



**TO:** T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
**FROM:** Kristi Lynett, Manager, Office of Environmental Policy & Sustainability  
City Manager's Office  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Sustainable Materials Management Resolution – May 13, 2014  
**DATE:** April 24, 2014

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**SUMMARY:**

Staff and the Sustainable Tacoma Commission recommend that the City Council consider adoption of the Materials Management Resolution. The resolution reaffirms the goal of 70% waste diversion by 2028 and supports the development of a Sustainable Materials Management plan for the City to meet the diversion goal and reduce environmental impacts by managing materials throughout their lifecycle.

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Members of the Infrastructure, Planning and Development Committee: David Boe, Ryan Mello, Lauren Walker, and Anders Ibsen.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

The increased goal for waste diversion and the reduction of environmental impacts best aligns with the strategic policy priority of:

- fostering neighborhood, community, and economic development vitality and sustainability.

**BACKGROUND:**

Tacoma's 2008 Climate Action Plan calls for maximizing commercial and residential recycling and the reuse, recycling and proper deconstruction of buildings. The Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan has a waste diversion goal of 70% or more recovered by the year 2028. Solid Waste conducted a waste stream characterization study in 2009 of the waste produced from the City of Tacoma and found that out of all materials discarded as garbage, 60% was either compostable (28%) or recyclable (32%). The 2012 diversion rate for the City of Tacoma was approximately 33%.

Sustainable Materials Management is defined as an approach that includes waste prevention and discard management, while seeking to reduce environmental impacts by managing materials through all stages of their life. Once developed a Sustainable Materials Management Plan would outline methods to reach these goals, and should include methods to measure and track progress on waste diversion. The plan should include focusing on: life cycle thinking, green building, including construction & demolition debris, commercial, including multi-family, landfill property master plan, and reduced consumption strategies, including disposable bags. Solid Waste would report to the Council by July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, starting in 2015, to describe the progress towards the interim goals, plus next steps that need to be taken to meet the upcoming goals.

**ISSUE:**

In order to reach the aggressive waste diversion goal of 70%, the City needs to develop the appropriate steps and interim goals. If the goals are not met, the City could continue to dispose of materials in ways that are less sustainable, wasting valuable resources and filling up the landfill.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

If this resolution is not adopted, the alternative is that Solid Waste Management will work towards the waste diversion goals prescribed in the Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan without a Council sponsored plan and emphasis on materials management. Adoption of this resolution is



preferable because it supports the development of a plan that will clearly define appropriate metrics including interim benchmarks that outline the life-cycle impacts and preferred management methods for all materials collected and recovered in the solid waste system.

There will not be monetary costs if the legislation is not implemented, as recycling of most items cost more than the City's landfill fees. The landfill is not projected to fill until 2040-2050. The true cost to not diverting more materials is to the environment.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the approval of the proposed diversion goal and developing a plan for sustainable materials management.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact to support the diversion goal and development of a plan for methods to obtain that goal.