

RESOLUTIONS OF THE CITY OF HELENA

RESOLUTION NO. 20643

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SOLID WASTE REDUCTION GOALS AND A METHOD TO ACHIEVE THOSE GOALS FOR THE CITY OF HELENA

WHEREAS, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("USEPA"), waste prevention and recycling -- jointly referred to as waste reduction -- "are potent strategies for reducing greenhouse gases" and, taken together, will reduce emissions from energy consumption, reduce emissions from incinerators, reduce methane emissions from landfills, and increase storage of carbon in trees;

WHEREAS, the USEPA estimates 42% of all United States greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are associated with the management of materials (including food) as they flow through the economy, from extraction or harvest, production and transport, provision of services, reuse, and disposal;

WHEREAS, unlike many GHG mitigation options, waste management is largely determined at the local level;

WHEREAS, in June 2020, the City adopted a new Growth Policy consistent with Montana's Integrated Waste Management Act, in which the City committed to reduce the amount of solid waste generated by households, businesses, and governmental entities and disposed of in the landfill, employing the commonly recognized

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waste hierarchy principles of "reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost" before landfilling;

WHEREAS, these waste reduction principles promote the highest and best use of materials, emphasize a "closed loop" system of production and consumption, and will create and sustain productive and meaningful jobs;

WHEREAS, Helena's current solid waste diversion rate of approximately 20% is significantly below the national average of 35%, which diversion rate Helena's 2009 Climate Action Plan recommended be achieved in Helena by 2020;

WHEREAS, the City of Helena and Lewis and Clark County are parties to an interlocal agreement for waste management, however the City can set its own goals for waste reduction generated within the City's limits;

WHEREAS, in managing solid waste generated within City limits, the City of Helena would like to focus its resources on solid waste diversion as the preferred waste management option; and

WHEREAS, through education, implementation of waste reduction measures, and community engagement at all levels, the City of Helena can become a regional leader in waste reduction.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA:

Section 1. The City Commission directs the City Manager, in collaboration with the Citizen Conservation Board, to develop a Strategic Plan for Waste Reduction in Helena ("Strategic Plan") using the principles of "refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost" for presentation to the Helena City Commission by June 30, 2022. The Strategic Plan will be developed through active community engagement with stakeholders, including but not limited to city residents, property owners, renters, businesses, nonprofits, schools, institutions, Lewis and Clark County, and other governmental entities.

Section 2. The Strategic Plan shall be designed to achieve the goal of City solid waste diversion from the landfill at a minimum of 50% by 2040, with an interim minimum goal of 35% by 2030.

Section 3. These waste reduction goals are not intended to be final goals for the City, and the City Commission will revisit these goals every 5 years, starting in 2027.

Section 4. The Strategic Plan shall identify a baseline of Helena's current waste stream from which to measure the City's

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future success at achieving the diversion goals established in this Resolution. This baseline information shall include a breakdown of the types of material diverted from and landfilled by the City.

Section 5. The City Manager shall develop budgeting recommendations for the Commission's consideration that will enable the City to transition to this significantly decreased waste stream while continuing to provide for the efficient, convenient, and cost-effective delivery of waste services to Helena's citizens and businesses.

**PASSED AND EFFECTIVE BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HELENA,
MONTANA, THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.**

/S/ WILMOT COLLINS
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/S/ DANNAI CLAYBORN
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION