



# CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

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November 19, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted by: Meg McWade, Public Works Director

Subject: **Adopt a Resolution in Support of Zero Waste and Approve a Residential Organics Pilot Program**

## OVERVIEW

**Recommendation** – That the City Council adopt a Resolution (Attachment 1) in support of Zero Waste and approve a residential organics pilot program.

**Fiscal Impact** – Costs associated with the Residential Organics Pilot Program, which includes approximately \$2,000 for printing cost, have been included in the FY 2018-19 Adopted Operating Budget within the Refuse Fund.

**Previous Related Action** – On February 26, 2018, City Council received a presentation on moving towards Zero Waste, discussed concepts, and provided staff with feedback.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adoption of the attached Resolution in support of Zero Waste sends a signal to Pomona residents, businesses, and organizations, of the City's commitment to sustainability initiatives. The Resolution includes a provision for Staff to provide annual updates on the progress of Zero Waste initiatives. Additionally, approval of the Residential Organics Pilot Program will move the City towards compliance with Organic Waste Recycling requirements, in advance of the State's deadline, as well as further Zero Waste goals.

## DISCUSSION

The City has been progressive in promoting resource conservation and environmental efforts for many years. Pomona's sustainability efforts have included:

- ✱ Achieving AB939 targets, which required a 50% reduction in landfilled material, through a three-barrel source separated recycling program
- ✱ Adopting a Green Plan – setting a framework for environmental stewardship

- ✿ Reducing paper use through electronic processing of City Council and Commission agendas, electronic permit system, paperless utility billing and payment options, and online procurement processing
- ✿ Conducting school education programs for environmental programs including video contests and annual student art competition
- ✿ Purchasing Green when possible including the purchase of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicles - 29 CNG units in Public Works Department and 2 units for Water Resources Department
- ✿ Retrofitting the majority of the City's streetlights to energy efficient fixtures, limiting energy usage and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- ✿ Hosting used oil and filter recycling events at Community Clean-ups and in conjunction with local businesses
- ✿ Obtaining grants that provide residents with low-flush toilets, compost containers, rain barrels and workshops on drought-tolerant landscaping and composting
- ✿ Encouraging residents to properly recycle tires through the grant-funded tire recycling program
- ✿ Participating in the HERO program to provide for resource efficiency upgrades for residents and businesses
- ✿ Re-use of mulch/chips from the City's tree services operation
- ✿ Creating a Waste & Recycling Task Force to provide Community recommendations regarding the future of Recycling Businesses
- ✿ Providing recycling education and resources for residents and businesses at public events
- ✿ Working with Commercial haulers to provide compost material annually
- ✿ Recognizing environmentally friendly businesses and organizations that recycle or reuse materials, through an annual awards program in conjunction with Los Angeles Regional Agency

While not an exhaustive list, these environmental programs and practices help Pomona become a greener, more sustainable city. Zero Waste is another movement towards sustainability goals.

What is Zero Waste? Zero Waste, is defined by CalRecycle as “a process and a philosophy that involves a redesign of products and consumption, so that all material goods can be reused or recycled—or not needed at all.” Zero Waste encourages less consumerism, production of goods utilizing sustainable materials and processes, and recycling or reusing materials that formerly would have been landfilled. The City has the ability, through operational programs and with further education, to partner with the community and work towards Zero Waste. With an understanding that support of all residents and businesses will be needed to achieve Zero Waste goals, adoption of the attached Resolution is a symbol of the City's commitment to doing just that. Additionally, the Resolution includes a provision for annual updates on the progress of Zero Waste initiatives, so these initiatives can be reviewed and modified on a regular basis.

Continuing Towards Sustainability and Zero Waste Goals

*Solid Waste Operations – Multi-Family and Residential*

With a series of State, County, and City waste reduction mandates, as well as health/environmental sustainability legislative and policy initiatives, the framework for Pomona to pursue Zero Waste has been established. Zero Waste is supported by state requirements to implement mandatory commercial recycling (AB341), mandatory organic recycling (AB1826) and Organic waste methane emission reduction (SB1383) short-lived climate pollutants. The targets to reduce landfill disposal of organics state-wide, a 50% reduction goal from 2014 levels by 2020 and a 75% reduction goal by 2025, will further Pomona's movement towards Zero Waste.

There is a need to increase recycling by commercial and multi-family generators, who produce over seventy percent of solid waste generated in California. In Pomona, commercial and multi-family generators are currently serviced by one of four authorized non-exclusive franchise haulers. The City oversees the agreements that require the haulers to provide trash removal and offer recycling services. Each hauler has implemented California's reduction mandates and is providing site visits and educational material to further compliance.

The City will be working to improve the adoption of Zero Waste strategies by commercial and multi-family customers through its franchisees. The next franchise award process will provide increasing requirements for the collection and recycling of materials as well as outreach. It will also address collection and processing of organic materials generated from commercial facilities, multi-family dwelling and large events and venues. Through this process, City ordinances may need to be revised, along with consideration of fee structures, to aid in the adoption of these programs.

Residential customers are served by the Public Works-Solid Waste Division with curbside collection program for trash, recyclables and green waste, including curbside pickup and proper disposal of bulky items, white goods or metals, and e-waste. The residential three-barrel curbside system has provided a substantial reduction in the amount of tons landfilled, but there is more work to be done. Recyclable organic waste accounts for about 40 percent of the material Californians dispose in landfills annually. Recycling of organic waste can improve the environment, save funding by reducing disposal costs, and support green jobs in our region.

To further Zero Waste efforts, Staff plans to implement a Residential Organic Pilot Program, in collaboration with the Grand Central Recycling and Transfer Station, beginning January 1, 2019. This program (as outlined in the Organics Program Brochure\* – Attachment 2) will allow residents to discard much of their food waste directly into their green waste container that will be recycled and made into compost material. The City will provide a sticker (Attachment 3) to be placed on the green waste container identifying items that are acceptable and will perform direct outreach to the residents on the routes as depicted in the attached maps (Attachments 4a and 4b). Feedback from our customers as outreach occurs will help identify any barriers. The route was selected due to anticipated participation and the ability to measure the waste stream. Waste audits will be performed and an ongoing review of landfilled and recycled materials will be conducted to evaluate the program's effectiveness. Should the program be successful it will be expanded.

\*Brochure is being updated to reflect the January 1, 2019 program start date

*Other City Opportunities for Zero Waste*

There are other opportunities for the City to move towards Zero Waste. Since personal behaviors will need to dramatically change to achieve Zero Waste, Staff will continue outreach efforts and work to develop a more robust website and social media education campaign related to the initiatives. Staff will be looking to our Community Partners to help create a Zero Waste Speakers Bureau. The list would be made available on our website and advertised through social media for any group interested in learning more about this important sustainability topic. The City will continue to implement paperless business processes and green purchasing practices where feasible. Additionally, the City will develop Zero Waste best practices to be provided to those holding special events.

Staff is recommending that the City Council adopt a Resolution in support of Zero Waste and approve a Residential Organics Pilot Program in furtherance of those goals.

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Organics Program Brochure
3. Green Waste/Organic Sticker
4. a. Maps of Routes for Organic Pilot Program  
b. Maps of Routes for Organic Pilot Program

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