

RESOLUTION 2010 – 143

Adopting Boulder County's Zero Waste Action Plan

WHEREAS, Article 30-28-115 of the Colorado Revised Statutes enables the Board of County Commissioners to promote the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the county; and

WHEREAS, 30-28-201 of the Colorado Revised Statutes enables the Board of County Commissioners to adopt ordinances and codes; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County is committed to protecting and enhancing environmental quality in the county now and for future generations, and Boulder County Commissioners are focusing on environmental sustainability as one of three major Commissioner goals; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 250,000 tons of waste is generated in Boulder County each year by residents, businesses, and institutions, and approximately 65% of this amount is sent for landfill disposal; and

WHEREAS, waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting are material management options that conserve resources while reducing environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, increased recycling and composting will increase the cost-efficiency of local, publicly supported recycling facilities and programs; and

WHEREAS, increased recycling saves energy, water, natural resources, reduces air and water pollution, reduces the damage caused by extracting resources from the environment, and reduces the need for landfill facilities; and

WHEREAS, a resource recovery-based economy will sustain more jobs than landfilling or incineration; and

WHEREAS, increasingly, U.S. and international governments and organizations are adopting the policy that the financial responsibility of collecting, recycling, and disposing of materials belongs with producers; and

WHEREAS, producers should design products to ensure that they can be safely recycled back into the marketplace or nature; and

WHEREAS, many types of waste streams can be eliminated through across-the-board minimum recycling content laws, the use of non-toxic alternatives in product design, and local composting facilities; and

WHEREAS, the objectives 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; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County Resolution 2005-138 directs County staff to create a Zero Waste Plan for internal activities as well as Boulder County as a whole; and

WHEREAS, internal County Zero Waste actions have been codified in policy following creation of the County's Zero Waste Resolution in 2005, achieving in 2010 an estimated diversion rate of 65%; and

WHEREAS, the Zero Waste Action Plan has been created by staff with input from citizens and businesses in Boulder County as well as members of the Resource Conservation Advisory Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOULDER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC) AS FOLLOWS:

BOCC hereby adopts the Zero Waste Action Plan (Plan) as a guiding document for county materials management operations, regulatory decisions, collaboration with municipal governments and the private and nonprofit sectors, budget decisions, and for outreach and actions within the community.

In recognition of Boulder County's commitment to promoting, facilitating, and modeling Zero Waste in the community, the Plan details 28 recommendations designed to achieve the initial goal of increasing waste diversion for the county as a whole to 75% or better by the year 2018. The ultimate goal of Boulder County's Zero Waste Action Plan is to eliminate waste (i.e. achieve Zero Waste or "darn near") by 2025.

The Plan assesses the county's current levels of resource use and wastage; identifies objectives; and recommends short- and medium-term actions to reach these goals. Within budget constraints, the Plan seeks to effectively, efficiently, and quickly address the issues identified. The existing Resource Conservation Advisory Board structure provides an ongoing opportunity for the public to address recommended actions.

ADOPTED this 9th day of December, 2010.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BOULDER COUNTY**