

Resolution No. [XXXX]

A Resolution Promoting Sustainable Winter Holiday Practices in [City/County]

WHEREAS, [City/County] recognizes the benefits of sustainable consumption and reducing waste to the climate, biodiversity, local economies, community health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the winter holiday season has a significant effect on the environment, with Americans generating 23% more waste during the month of December than in any other month, according to an analysis by the Center for Biological Diversity; and

WHEREAS, an estimated \$10.1 billion is wasted annually on unwanted gifts, underscoring the excess consumption associated with holiday shopping; and

WHEREAS, approximately 25% of returned products are disposed of in landfills by retailers, contributing significantly to waste during the holidays; and

WHEREAS, 50% of respondents to a national survey view reducing single-use items such as those used for entertaining during the holidays as an important step in minimizing waste; and

WHEREAS, 66% of holiday shoppers are willing to pay more for sustainable products, demonstrating strong public support for environmentally friendly holiday practices; and

WHEREAS, 82% of respondents to a national survey are willing to reduce their personal consumption, but 31% of them require more information to do so, highlighting the need for public education and awareness campaigns; and

WHEREAS, 90% of respondents to a national survey expressed a desire for the holidays to be less materialistic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the [City Council/Board of Supervisors] of [City/County] hereby commits to Simplify the Holidays by promoting sustainable winter holiday practices such as experiential, charitable and secondhand gift giving, plant-based meals, low-waste entertaining and gift wrap along with nature-based decorating to foster greater joy, connection, and tradition while reducing waste, stress, and the depletion of natural resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the [City Council/Board of Supervisors] encourages governmental departments, nonprofits, businesses, schools, housing units, and faith-based and civic organizations to help build public awareness initiatives that provide residents with information and resources to reduce their personal consumption, choose sustainable products, and participate in community sharing programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [City Council/Board of Supervisors] encourages local businesses to take steps to support sustainable holidays and help reduce holiday season waste by offering the purchase of sustainable products and understanding the influence of holiday sales and promotion on the environment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the [City Council/Board of Supervisors] of [City/County] this [date] day of [month], [year].

Resources:

- Finder.com, 2023, Unwanted gifts - <https://www.finder.com/unwanted-gifts>
- NPR, 2022, Returned products in landfills - <https://www.npr.org/2022/01/12/1072066943/from-living-rooms-to-landfills-some-holiday-shopping-returns-take-a-very-sad-pat>
- Center for Biological Diversity, 2023, Willingness to reduce single-use products - <https://bit.ly/WasteReductionReport>
- Deloitte, 2021, Willingness to pay more for sustainable products - <https://fortunly.com/statistics/christmas-spending-statistics/#gre f>
- Center for Biological Diversity, 2021, Willingness to reduce personal consumption - <https://bit.ly/CCSurvey2020PG>
- Center for Biological Diversity, 2023, Perceptions of winter holiday consumerism - <https://bit.ly/STHAltGiftReport>