

1 RESOLUTION R-2022- 146B

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3 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO  
4 UPDATING THE 2008 ZERO WASTE RESOLUTION AND PLEDGING TO IMPLEMENT  
5 STRATEGIES TO INCREASE WASTE DIVERSION  
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7 WHEREAS, the City of Longmont (City) has positioned itself as an environmental leader  
8 among local governments by providing exceptional residential service, supporting the ability of  
9 residents and businesses in waste diversion efforts, adopting environmental initiatives, programs  
10 and policies including the broad community vision contained in the Envision Longmont  
11 Comprehensive Plan and specific waste reduction strategies and targets in the City’s Sustainability  
12 Plan; and

13 WHEREAS, improper disposal of waste and the generation of litter negatively impact the  
14 viability of critical ecosystems and ecosystem services, as well as our community’s health, safety  
15 and well-being, with low-income, multi-family, and residents of color bearing the greatest impacts;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in the United States,  
18 municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane  
19 emissions, which are 28 to 36 times more impactful than carbon-dioxide, and the City’s 2020  
20 Waste Life Cycle Analysis demonstrated that waste reduction and diversion could result in avoided  
21 GHG’s of up to 202,912 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e; and

22 WHEREAS, current data estimates that over 100,000 tons of waste is generated annually  
23 throughout the City of Longmont, with approximately 64% sent for landfill disposal; more than

1 42% of the residential waste generated is diverted from the landfill, while only 36% of commercial  
2 and 6% of construction and demolition waste is diverted from the landfill; and

3 WHEREAS, the City continues to increase waste diversion in the residential sector since  
4 the 2008 Zero Waste Resolution through the various program enhancements approved by Council,  
5 including a pay-as-you-throw structure, every-other-week trash collection option and an opt-in  
6 curbside composting service; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2020 the Longmont City Council adopted the Climate Action  
8 Recommendations Report, further calling for an increase in waste diversion, along with  
9 recommendations to integrate equity into all climate action initiatives; and

10 WHEREAS, many residents, property owners, and businesses continue to face  
11 considerable barriers to accessing waste diversion services, including:

- 12 • Lack of access to recycling, composting and other waste diversion opportunities  
13 due to cost, space constraints, and lack of interest from property owners.
- 14 • Lack of knowledge and awareness of what and how to recycle or compost, leading  
15 to confusion and/or contamination.
- 16 • Limited local ability and opportunities to recycle non-curbside materials, including  
17 clothing, plastics, electronics and other hard-to-recycle items.
- 18 • Accessibility issues for those with physical constraints; and

19 WHEREAS, municipal staff are committed to zero waste efforts, but face logistical and  
20 resource constraints for increasing diversion, including:

1           •       Lack of convenience of and/or requirements for reduction, reuse, and recycling of  
2           construction materials, hard-to-recycle items, and routine maintenance items for buildings  
3           and facilities.

4           •       Lack of requirements for vendors and sponsors to adhere to zero waste practices at  
5           events and other community activities.

6           •       Limited resources to accommodate additional cost or staff time required to increase  
7           waste diversion.

8           •       Lack of knowledge and understanding of resources currently available to assist staff  
9           in recycling and composting; and

10          WHEREAS, a lack of regional infrastructure limits community goals for increased  
11       diversion of organics and construction and demolition materials; and

12          WHEREAS, addressing issues of accessibility, affordability, and awareness, particularly  
13       focused on those who have had the least access to waste diversion opportunities and have borne  
14       the greatest impacts of waste in the form of litter and pollution, enables everyone in our community  
15       to participate in and benefit from waste diversion efforts; and

16          WHEREAS, higher levels of recycling, composting and reuse and avoiding the creation of  
17       waste is necessary to ensure a healthy, safe, and livable community, both now and for future  
18       generations; and

19          WHEREAS, a resource recovery-based economy, one that promotes recycling and reuse  
20       which funnels waste into reusable resources, will create and sustain more productive and  
21       meaningful jobs than a disposal-based economy and with the appropriate economic incentives and  
22       regulatory requirements, the commercial sector will provide products that are durable and

1 repairable and that can be safely and conveniently composted or recycled back into the  
2 marketplace; and

3 WHEREAS, the guiding principles of a Zero Waste Community are:

- 4 • Everyone in our community has the right to live in a clean and safe environment.
- 5 • Everyone has knowledge of and access to waste diversion opportunities.
- 6 • Reducing waste supports climate action goals.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO  
8 RESOLVES:

