

RESOLUTION 2013-111  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
ESTABLISHING A WASTE DIVERSION POLICY

WHEREAS, in 1985, the City first began to investigate programs to educate the public about recycling and solid waste reduction; and

WHEREAS, in November 1994, staff presented to the City Council an integrated, comprehensive approach to solid waste management entitled the Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Program, which included targets for waste reduction and recycling; and

WHEREAS, in May 1995, the Council adopted Resolution 1995-063, which identified specific objectives to be accomplished in relation to waste stream reduction, including the goals of reducing Fort Collins' total waste stream by 20% between 1993 and 2000, and reducing landfilled waste by 20% to 30% during that period; and

WHEREAS, in June 1995, the Council enacted Ordinance No. 58, 1995, requiring residential trash haulers in Fort Collins to apply variable rates ("pay-as-you-throw") and provide curbside recycling services at no extra charge, in order to encourage the reduction and diversion of solid waste in residential households; and

WHEREAS, in August 1999, staff presented to Council an Interim Solid Waste Plan, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and available for public inspection, which Plan included an analysis of the overall waste diversion rate for the community's municipal solid waste that was based on the Environmental Protection Agency's *Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States (1996)*, and used data submitted to the City by local trash hauling companies pursuant to the requirements of their trash hauling licenses in calculating the total volume of municipal solid waste generated in Fort Collins; and

WHEREAS, based on its analysis, staff concluded that 24% of solid waste in Fort Collins was being diverted from landfill disposal, as of February, 1999; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 1999, the Council adopted Resolution 1999-139, establishing waste diversion goals of 35% by 2004, and 50% by 2010; and

WHEREAS, data from 2012 submitted to the City by local trash hauling companies and other entities in Fort Collins have been analyzed and show that the community-wide waste diversion rate for households, businesses and industry has now reached a level of 58% (representing 5.12 pounds of material disposed of in landfills per capita per day); and

WHEREAS, 75-91% of respondents to the City's 2011 Air Quality and Recycling Survey agreed that businesses, multi-family homes and single-family homes should be required to recycle and that yard waste collection service should be offered to single-family homes; and

WHEREAS, public involvement was conducted during 2013 at the request of the City Council, to establish the new levels of waste reduction and recycling that should be sought in the future; and

WHEREAS, comments from citizens and other stakeholders throughout 2013 were received expressing support for adopting a goal of diversion of 100% of the community's waste stream, referred to as "Zero Waste," and a per capita goal to reduce waste, setting a course for Fort Collins to join the ranks of leading Zero Waste businesses and dozens of communities around the world and America in striving for new ways of managing the discards that are generated from households, businesses, and industry and diverting more material from landfill disposal; and

WHEREAS, a plan referred to as "the Road to Zero Waste" has been written that outlines principles and values for how the community will go about striving for new waste reduction goals, and identifies which actions the City should take in the next ten to twenty years that will most strategically deliver results; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the importance of prolonging the life span of the Larimer County Landfill through waste diversion measures to further delay its closure; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further recognizes that increased and sustained waste reduction and recycling have direct economic and environmental benefits to the local and global community; and

WHEREAS, goals for achieving Zero Waste build on key principles for Environmental Health adopted in the City's master plan ("City Plan") that call for sustainable waste resources management; and

WHEREAS, goals for achieving Zero Waste support climate protection strategies adopted in Fort Collins' Climate Action Plan that identify the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and from manufacturing activities that use virgin materials instead of recycled commodities; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, it is the City Council's desire to adopt updated waste diversion and reduction goals, with the goal of achieving "Zero Waste" by the year 2030, as set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. That it shall be the policy of the City to work toward the goal of diverting 100% of the Fort Collins community solid waste stream from disposal to reuse or recycling by 2030, with interim goals of 75% diversion by 2020 and 90% diversion by 2025.

Section 2. That, in addition, it shall be the policy of the City to work toward the goal of reducing per capita waste generation in Fort Collins to an average of 2.8 pounds per day by 2025.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Fort Collins this 17th day of December, A.D. 2013.

ATTEST:

Wanda Ruben  
City Clerk



Karen Weitkenat  
Mayor