

RESOLUTION NO. 170386**A resolution of the City Commission of the
City of Gainesville, Florida, declaring
Gainesville Florida a Zero Waste Community.**

WHEREAS, more than an estimated 100,000 tons of waste is generated in the city of Gainesville each year by residents and commercial organizations; and

WHEREAS, though the city of Gainesville has reached an overall recycling rate of approximately 20%, more can be done, especially in “closing the loop” by purchasing products made with recycled content; and

WHEREAS, the placement of materials in waste disposal facilities, such as landfills and incinerators wastes natural resources, transfers liabilities to future generations and has the potential to cause damage to human health; and

WHEREAS, avoiding the creation of waste or discards in the first place is the most economically efficient and environmentally sustainable resource management strategy; and

WHEREAS, a resource recovery-based economy will create and sustain more productive and meaningful jobs than a disposal-based economy; and

WHEREAS, with the appropriate economic incentives, manufacturers can and will produce and businesses will sell products that are durable and repairable and that can be safely recycled back into the marketplace or nature; and

WHEREAS, government can be ultimately responsible for establishing criteria needed to eliminate waste, for creating the economic and regulatory environment in which to achieve it, and for leading by example; and

WHEREAS, the guiding principles of zero waste are: managing resources instead of waste, conserving natural resources through waste prevention and recycling, turning discarded resources into jobs and new products instead of trash, promoting products and materials that are durable and recyclable, and discouraging products and materials that can only become trash after their use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

Section 1. The city of Gainesville hereby encourages the pursuit of Zero Waste as a long-term goal in order to eliminate waste and pollution in the manufacture, use, storage, and recycling of materials. This goal must be addressed through the choices Commission will make in the context of the city’s annual budget processes, by initiating action plans and measures that significantly reduce waste and pollution.

These measures will include encouraging residents, businesses and agencies through incentives and legislation to judiciously use, reuse, and recycle materials, as well as to motivate businesses to manufacture and market less toxic and more durable, repairable, reusable, recycled, and recyclable products. Mandatory programs will be employed only if the infrastructure exists and if convenient, voluntary programs prove not to be successful.

Section 2. The City of Gainesville will also review its own policies, contracts, and standard operating procedures to incorporate zero waste provisions and actions into all aspects of its organizational culture to encourage the use of materials and products that are durable, repairable, and reusable, have a minimum of packaging, toxic content or chemical hazard potential, are resource and energy efficient in their manufacture, use and disposal, and in their use or disposal minimize or eliminate the city's potential environmental liability.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2018.

Lauren Poe, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Omichele Gainey, Clerk of the Commission

Nicolle Shalley, City Attorney