ZERO WASTE

Rationale

Zero Waste policies and programs will establish practical ways to eliminate wasting or safely reuse, recycle or compost discarded products and packaging; and The Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA) was established in 2002 to develop worldwide standards and principles to guide the development of Zero Waste in the world; and ZWIA adopted its current definition of Zero Waste in 2009 that says:

- *"Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use.*
- *Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them.*
- *Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health."*

The key measure of performance towards that goal is diverting 90% of all discarded materials from landfills, incinerators and the environment. That performance measure is established in the ZWIA Zero Waste Community Principles and ZWIA Zero Waste Business Principles at www.zwia.org/standards; and The ZWIA definition of Zero Waste is the only peer reviewed definition of Zero Waste, accepted by worldwide environmental, recycling and Zero Waste leaders; and

Many organizations, businesses and communities have adopted the ZWIA definition of Zero Waste, and support the ZWIA definition; and there is a need to provide clear direction of what Zero Waste means to help advance the industry;

Policy

The National Recycling Coalition hereby adopts the ZWIA definition of Zero Waste to clarify what Zero Waste means and encourages its members, stakeholders and other interested parties to adopt this ZWIA definition of Zero Waste as well.

December 28, 2015

Cross-reference: