#191019

ZERO WASTE ORDINANCE

February 27th General Policy Meeting

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IMPORTANCE OF ZERO WASTE

To meet Gainesville's city-wide goal of Zero Waste by 2040 and to take action on Gainesville's declared climate emergency we must act now

Role of reuse, recycling, and composting in reducing waste and fighting climate change

- Zero Waste is one of the most significant contributors to reducing climate change that the City can influence at the local level. - Austin Zero Waste Strategic Plan
- If every landfilled material in California was recycled or composted, it would be the greenhouse gas equivalent of eliminating all car exhaust in California – Zero Waste USA
- For every item thrown away, we lose the opportunity to reuse or recycle the materials that item is made of (e.g. wood, plastic, etc.)

Economic Development

- Zero Waste policies create 10 times more jobs than landfilling

OUTLINE

Avenues of Waste Reduction

1. Households
   - Single- and multi-family residences (condos, apartments, etc.)
2. Businesses
   - Office buildings, restaurants, retail stores, etc.
3. Construction and Demolition
4. Government
   - Government buildings, local parks, etc.

HOUSEHOLDS: SINGLE-FAMILY RECYCLING

Currently:

- Residential waste = 41% of all municipal solid waste in Alachua County
- Residential recycling laws have not been updated in 26 years

Proposals:

- Mandatory Residential Recycling
  - E.g. Seattle: 74% diversion (recycling or compost) rate in single-family residences
  - Shown to be effective even if no fine is imposed
- Transition from Recycling Bins to Roll Carts
  - Prevent rain contamination of cardboard
  - More easily moved by elderly residents

HOUSEHOLDS:

SINGLE-FAMILY CURBSIDE COMPOSTING

CASE STUDY:
Berkeley, California

Six years after implementing their curbside compost pilot program, their annual residential waste tonnage was reduced by 18% (more than 3,000 tons every year).

Benefits of Composting

- Prevents methane from entering the atmosphere
  - A greenhouse gas 25 times more harmful than carbon dioxide
- Returns nutrients from food to the earth

Residential Curbside Composting Pilot Program

- Organics account for 20% of single-family waste in Alachua County
  - 70% of this organic waste is food scraps
- Both Berkeley's and Austin's programs have been very successful
  - Both expanded pre-existing yard waste collection programs

Compost collection cart from Austin's program

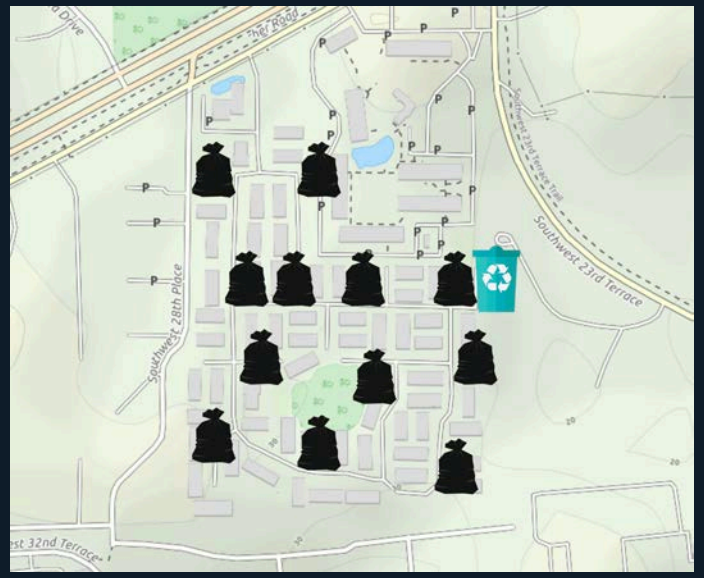
HOUSEHOLDS:

MULTI-FAMILY RECYCLING
(E.G. CONDOS, APARTMENTS)

CASE STUDY:

Oxford Manor Apartments, Archer Road

Currently: About 850 bedrooms in 366 units with only one recycling bin location



Current Trash and Recycling Locations

Trash and Recycling Locations Under "At Least as Convenient" Standard

Currently:

- Requirements on recycling facilities are vague and hard to enforce
- Recycling bins are placed in far corners of complexes

Proposals:

