



RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE CITY TO
MOVE TOWARDS ZERO
WASTE

October 26, 2017

Agenda



Summary of the Issue



Zero Waste Cities



Local Analysis



Recommendations and Timeline

What Is Zero Waste?



Zero Waste is a philosophy that focuses on eliminating waste in every day life.

3 Principles:

Reusing – Recycling – Composting

Redesign our current system to prevent wasteful and polluting practices

Creates a culture of sustainability within the residents of Gainesville

Benefits Of Zero Waste

Improved Health
of Residents

Saves Energy

Reduces
Greenhouse Gas
Emissions

Prolongs Life of
our Landfill

Composting
Decreases Water
Usage

Reduces Toxins

Improved Air
Quality

Protects
Biodiversity

Decreases Need
to Extract
Resources

Promotes 'Green'
Sector in our
Local Economy



ZERO WASTE CITIES

Portland, Or

- **Business Recycling Requirements**

- Businesses that produce a certain amount of food waste are required to separate food scraps from mixed waste
- Businesses are required to recycle all paper and containers and prevent total waste

- **Multi-family Recycling Requirements**

- Set up recycling systems that are as convenient to tenants as garbage receptacles
- Central collection containers for a two-sort system or provide recycling toll carts for each tenant
- Property owner must provide at least two bins in each unit
- **After adopting their recycling program, Portland saw a 44% decrease in residential trash collected and a 12% increase in recycling collected.**

Cambridge, MA

- **Cambridge, MA is a similar city to Gainesville as it is a medium sized city and the home of Harvard University**
- **The City of Cambridge has implemented a Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) ordinance**
 - The ordinance prohibits single use plastic bags at all retail establishments
 - A 10 cent per bag tax is charged for all paper and compostable bags
 - Since implementation in March 2016, there has been an 80% reduction in personal consumption of plastic bags and a 95% reduction within businesses.

