
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 117 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY DAVIS, COHEN, YOUNGBLOOD, O'BRIEN, KORTZ,
DONATUCCI, D. COSTA, MOLCHANY, CALTAGIRONE, HARKINS, EVERETT,
V. BROWN, FLECK, MAHONEY, MCCARTER, MURT AND FABRIZIO,
MARCH 11, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
MARCH 11, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging State agencies and communities, businesses and residents
2 of this Commonwealth to adopt zero-waste initiatives.

3 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth is committed to protecting and
4 enhancing environmental quality now and for future generations;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Every year Pennsylvania's residents, businesses and
7 institutions disposed of an estimated 20 million tons of solid
8 waste in landfill disposal; and

9 WHEREAS, The placement of materials in landfills can cause
10 damage to human health, wastes natural resources and wrongly
11 transfers liabilities to future generations; and

12 WHEREAS, Waste prevention, reuse, recycling and composting
13 are material management options that conserve resources while
14 reducing environmental impacts; and

15 WHEREAS, Increased recycling and composting will increase the
16 cost-efficiency of local, publicly supported recycling

1 facilities and programs; and

2 WHEREAS, Increased recycling saves energy, water and natural
3 resources, reduces air and water pollution, reduces the damage
4 caused by extracting resources from the environment and reduces
5 the need for landfill facilities; and

6 WHEREAS, Consumers are currently forced to assume the high
7 financial cost of collecting, recycling and disposing of
8 materials; and

9 WHEREAS, Increasingly, the Federal Government, as well as
10 international governments and national and international
11 organizations, are adopting the policy that the financial
12 responsibility of collecting, recycling and disposing of
13 materials belongs with producers; and

14 WHEREAS, Producers should design products to ensure that they
15 can be safely recycled into the marketplace or nature; and

16 WHEREAS, Most types of waste streams can be eliminated
17 through across-the-board minimum recycling content laws, the use
18 of nontoxic alternatives in product design and local composting
19 facilities; and

20 WHEREAS, Some presently nonrecyclable materials are necessary
21 for public health and national security; and

22 WHEREAS, Voluntary recycling goals have not achieved, and in
23 all probability, cannot achieve waste elimination; and

24 WHEREAS, Government is ultimately responsible for leading by
25 example and establishing criteria needed to eliminate waste so
26 that manufacturers produce and businesses sell materials that
27 can be safely recycled or composted; and

28 WHEREAS, The zero waste philosophy accepts that the earth's
29 ability to support life is finite and that natural resources
30 must be used in the most efficient and sustainable way possible;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, The guiding principles of zero waste are:

3 (1) managing resources instead of waste;

4 (2) conserving natural resources through waste
5 prevention and recycling;

6 (3) turning discarded resources into jobs and new
7 products instead of trash;

8 (4) promoting products and materials that are durable
9 and recyclable; and

10 (5) discouraging products and materials that can become
11 trash after their use;

12 therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all State
14 agencies and communities, businesses and residents of this
15 Commonwealth to adopt zero-waste initiatives in an effort to
16 enrich the lives of future generations.