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CITY HOSTS WASTE REDUCTION COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

Citizens invited to help chart Missoula's course to Zero Waste

The City of Missoula, in collaboration with its nonprofit partner Home ReSource and its community-based Zero Waste Advisory Committee, will launch its waste reduction initiative, ZERO by FIFTY: Missoula's Pathway to Zero Waste, with a series of community listening sessions on March 2, 7 and 8. The listening sessions are designed for citizens to learn about the concept of Zero Waste and to work with community leaders and neighbors to shape a community-wide plan to achieve Missoula's goal of reducing what we send to the landfill by 90 percent by the year 2050. All Missoula residents are invited to attend.

The Missoula City Council adopted the 2016 Missoula Zero Waste Resolution on Feb. 8, 2016: <http://mt-missoula3.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/33247>

The resolution directs City staff to facilitate the development of a Zero Waste Plan, collaborating with a local working group, for City operations and the community at large to meet the goals set in the resolution. The plan shall

- Be designed to achieve the goal of 90 percent waste diversion by 2050 with interim goals of 30 percent or better by 2025, 40 percent or better by 2030, and 60 percent or better by 2040,
- Identify objectives and recommend short-, medium- and long-term actions to reach the designated goals, and
- Allow for public process to inform and address recommended actions.

The City's Zero Waste Resolution adopts the concept of Zero Waste as defined by the Zero Waste International Alliance: "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.” Zero Waste strategies focus on reducing consumption first, reusing resources traditionally viewed as “waste” when we can and recycling when we must, leaving almost nothing or “zero” to be sent to the landfill. Zero Waste emphasizes the true and full value of resources, creates jobs and creative reuse opportunities and contributes to healthy people and a healthy environment.

For complete information and to comment online, visit the City of Missoula’s Zero Waste web page at zerobyfiftymissoula.com. For additional information on the workshop, contact Chase Jones at 552-6389 or cjones@ci.missoula.mt.us .

Community Listening Session #1

When: Thursday, March 2

Where: Missoula Federal Credit Union Training Center
3600 Brooks St., Missoula

Time: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Community Listening Session #2

When: Tuesday, March 7

Where: Burns Street Center
1500 Burns St., Missoula

Time: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Community Listening Session #3

When: Wednesday, March 8

Where: Missoula Public Library - Large Meeting Room
301 East Main St., Missoula

Time: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

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