

## Richland County Council Request of Action

**Subject:** Achieve SC State Solid Waste Diversion rate of 35% within five years  
And develop a long range goal for Zero Waste

### **A. Purpose**

"County Council is requested to consider the Motion that Council and Council Staff develop and implement a plan that will enable Richland County to achieve the SC State goal of 35% solid waste diversion rate within the next 5 years and to develop a long term plan to reach the goal of "zero waste".

### **B. Background / Discussion**

- The S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991, was amended in 2000 to change the original waste reduction and recycling goals. The recycling goal was changed to 35 percent of the MSW stream with a target date of June 30, 2005. The waste reduction goal was changed to a per-capita disposal goal of 3.5 pounds per person per day with a target date of June 30, 2005. The Act has not been amended to change the target dates or goals. The state's current recycling rate is 25.5 percent.
- The Act's original recycling goal was 25 percent of the total waste stream by weight and waste reduction goal (reducing the amount of waste going to landfills and incinerators) was 30 percent of the total waste stream. Again, both goals were measured by weight and included all solid waste - not just MSW. The goals, which used fiscal year 1993 as a baseline, were met in FY 1997.
- These types of goals are normally accomplished by developing and implementing various public education programs, waste minimization programs and recycling programs. The County Solid Waste office is currently very active in providing these programs to the residents of Richland County and has received back to back awards for our public education and recycling programs the past two years.
- Currently the County Solid Waste Department has achieved a rate of 21% diversion of the solid waste stream and is on target to surpass the state goal of 35% by 2015 and it is estimated that by 2020 Richland County will reach a diversion rate of 45%.
- Several items to consider are some collection contracts are approaching expiration as these contracts are renewed or rebid the curbside program can be enhanced with programs that will increase our recycling rate.
- Adding a 96 gallon roll cart for recycling to the curbside collection program will boost our recycling and diversion rate anywhere from 10 to 15 % once it's been done County wide. This could be done with little or no extra cost to the County if it was included in the curbside collection contract negotiations.

- The Solid Waste department is currently focusing on reusable goods and multi-Family recycling as well as voluntary commercial recycling programs which will increase our diversion rates another 7 to 12 %.
- Implementing a full zero waste program will mean increasing solid waste fees to support programs associated with zero waste as well as mandating ordinances to both the residential and commercial communities. Some zero waste ordinances may require amendments to contracts such as the Landfill and Recycling processors contracts.
- **Financial Impact**

*Maintaining the current direction of the County recycling program will only incur minor cost increases in the next few years.*

*There will be some significant financial impact associated with zero waste and the cost can only be determined based on the level of the programs implemented.*

**C. Alternatives**

List the alternatives to the situation. There will always be at least two alternatives:

1. Direct staff to maintain current program direction and activities.
2. Direct staff to develop a goal to reach zero waste.

**D. Recommendation**

State which alternative you recommend. Be sure to include your name, department, and date. For example:

*Staff recommends no action be taken on zero waste until all haulers contracts have been renewed and that staff be directed to maintain current program direction and activities.*

|                  |             |            |
|------------------|-------------|------------|
| Recommended by:  | Department: | Date:      |
| Paul F. Alcantar | Solid Waste | 10/11/2011 |

**F. Reviews**

(Please ***SIGN*** your name, ✓ the appropriate box, and support your recommendation before routing. Thank you!)

**Finance**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Reviewed by: <u>Daniel Driggers</u>   | Date: 10/11/11                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommend Council approval                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend Council denial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council Discretion (please explain if checked)                 |   |
| Comments regarding recommendation: Supports the recommendation of Solid Waste Director. |   |

**Procurement**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Reviewed by: <u>Rodolfo Callwood</u>                           | Date: 10/11/11                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommend Council approval | <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend Council denial |

Council Discretion (please explain if checked)  
Comments regarding recommendation:

**Grants**

Reviewed by: Sara Salley Date: 10/12/11  
 Recommend Council approval  Recommend Council denial  
 Council Discretion (please explain if checked)  
Comments regarding recommendation:

**Legal**

Reviewed by: Larry Smith Date:  
 Recommend Council approval  Recommend Council denial  
 Council Discretion (please explain if checked)  
Comments regarding recommendation: Recommend approval of staff's recommendation.

**Administration**

Reviewed by: Tony McDonald Date: 10/12/11  
 Recommend Council approval  Recommend Council denial  
 Council Discretion (please explain if checked)  
Comments regarding recommendation: Concur with the Solid Waste Director's assessment of the County's current recycling efforts and with the recommendations for expanding those efforts in the future.