- "At Least as Convenient" Standard
  - Accessibility of recycling bins can increase recycling rates by as much as 66%
- Standardize Recycling Bin Colors
  - Require new recycling bins to match the color scheme of UF and Alachua County
  - Reduce confusion
- Explore Franchise Zones

BUSINESSES: RECYCLING

Currently:

- 60% of all commercial solid waste in Alachua is recyclable or compostable (e.g., paper, plastics, and organics)
- Current commercial recycling requirements are vague

Proposals:

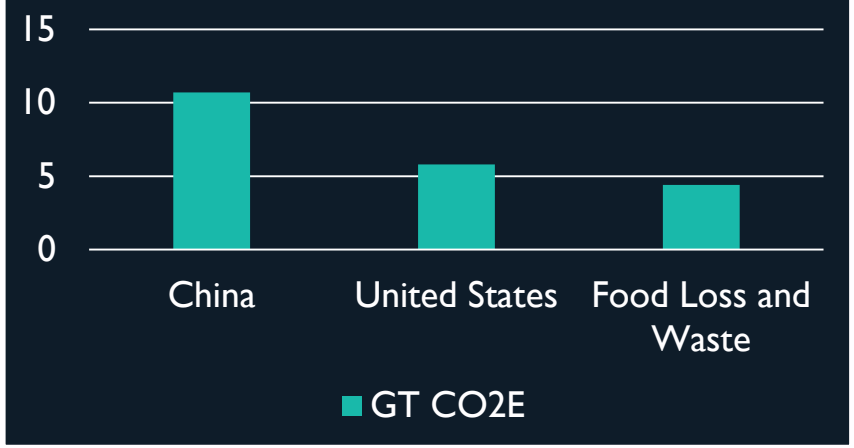
- Require businesses to recycle all recyclable materials
  - Cities with similar policies:
    - Portland: 81% total diversion rate
    - San Francisco: 80% total diversion rate
    - Seattle: 56.9% total diversion rate
- Require businesses to provide recycling bins wherever there are trash bins
  - Build habit of recycling, beyond at home

BUSINESSES:

COMPOST AND FOOD DONATION PILOT

Did You Know?

- In the US, 30% of all food is thrown away.
  - In 2010, this was about 133 billion pounds of food.
- If food waste were a country, it would come in 3rd in terms of impact on global warming.



- When left to decompose in a landfill, food waste produces methane
  - 25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide
  - Composting prevents this
- Food-related businesses would first try to donate, then compost any leftover food
  - Combat hunger in our community
  - Reduce food waste sent to landfills
- Municipalities with similar programs in place:
  - Austin, Texas
  - Seattle, Washington
  - California

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION (C&D)

Require C&D projects to divert 75% of waste

Clarify current diversion requirements

Recycling, selling, reusing, or donating usable materials

Explore deconstruction requirements

E.g. Portland: Originally, all houses built before 1916 had to be fully deconstructed

- Just expanded to all houses before 1940

GOVERNMENT

- Green Purchasing Policy
  - Purchasing products that are better for the environment that similar products
  - Massachusetts, Sacramento, and Seattle all have non-binding policies
- Provide recycling bins wherever there are publicly accessible, government-owned trash receptacles
  - Allow people to recycle in parks, public areas, city buildings, etc.
- Composting Bins in Select Locations Pilot Program
  - In areas where there is commonly food, provide composting bins
    - E.g. Depot Park, City Hall cafeteria, Bo Diddley, Smokey Bear Park, etc.

On UF's campus, trash cans are often paired with recycling bins

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- Households
  - Mandatory Residential Recycling
  - Recycling Bins to Roll Carts
  - Single-Family Curbside Composting Pilot
  - "At Least as Convenient" Standard
  - Standardize Recycling Bin Colors
- Businesses
  - Recycle All Recyclable Materials
  - Provide Recycling Bins with Trash Bins
  - Compost and Food Donation Pilot
  - Explore Franchise Hauler Zones
- Construction and Demolition
  - Divert 75% of Waste
  - Explore Deconstruction Requirement
- Government
  - Green Purchasing Policy
  - Provide Recycling Bins with Trash Bins
  - Composting Pilot in Select Locations

NEXT STEP: Form subcommittee of commission to gather input from the community and draft a Zero Waste ordinance to bring back to full commission for review