9 Section 1

10 The City hereby resolves to be a Zero Waste Community, which aims toward the  
11 conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and  
12 recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land,  
13 water, or air that threaten the environment or human health. To that end, the City of Longmont,  
14 Colorado, pledges to develop and implement policies and strategies to increase total waste  
15 diversion to 75% by 2030 and 95% by 2050; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Longmont will utilize the equity recommendations  
17 adapted from the Climate Action Recommendations Report to develop policies and strategies to  
18 improve equity and extend the benefits of waste diversion efforts to low-income households,  
19 historically underserved communities and communities disproportionately affected by the harmful  
20 effects of pollution; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Longmont City Council will support these goals by  
22 initiating action plans, policies, programs, education, outreach and infrastructure development that

1 significantly reduce waste and pollution across all sectors of the community while incorporating  
2 equity and community needs. These measures may include, but are not limited to:

3 • Increase education and awareness of waste diversion practices and opportunities  
4 through multicultural, culturally relevant and broad-reaching engagement that meets the  
5 diverse needs of the Longmont community, focusing particularly on those that have had  
6 the least access to waste diversion opportunities and have borne the greatest impacts of  
7 waste in the form of litter and pollution.

8 • Revise Pay-As-You-Throw fees to reduce waste landfilled through actions such as  
9 embedded fees for curbside composting and multiple bin size options, additional containers  
10 or weekly recycling and composting collection.

11 • Increase frequency and accessibility of opportunities for hard-to-recycle items.

12 • Implement a Universal Recycling Ordinance that will expand recycling and/or  
13 composting requirements to increase waste diversion in the commercial and large  
14 multifamily sector; Prioritize the affordability and accessibility of waste diversion services  
15 for multifamily and affordable housing that are not served by city services.

16 • Establish incentives or discounts to increase access to waste diversion services for  
17 low-income residents, affordable housing providers, non-profits and small businesses to  
18 ensure the provision of fair and equitable services to all, including the diverse residential  
19 and business community.

20 • Eliminate unnecessary, wasteful and harmful materials in the commercial sector  
21 through the expansion of the Sustainable Business Program to increase support and  
22 incentives for waste diversion opportunities, such as transitioning restaurants away from

1 single use plastics and encouraging businesses to manufacture less toxic and more durable  
2 and recyclable products, with an emphasis on large waste generators.

3 • Work with economic development and regional partners to invest in resource  
4 recovery infrastructure to foster a circular economy – one that that uses a systems-focused  
5 approach and involves industrial processes and economic activities that are restorative or  
6 regenerative by design, enable resources used in such processes and activities to maintain  
7 their highest value for as long as possible, and aim for the elimination of waste through the  
8 superior design of materials, products, and systems.

9 • Continue to support the Eco-Cycle Green Star Schools® program through an  
10 equity-based approach to ensure that diverse schools enjoy the benefits of zero waste  
11 opportunities, with a participation target of 100% of Longmont schools by 2025.

12 • Support equitable pay and safe working conditions for those employed in the waste  
13 management industry.

14 • Incorporate zero waste requirements into the City’s Design and Construction  
15 Standards and procurement processes, including provision of waste diversion infrastructure  
16 at key locations and for city contractors.

17 • Incorporate zero waste requirements into all events permits.

18 • Install recycling bins in all park facilities, key trailheads and DDA locations and  
19 composting bins in key park facilities and DDA locations.

20 • Leverage staff to support outreach, education, and monitoring of waste diversion  
21 bins at key locations.

1 • Support the development of regional infrastructure and adopt appropriate land use  
2 policies to manage and support recycling, composting, construction and demolition waste,  
3 hard-to-recycle materials, and hazardous waste management.

4 • Employ mandatory programs that achieve practical goals with an equity lens that  
5 may include provisions for small businesses and low-income residents.

6 • Support both local and state legislation to minimize waste generation and  
7 judiciously use, reuse, recycle and compost materials; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City will review its own policies, contracts, and  
9 standard operating procedures to incorporate Zero Waste provisions and actions into all aspects of  
10 its organizational culture to encourage the use of materials and products that are durable,  
11 repairable, and reusable; have a minimum of packaging, toxic content or chemical hazard potential;  
12 are resource and energy efficient in their manufacture, use and disposal; and in their use or disposal  
13 minimize or eliminate the City's potential environmental liability.

14 Section 2

15 The Council repeals all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution,  
16 but only to the extent of such inconsistency.

17 Passed and adopted this 27th day of September , 2022 .

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MAYOR

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ATTEST:



CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Jaime Rotundo (Sep 28, 2022 14:29 MDT)

Sep 28, 2022

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY

DATE

Cristi Campbell (Sep 28, 2022 09:08 MDT)

Sep 28, 2022

PROOFREAD

DATE

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

Sep 29, 2022

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT

DATE

CA File: 22-001899