

**CITY OF BURBANK
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 10, 2008

TO: Mary J. Alvord, City Manager

FROM: Bonnie Teaford, Public Works Director
By: Kreigh Hampel, Recycling Coordinator

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF ZERO WASTE POLICY AND ZERO WASTE STRATEGIC PLAN

PURPOSE

Staff is requesting Council's approval for the Zero Waste Strategic Plan and the Zero Waste Policy.

BACKGROUND

On January 22, 2008, the City Council voted to support the City's final Sustainability Action Plan, which is based on the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords (Accords). The City of Burbank's Sustainability Action Plan includes a series of 22 action items that are organized around eight "urban themes:" energy, waste reduction, urban design, urban nature, transportation, environmental health, water, and social justice.

Zero Waste was included as Action 4, and staff predicted that the City would be in a position to adopt a Zero Waste policy by the end of fiscal year 2007-08 (June 30, 2008). Action 4 included 17 specific actions that the City intends to implement in order to meet the goal of achieving zero waste to landfills and incinerators by 2040.

On April 29, 2008, Public Works staff presented drafts of both the Zero Waste Policy (Attachment 1) and the Zero Waste Strategic Plan (Attachment 2) and asked for Council's comments. Council indicated majority support for the policy and plan, and directed staff to return on June 10, 2008 for final approval.

At the April 29, 2008, Council meeting, staff was also directed to return with more information and plans for plastic carryout bags and expanded polystyrene. These items will be scheduled for Council's consideration in August 2008.

ANALYSIS

By adopting the Zero Waste Policy, Council is fulfilling the requirement included in Action 4 of the City's Sustainability Action Plan. To achieve the goals stated in the policy, staff developed the Zero Waste Strategic Plan, which builds on the framework included in Action 4 of the Sustainability Action Plan. The plan identifies each strategy, summarizes why the strategy was selected, and outlines the next steps needed to implement the strategy.

As presented at the April 29, 2008, Council meeting, the Zero Waste Strategic Plan promotes the concept of working with residents and businesses on the "upstream" side of the waste cycle to reduce the need for additional and costly public programs to collect, transport, process, and manage those wastes "downstream." For materials that cannot be reduced or eliminated at the location where they are generated, staff is promoting the full use of our existing waste diversion infrastructure.

The Zero Waste Policy and Zero Waste Strategic Plan represent a statement of goals and a discussion about the different short-term actions and long-term programs that the City may choose to implement in pursuit of those goals. Environmental review would be conducted for each action or program individually at the time the City commits to carry it out. Therefore, adoption of this program is not considered a project under CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff is not requesting a financial commitment for zero waste programs at this time; rather, as each new program that requires additional funding is brought forward for consideration staff will define its associated costs and related benefits.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that Council approve the Zero Waste Policy and the Zero Waste Strategic Plan.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Zero Waste Policy

Attachment 2 – Zero Waste Strategic Plan