Projects  
Goal Number 19 - Environmental Services-Community Services:  
*Support implementation of the Zero Waste Action Plan that includes specific benchmarks for reduction goals (i.e.75% diversion by 2020) and outlines both a strategy and action steps (policies, programs and technologies) to achieve zero waste. Continue to partner with Zero Waste Humboldt/SCRAP to support ongoing and new diversion efforts for food waste, e-waste, construction and demolition waste.*
  - B. Draft Zero Waste Action Plan Presentation on Key Aspects of the Plan, by Margaret Gainer, Maureen Hart, and Julie Neander.**
  - C. Funding Aspects.**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**V. COUNCIL COMMENT AND DIRECTION.**

**VI. STAFF COMMENT.**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT.**

## CITY OF ARCATA ZERO WASTE ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

### Section 1. Introduction - Purpose and Process

Zero Waste is a materials management approach that first prevents waste and then establishes reuse and recycling policies, programs, and infrastructure for all discarded materials. Zero Waste is a shift from landfill diversion to natural resources conservation and greenhouse gas emission reduction. The Zero Waste Action Plan has the following purposes:

- **Establish a practical, roadmap for how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing waste in our daily lives.**
- **Reduce quantity and toxicity of waste generated in Arcata.**
- **Increase adoption of waste prevention by individuals and in organization operations.**
- **Increase local end uses of recyclable materials among Arcata’s businesses; striving for the highest & best use of materials within Arcata and the regional economy.**
- **Involve community leaders to secure their commitments to achieve Zero Waste goals.**
- **As a City initiative, the Plan is not mandated nor regulated by State or federal government. Therefore, its goals and implementation schedule are flexible to update as we learn and gain community cooperation and financial resources to implement.**

### Section 2. Guiding Principles

The following principles are core values that guide the ZWAP’s goals and implementation.

1. **Prevention First.**
2. **Lead by example.**
3. **Create a Zero Waste culture in Arcata to achieve Zero Waste.**
4. **Develop Zero Waste physical infrastructure, information technology, and advance planning.**
5. **Work cooperatively with other local jurisdictions to achieve Zero Waste goals in rural Humboldt County.**
6. **The Zero Waste approach will over time, update how we measure waste generated, prevented, reused, recycled, and composted.**

### Section 3 – Benchmarks; the Measurable Goals

This ten year plan establishes reasonable goals for Arcata while recognizing the urgency to address the relationship between consumption, waste generation and climate change.

Near-term = 2016 – 2019, 80%

Medium-term= 2020 – 2023, 85%

Long-term = 2024 – 2027, 90%

To achieve these Zero Waste benchmarks over time, the following four main criteria are used to select the ZWAP implementation goals:

1. Greatest quantity of waste (1)prevented, (2)reused, (3)recycled or (4)composted.
2. Most efficient to implement, builds on existing programs, and least cost.

3. Attractive to Arcata's residents/businesses; likely high level of participation; secures commitments and cooperation; forms partnerships.
4. Greatest Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction; or other positive environmental impact such as reduced toxicity or reduced natural resources extraction.

## Section 4 – Implementation Goals

For each of the following Implementation Goals, EPA Planning Tools and resources are available and will be useful.

Goal 1 – Zero Waste Public Education will create behavioral change and a citywide Zero Waste culture.

Public education is cross-cutting for all of the goals (prevention, reuse, recycling/ composting).

Goal 2 – City Operations and Policies will integrate Zero Waste Strategies.

The City will lead by example and work to integrate zero waste into City operations.

Goal 3 - Waste Prevention is Arcata's Top Priority for Sustainable Materials Management.

Waste Prevention includes all strategies to reduce consumption, including procurement policies/procedures and purchasing habits. It does not treat or manage materials that have already been discarded.

Goal 4 – Materials Reuse is Arcata's second priority for Zero Waste strategies.

There are two main types of Reuse in this Zero Waste Action Plan:

**(1)** Reuse of one's own refillable/reusable/washable coffee cups, water bottles, cotton baby diapers, shopping bags, etc., to prevent single-use products and packaging. This Reuse results in the top priority, Waste Prevention, but it is included in the Reuse Goal because the public understands it best as Reuse.

**(2)** After purchase and use of a product or package, the consumer takes action for that material to be reused, not recycled, not disposed. Secondhand shops, used building materials centers, on-line gifting/materials exchange/and resale, and returnable container and manufacturer take-back systems are some of Arcata's options for materials reuse.

Goal 5 - Recycling drop-off and collection options are fully used by residents and businesses.

Increase and improve the use of current recycling services for paper, glass, metal, and plastics, and increase residential and commercial participation.

Goal 6 – Increase Effective and Efficient Food and Organics Waste Prevention and Reuse Options.

This goal addresses a particular targeted material because it accounts for the greatest percentage of the materials that are currently disposed in Arcata.

Goal 7 – Reduce Construction and Demolition Waste and promote reuse of C&D materials.

Construction and Demolition Waste presents unique challenges and the volume of waste can fluctuate based on economic conditions.

Goal 8 – Zero Waste and Recycling Market Development is an integral component of Local Economic Development.

Authentic recycling and materials reuse requires the development of local end use markets for the materials collected. Buy local, buy recycled closes the loop.

Goal 9 - Support State and Federal Legislation that results in waste reduction in rural communities and Arcata.

We as ratepayers and taxpayers are paying the full burden of products and packaging that have not been designed for waste prevention (less materials, durability vs. built-in obsolescence, etc.), reuse, and recyclability. Extended Producer Responsibility /manufacturer stewardship legislation will be a focus for sustainable materials management.

Goal 10 – Strategic Partners and Key Stakeholders will work cooperatively with the City to accomplish ZWAP Goals.

**The City of Arcata is not solely responsible for implementing the Zero Waste Action Plan.** To achieve the ten-year Zero Waste goal, it must be a citywide team effort involving key stakeholders and with widespread participation from the City's public, private and nonprofit sectors.

The City will seek opportunities to collaborate with Zero Waste Humboldt, other Cities, Humboldt County, HSU, Arcata House, HWMA, thrift stores, SCRAP Humboldt, local businesses, Humboldt Made, the Chamber of Commerce, the Food Bank , Arcata Economic Development Corporation, the Prosperity Network, and Arcata's schools, community-based nonprofit groups, and churches to work together on achieving the Plan's goals that are most relevant to them: