

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

COUNCIL CHAMBER
736 F Street, Arcata

MARCH 29, 2018
Thursday, 6:00 PM

AGENDA

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.

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.

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- III. DISCUSSION**
 - A. Arcata's Current Diversion Rate Trends**

 - B. Arcata's Current Waste Prevention/Diversion Programs/Policies**

 - C. Zero Waste Action Plan Progress—Highlights**
 - 1. Collaboration with Zero Waste Humboldt, REcology, Humboldt State University, Humboldt Waste Management, Others—Zero Waste Day, Donation Dash, Grant Application on Food Rescue**

 - 2. Education/Outreach Zero Waste, Prevention, Reuse, etc.—Zero Waste Guide Online**

3. **City Facilities—Water Bottle Filling Stations (Seven, with Three-to-Five More Planned), Hand Dryers, Recycling Bins (10 in Parks with Four More Planned, Plus the Plaza), Food Waste Collection, Reusable Tableware at City Facilities**
4. **Business Outreach—Customers Producing More than Four Cubic Yards Weekly**
5. **Food Waste Survey**

D. Zero Waste Action Plan—Priority Areas for the Upcoming Year

1. Opportunities

- Education/Outreach
- Recycling Market Development Zone and Other Economic Development Opportunities—Reuse
- Arcata Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy Update
- Support State and Federal Legislation

2. Constraints

- Education/Outreach
- Limited Volume of Materials to Divert/Potential High Capitalization Costs—Organics, Construction & Demolition, Composites
- Distance to Markets
- Funding

IV. COUNCIL COMMENT

V. ADJOURNMENT

CITY OF ARCATA ZERO WASTE ACTION PLAN YEAR ONE PROGRESS REPORT - March 29, 2018

Zero Waste Action Plan Guiding Principles

- 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, & 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, & composted.**

Benchmarks; the Measurable Goals

Near-term	= 2016 – 2019, 80%
Medium-term	= 2020 – 2023, 85%
Long-term	= 2024 – 2027, 90%

Implementation Goal Actions Taken This Past 2017-18

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

- Ongoing advertising waste prevention, composting & recycling campaign
- City Website Sustainability Page emphasizes waste prevention, reuse, composting, recycling, use of less toxic materials. Currently working on re-designing so that it is more user-friendly and current
- Outreach on prevention, donation, reuse provided on City, Recology & HWMA websites <http://www.cityofarcata.org/666/Prevention-Donation-Reuse>
- Advertising collaboration w/City of Eureka & Recology to prevent waste, promote proper materials recycling
- Regular social media outreach to create a 'Zero Waste' presence
- Increased outreach and education during student move-out and holiday seasons to help promote zero waste when garbage disposal typically increases
- Zero Waste Day 2017 – partnered with local businesses, WRAAP, Zero Waste Humboldt, & NEC. Month-long zero waste promotion at the Co-op, local coffee shops offered discounts, hands-on zero waste workshop/demonstration booth, & outreach leading up to the event
- Zero Waste Guide – compiled booklet for residents – encompasses zero waste principles, re-use & donation options, & responsible disposal
- Continued outreach to area businesses providing guidance on how businesses can reduce waste going to the landfill. All businesses & multifamily establishments that generate more than 4CY per week have been contacted & provided information on how they can reduce landfill waste. Follow up recommendations included waste prevention/reduction practices along with information on AB1826, mandatory commercial organics recycling requirements. All City business are currently in compliance with AB1826.
- Collaborated with ZWH, Food for People & the City of Eureka on Calrecycle food waste diversion. Unfortunately the grants was not funded.
- Updated & placed safer alternatives to household hazardous waste on City website & banners

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

- Require recycling & greenwaste collection space for all new homes, apartments, condominiums &

businesses

- Initiated review of custodial supply purchases for most sustainable products
- Completed installation of water bottle filling stations at City Facilities Arcata Community Center Gymnasium, the Library, the Marsh Interpretive Center, Rotary Park, Greenview Park & the Skate Park, Arcata Ball Park
- Planned water fountain upgrades for D St. Neighborhood Center, City Hall, Larson Park, Redwood Park & outdoor water fountains at the sports complex.
- Installed electric hand driers at the AMIC & planning for exterior bathrooms at Redwood Lodge to reduce paper towel waste
- Provided presentation of ZWAP to Energy & Economic Development Committees
- Met with HSU facilities staff to learn more about HSU's sustainable purchasing contract & discussed what collaborative purchasing might be possible for the City & HSU.
- Continue to use recycle base materials in trail & road projects where is it feasible.
- Educational signage encouraging water bottle filling is being developed for the indoor facilities.
- Reusable dishes used as part to the Greenview Park opening in conjunction with Wildberries
- Arcata Community Center & D ST Neighborhood Center provide reusable table ware for renters.
- Work with senior lunch program to use washable table ware & compost food scraps with assistance from City staff.
- Large events (as required by the State) complete a City waste diversion plan & report. More recently many of the large events partner with Zero Waste Humboldt to work toward Zero Waste - for the Oyster Festival the City has taken oyster shells & incorporated them into trails where appropriate (Check with Zero Waste Humboldt to verify, but I believe North Country Fair has been a Zero Waste Event for at least the past two years)

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

- Audits for businesses that generate more than 4 CY of garbage weekly were visited (25 businesses) & provided suggestions for reducing landfilled waste. Suggestions included:
 - Consider replacing paper towel dispensers with hand dryers & implement where feasible
 - Consider offering smaller portion sizes to prevent post-consumer food scraps
 - Switch from disposable packaging options to reusable where possible
 - Continue diverting pre-consumer materials from the landfill
 - Use clear & consistent signage, labels, & colors to identify recycling & landfill bins to ensure recycling
 - Consider installing bulk toiletry dispensers in hotel rooms & refill as necessary
- City Staff are working with ZWH on reusable take out packing options. The Coop is working toward this goal, DayBreak café has achieved this.
- Zero Waste Day outreach & discounts

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

- Successful implementation of Arcata's plastic bag & polystyrene bans with direct contact to businesses to help them achieve compliance & provide consumers with reusable alternatives.
- See City facility achievements
- Annual Don't Dump & Run campaign, which complements HSU's Donation Dash - includes brochures, media (radio, social media, website, mailing, PSAs), & outreach to large apartments to help educate apartment dwellers on how to donate items & reduce waste during move-out season

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

- Worked with Recology to provide outreach via both City & Recology website as well as targeted ads
<https://www.recology.com/recology-arcata/sorting-guides/>
<http://www.cityofarcata.org/documentcenter/view/3202>
- Recology is working on a What Bin app on the website that updates materials that are recyclable
- City is also updating "Curbside Recycling Guidelines" to ensure information is current
- Recology determined stickers on bins do not stick well & become waste so have not pursued this
- Recology has developed & given out oopsie tags & notes are taken & put into the customer accounts so that they can address chronic problems by direct contact.

- Recology has complimented Arcata on the quality of the recyclables stream indicating that most folks know what is ok to recycle & what is not. However they have noticed textiles are a common contaminant.
 - Recology is working to use a semi-automated truck that will let them better identify problems with contamination of recycling materials
 - Recology provides an award for the Science Fair for area schools 4th – High school for development of a project that looks at innovative ways to not create & or to reduce waste
 - Recology supports SCRAP Humboldt Rebel craft rumble
 - Recology is working to provide a school program to tour the Recology facility & learn more about what happens with our trash & recycles
 - Recology is starting a garbage museum
 - Recology has supported a Master Students survey on food waste
 - Recology recycles bulky waste that has a market – mattresses, appliances
 - HWMA provides information where to recycle materials at <http://www.hwma.net/> - mattresses, tires & green waste as well as traditional recyclables
- Ergonomic covered recycling containers have been installed at the following City parks & open space areas*

*Arcata Community Sports Complex
 AMWS
 Redwood Park
 Larson Park
 Greenview Park
 Valley West Park
 Rotary Park
 Stewart Pacific Union Park
 Ball Park
 All City Buildings*

Goal 6 – Increase Effective & Efficient Food & Organics Waste Prevention & Reuse

Options.

- Voluntary greenwaste pick up available to all Arcata residents & businesses through Recology.
- Greenwaste drop off provided at Wes Green covered by franchise fee
- Distributed over 800 compost bin since 2010
- Working with an HSU grad student on an online survey on food waste posted on the City website <http://www.cityofarcata.org/275/Zero-Waste> <https://s.surveypplanet.com/B1eQVlyqib>
- City is working to install two Earthtub composters at Bayside Park Educational Farm to take City generated food waste from City programs & rentals – Community Center Seniors Lunch Program, D Street Neighborhood Center Play Center, Plaza fairs & festivals, etc.

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

- Construction & Demolition plan & reports associated with all building permits includes information on what items can be diverted & where with contact information
- Continue to provide information on existing C&D diversion opportunities in our region for large & DIY or small C&D waste generators & C&D facilities available that accept wood, metals, etc. for sorting.
- Ongoing as part of the C&D diversion form & on the website
- Promote & post on the City website EPA's "how-to deconstruction & services guide". <http://www.cityofarcata.org/307/Construction-Demolition>

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

- Continue to participate as a member of the North Coast Recycling Market Development Zone & cooperate with the RMDZ to assist the development of local markets & support & strengthen current recycling-related, reuse & Zero Waste businesses. Maureen Hart, a member of the Economic Development Committee, is also a contractor for the NC RMDZ.

- Arcata's Move Out guide, Construction & Demolition Diversion Guide, Zero Waste Guide, & city website promote area reuse businesses
- Waste surveys with businesses generating more than 4 CY completed. Planning for visits to 2CY & greater generators. Information gathered from these visits will be compiled & discussed with Economic Development Committee & RMDZ.

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

- **Staff follow & work to support Californians Against Waste legislative efforts - upcoming legislation includes :**

SB 168 (Wieckowski) Minimum Recycled Content - *Next Step: Referral to Assembly Policy Committee.* Requires CalRecycle to establish minimum recycled content standards for beverage containers & to develop a report on the establishment of an extended producer responsibility program to replace California beverage container recycling program.

AB 1884 (Claderon) Straws Upon Request - *Next Step: Assembly Natural Resources Committee.* To stop plastic pollution & reduce the overwhelming amount of single-use plastic Californian's consume daily, AB 1884 would require sit-down restaurants in California to forgo the automatic distribution of straws in every drink, & instead only provide a straw when it is requested by the customer. It includes a code section that would subject violators (i.e. wait staff that provide unrequested straws) to fines, though communications by Assembly member Calderon indicate that this provision was never intended to be an aspect of the policy, & amendments to exclude fines for non-compliance are pending.

AB 1036 (McCarty) Composting - *Next Step: Senate Environmental Quality Committee.* AB 1036 seeks to address the disparity between the statewide goals & mandates to divert organic waste from landfills & the contradicting regulations from state agencies involved in permitting organics recycling facilities. To achieve State diversion goals, including 75% organics diversion by 2025, significant expansion & construction of organics infrastructure is needed.

AB 1288 (Eggman) Tip Fee reform - *Next Step: Senate Environmental Quality Committee.* AB 1288 seeks to address the need for more organics recycling infrastructure to meet the 75% organic waste diversion mandate set by the Short Lived Climate Pollutant law, SB 1383. Cities trying to comply with organic waste diversion rates, have limited resources for funding new recycling programs. Raising the funds at a statewide level provides funding for needed infrastructure. To meet the state's organic waste diversion mandates, significant investments in additional organics recycling facilities are needed

AB 2379 (Bloom) Plastic Microfiber Pollution - **Next Step: Policy committee referral.** This bill requires that all clothing made from more than 50% or more polyester include a label warning of plastic microfiber shedding & recommends hand washing to reduce microfiber shedding. Microfibers are a subcategory of microplastics consisting of plastic fibers that shed from synthetic fabric during regular washing. Right now, it's estimated that plastic microfibers are, by count, the single largest contributor to watershed plastic pollution in developed countries & account for a significant portion of plastic waste entering the ocean.

Goal 10 – Strategic Partners & 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 & with widespread participation from the City's public, private & nonprofit sectors.

The City will continue to 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, & Arcata's schools, community-based nonprofit groups, & churches to work together on achieving the Plan's goals that are most relevant to them.