

Resolution to Support Single Use Carryout Bag Legislation

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION:

WHEREAS, the elimination of single use carry - out bags entering the solid waste stream will help the City of Austin to achieve its goal of Zero Waste by the year of 2040, and,

WHEREAS, the use of plastic check-out bags cost Austin taxpayers approximately \$850,000 annually, and businesses twice that amount, due to sewage and water systems maintenance, recycling machinery shut downs, and litter cleanup costs, and,

WHEREAS, a voluntary plastic bag reduction plan by the Texas Retailers Association in partnership with the City of Austin and other retailers between January, 2008, and June, 2009, led to a 20% reduction rather than the original goal of 50%, and,

WHEREAS, the City of Austin passed the Single Use Carry - Out Bag Ordinance in March, 2012, and,

WHEREAS, the pilot program for plastic bag curbside collection enacted by the City of Austin and costing \$35,000 showed that there was a need for solid waste trucks and service routes with manual pickup, and,

WHEREAS, the full implementation of the curbside pilot project program would require an initial investment of \$4.5 million and would bear an annual cost of \$1.8 million,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION:

1. The Zero Waste Advisory Commission advise the Director and the Staff of the Austin Resource Recovery to provide education and outreach to the State legislators in the 2013 legislative session related to the goals of the Austin Zero Waste Plan, and,
2. The Zero Waste Advisory Commission advise the Director and the staff of the Austin Resource Recovery Department and the City of Austin staff to work with State legislators in order to create a positive working relationship and to foster effective communication, and,
3. The Zero Waste Advisory Commission asks the Director of the Austin Resource Recovery Department and the City of Austin staff to work with State legislators to avert any attempt to oppose or to change the City of Austin's position on Zero Waste, and,

4. The Zero Waste Advisory Commission ask the Director of the Austin Resource Recovery Department to work with municipalities that have passed single use carry-out bag ordinances and with other municipalities that are working toward this goal, and,
5. The Zero Waste Advisory Commission advise the Director and the staff of the Austin Resource Recovery Department to speak with City officials and State legislators about other programs that will need to be addressed in order for the City of Austin to meet its Zero Waste goals, such as the landfill diversion of electronic waste and toxic household waste such as mercury-added thermostats.