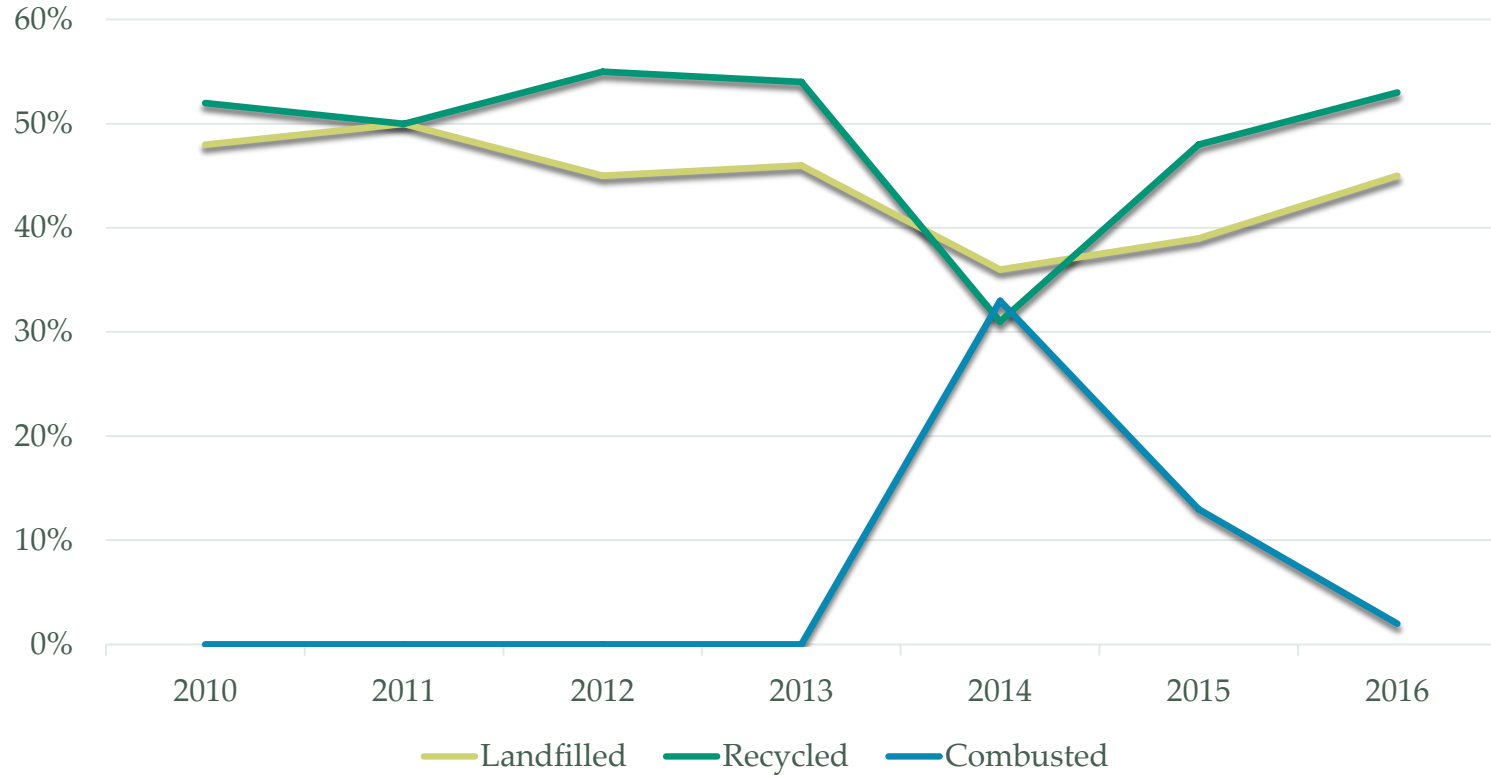
Coral Gables, FL

- **Coral Gables is the first city in Florida to ban plastic bags as well as polystyrene (Styrofoam)**
 - 12 month educational campaign to assist and educate businesses
 - Certain exemptions exist for medication bags, garbage bags, and a few other limited categories
 - The City will issue citations to retail establishments that fail to comply with the ordinance
 - The polystyrene prohibition applies to: city vendors, special event subcontractors, and food service providers

Local Analysis

- **As it currently stands the City Solid Waste Management Plan only regulates commercial and commercially collected recycling.**
- **The highest recycling rates Alachua County has seen is 55% in 2012 with a low of 31% in 2014**
- **If trends persist without improvement to the Solid Waste Management Plan the City of Gainesville will continue to see stagnant or downward recycling trends.**

Alachua County Waste Disposal Trends



Local Waste Disposal Trends

The graph provided by the Alachua County Public Works Department illustrates the percentage of annual waste that ends up in landfills, recycled, and combusted.

FIVE KEY AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT WITHIN THE CITY

1

Commercial

2

Multi-Family

3

Residential

4

Municipal

5

Construction
and
Demolition

COMMERCIAL

- **Business Food Waste**
 - Divert food scraps for retail establishments that produce a certain amount of food waste
- **Reduce De Minimus Amount for Commercial Businesses**
 - Reduce the amount of recyclable material businesses can throw away to 10% or lower
- **Equip Dumpsters with Lids**
 - Requiring all dumpsters to have lids to reduce the costs of rainwater that enters dumpsters
- **Small Business Collection**
 - Allow small businesses to use residential bins instead of commercial dumpsters
- **Uniform Messaging and Bin Colors**
 - Standardizing recycling within the city for a more user friendly system
- **Prohibit Single Use Plastic Bag and Polystyrene (Styrofoam)**
 - Decrease the amount of material that cannot be readily recycled or composted

MULTI-FAMILY

- **Require Multi-family Recycling**

- Currently there is only a 3-4% participation rate in multi-family recycling, to increase this amount recycling should be made as easy for tenants as waste collection

- **Multi-family Recycling bin**

- Require each property to provide each housing unit with a bin that allows them to source separate their recyclables

RESIDENTIAL

- **Pilot Residential Composting Program**
 - Establish a residential area within the city limits to implement a composting program to determine if providing a composting service would be affordable and well used by residents
- **Mandatory Residential Recycling**
 - Mandate that along with commercial recycling, residential recycling should be required.
- **Pilot Bin Program**
 - Pilot program of larger wheeled recycling bins with different colors and alternating weeks of collection

MUNICIPAL

- **Uniform Public Recycling Receptacles**

- Any publically provided trashcan will have to be accompanied by an appropriate recycling receptacle

- **Municipal Recycling Culture Change**

- Emphasize waste reduction during new hire orientation to stress each employee's part in waste reduction within the city

- **Office of Sustainability**

- Create an Office of Sustainability to oversee sustainability plans across GRU and GG and to continue pushing sustainability efforts.

- **Education**

- An annually updated educational program that can be easily distributed to homeowners and tenants about the importance of recycling

- **Collaboration**

- Consistent recycling and zero waste policies across the large public institutions in our community (UF, Santa Fe, Alachua County and School Board).

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION

- **Incentivize Construction and Demolition Source Separation and Recycling**
 - Incentivize all construction and demolition activities and developers to source separated, reuse materials, as well as recycle the remaining waste. Often gone unnoticed but one of the largest areas of waste within a city is through construction and demolition. Gainesville should encourage on site recycling like many other cities that have goals to be zero waste.

Timeline

Divert 75%
recycled solid
waste by 2020

Divert 90%
recycled solid
waste by 2030

Be a “Zero
Waste” City
by 2040

Recommendations

- Recommend that the City Commission pass a Resolution for the City of Gainesville to become a Zero Waste City
- Recommend the proposed solutions be implemented to assist the city in our goal of becoming Zero Waste
- Recommend the city create a Zero Waste strategic plan to guide the city in it's long term Zero Waste goals