



Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, TN

Legislation Text

File #: RS2023-2393, **Version:** 1

A resolution supporting municipal leadership on food waste reduction and encouraging a Metropolitan Government and community-wide target of a 50% reduction in food waste from 2017 levels by 2030.

WHEREAS, it is estimated that as much as 40% of the food supply in the United States goes uneaten and more than two-thirds of wasted food is sent to landfills and incinerators, where it typically represents the largest component of disposed waste; and

WHEREAS, food waste disposed of in landfills emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the natural resources used to produce food, such as water, also are wasted when food is wasted; and

WHEREAS, more than 10% of adults and children in Davidson County, approximately 73,360 individuals, are food insecure, lacking a reliable source of food to support a healthy and active lifestyle, according to 2021 data published by Feeding America; and

WHEREAS, the amount of food wasted in the United States is worth approximately \$444 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, reducing food waste and diverting it from landfills mitigates climate change, conserves natural resources, provides food to individuals experiencing food insecurity, saves money, extends the useful life of landfills, and produces beneficial products such as soil amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville and the Middle Tennessee region will continue to face significant challenges related to solid waste management, including local landfills expected to reach capacity in three to five years; and

WHEREAS, in December 2019, Nashville's Solid Waste Region Board approved a Zero Waste Master Plan ("the Plan") which provides a policy framework to lead the region in reducing waste to landfill by 90%. The Plan included analysis of multiple strategies for waste reduction, including diversion of organics from the landfill. The Plan was then adopted by Metro Council in August 2021 pursuant to Resolution No. RS2021-1030; and

WHEREAS, according to a waste characterization study performed in 2017 to inform the Zero Waste Master Plan, 22.9% of landfilled waste was comprised of organics; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council promote the reduction of food waste in Nashville and Davidson County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That the Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as supporting food waste reduction and encouraging a Metropolitan Government and community-wide target of a 50% reduction in food waste from 2017 levels by 2030.

Section 2. That the food waste reduction goal should be met through food waste prevention measures including education; food rescue and donation efforts that redirect surplus food to people; and food scrap recycling.

Section 3. That Metropolitan Government departments and other Metro entities, including Metro Nashville Public Schools, that serve food endeavor to review and implement where feasible standard best practices for food waste reduction.

Section 4. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Mayor and Metro departments, boards and commissions and made available to the public.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect from and after its final passage, the welfare of the public requiring it.