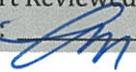


Agenda Report Reviewed by:
City Manager: 

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
CITY COUNCIL
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: December 4, 2018
To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Engineering Manager Henry J. Mikus
Subject: Discussion and Follow Up of City Council Actions for Zero Waste as Discussed at the October 16th City Council Meeting (Ordinance; City Policies; Sub-Committee Make Up/Focused Actions)
Recommendation: That the Council provide staff direction regarding development of interim milestones and plans for implementing Zero Waste in the City of Sebastopol, including seeking Council approval of programs and projects that require policy change and/or financial commitment.
Funding: Currently Budgeted: Yes No N/A
Net General Fund Cost: N/A Amount: N/A

Background: As part of their September 18, 2018 meeting, City Council held a Study Session to receive information about and discuss a Zero Waste Program for the City of Sebastopol. As a result of the Zero Waste presentation, Council asked staff to return for discussion and possible action on several potential means to support regional Zero Waste initiatives, which occurred on October 16, 2018. At the October 16, 2018 meeting, Council adopted a Zero Waste Resolution, indicated support for the draft Polystyrene Ordinance as put forth by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA), and asked staff to return with further information on six potential programs or projects that require policy change and/or financial commitment. In addition, Council asked Staff to develop a framework for establishing a Zero Waste Sub-Committee to examine the several potential programs/actions to further Zero Waste in Sebastopol.

Discussion: A comprehensive Zero Waste Program includes many levels of engagement, ranging from policies setting overarching priorities and goals, to front-end manufacturing waste reduction strategies, to multi-faceted outreach and education activities, or including ground-level participation by City residents and commercial ventures. The following six potential actions fall within these categories:

- Event Permitting: make recycling and organics collection mandatory at special events that obtain an event permit from the City. *Possible action: add such a requirement to the City of Sebastopol Municipal Code Chapter 12.44 "Special Events".*
- Eliminate single-use service ware and switch to use reusable service ware (cups, mugs, plates, utensils) on City property/ in City offices. *Possible action: create and enact a City policy statement requiring reusable service ware on City property or in City offices.*
- Ban City from purchasing single-use water bottles. Note this would apply to purchases made by the City for City functions, and could not apply to individuals (including employees) purchasing such containers with their own funds. *Possible action: update the appropriate City policy.*

- Encourage restaurants, caterers, grocery stores, and other venues and businesses to donate excess edible food-to-food distribution programs consistent with state laws. *Possible action: work with the refuse Franchise Hauler, Recology, for robust outreach to appropriate City commercial enterprises to promote such activities. Also seek and share outreach information with entities such as non-profit food banks or shelters/kitchens that would benefit from such sources of food.*
- Promote the development of reuse infrastructure such as take-back programs for refillable glass containers, bulk stores, bulk beverage containers (growlers and kegs) and propane tanks. *Possible action: Take-back programs have been most successful when implemented by the targeted industry. Putting such programs in place have been most successful at the state level, such as the paint recycling program of a couple years ago. The most efficient use of time to enact more of these programs is to engage with state officials, both elected representatives and state regulators, to provide local support and encouragement.*
- Support regional initiatives to increase the recycling of construction and demolition debris (CDD). Sebastopol does have requirements for diverting CDD in its Building Code. *Possible action: engage with SCWMA to promote its effort to certify CDD disposal & processing facilities to a universal regional standard. Builders/residents/contractors could then use documentation provided by a certified facility to show compliance with City CDD recycling standards.*

Regarding establishing a Zero Waste Sub-Committee, given that the actions listed above really cross many boundaries and could affect citizens, commercial entities, and visitors, it is felt the Sub-Committee needs to balance the number of members with achieving a broad representation. Staff suggests the following list of potential Sub-Committee members:

- Two City Council members
- City Manager, or Assistant City Manager
- City Public Works Superintendent
- City Engineering Manager
- City Local AB 939 Task Force Representative
- Franchise Hauler representative
- Commercial Entities representative

The Sub-Committee would be expected to meet with some regularity, and to discuss each of the six items for action listed above as well as discuss additional topics, programs, education, outreach, etc. that would be of benefit. The Sub-Committee would determine the best course of action, and develop draft documents, such as policies, when warranted.

Recommendation:

1. That the Council Support and Approve establishing a Zero Waste Sub-Committee, with membership as recommended by the Council;
2. That the Council ask the Sub-Committee to discuss the six possible Zero Waste efforts listed above, and to report back with recommended actions for each item.

Attachments:

None