



**Policy Type:** Board

**Category:** Sustainability

**Policy Name:** Zero Waste Events - Board Policy 8.2

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## **8.2 ZERO WASTE EVENTS (Adopted 5-24-11)**

### **Policy**

All events presented and funded by the County<sup>1</sup> shall be "Zero Waste" events. Zero Waste events are those in which foods, decorations, program materials and service-ware are used that are either reusable or accepted in the County's composting and recycling program.

Event planners organizing County-funded events that are located in leased buildings where the County does not provide recycling and composting service shall plan events so that they create as little waste as possible.

Event planners organizing County-funded events in non-County venues shall use Zero Waste as one of the selection criteria in choosing a venue and shall negotiate with venue managers to obtain the most comprehensive waste reduction service that is feasible. To the extent practicable, reusable service-ware is preferable and can often be provided by the hotel or caterer.

Event planners should use the opportunity of a Zero Waste Event to inform the attendees on the benefits of zero waste event planning.

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1. County-presented event is defined in the Board of Supervisors' Policy Manual Section 3.49.

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### **Background**

Zero Waste is a systems approach to eliminating the impacts of products and packaging, resource use and reutilization, through the implementation of modern materials management and greenhouse gas reduction programs. Impacts are designated as upstream impacts (e.g., pre-consumer, resource extraction and production of goods); and downstream impacts (e.g., post-consumer, end of life, waste management, and greenhouse gas emissions).

Achieving Zero Waste will reduce the environmental impacts of our current way of life and the amount of greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions from materials consumption fall into two broad categories: (1) methane generated as organics decompose in a landfill, and (2) emissions produced in the extraction of resources, the use of energy in the production of goods and services and transportation of goods.

Zero Waste Events are one way in which the County can reduce upstream and downstream impacts from materials use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions relating to materials management.

### **Related Policies**

None.

### **Related Forms and Information**

None.

### **History**



## County of Santa Clara

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Date	Changes Made
2/11/2014	Policy Uploaded. (Kyle Larson)
5/24/2011	Policy Adopted. <a href="#">View legislative file.</a>