

County of Buncombe

# Proclamation

## Food Waste Reduction Month

*Whereas*, North Carolina residents annually generate significant amounts of food waste that could be reduced to improve environmental health and food access through strategic prevention, rescue, and recycling actions (247 pounds per person in NC as compared to 219 pounds/person nationally); and,

*Whereas*, there is an opportunity to redirect edible food to nourish our state's residents who have inadequate access to food from the 30-40% of the national food supply that is wasted, 55.9% of which is estimated to be sent to landfills annually; and,

*Whereas*, it is estimated that 57,500 tons of food waste are generated in Buncombe County each year; and,

*Whereas*, according to most recent records, there were more than 34,770 food insecure individuals, including 7,520 children, in Buncombe County alone; and,

*Whereas*, April is Earth Month and food waste reduction relates to conservation activities and helps reduce carbon dioxide emissions, with food waste itself comprising nearly a quarter of municipal solid waste landfilled; and,

*Whereas*, North Carolina ranked ninth in the nation for food insecurity (19th for seniors and 11th for children), particularly among minority and low-income populations, food recovery services can reduce food waste and improve food security for all ages throughout the state; and,

*Whereas*, The United States spends \$408 billion or approximately 2% of our national gross domestic product to grow, process, and dispose of food that is never eaten, reducing food waste can reduce economic loss; and

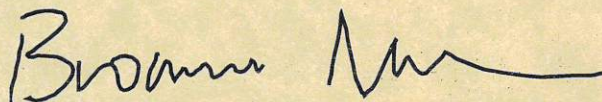
*Whereas*, reducing food waste would help preserve our natural resources as food waste uses 21% of the country's freshwater, 19% of our fertilizer, 18% of our cropland, and 24% of our landfill volume; and

*Whereas*, activities to reduce food waste can provide economic opportunities for entrepreneurs and farmers to sell otherwise unsellable products, and for the private composting industry to grow; and,

*Whereas*, reducing food waste will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support NC's goal to reduce emissions by 40% by 2025, as directed by Executive Order No. 80: *NC's Commitment to Address Climate Change and Transition to a Clean Energy Economy*; and,

*Whereas*, Buncombe County has adopted a target goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as outlined in the Environmental & Energy Stewardship focus area of the Buncombe County Strategic Plan 2025 and also as demonstrated by the Board's resolution to reduce carbon emissions by 2% annually.

*Now, therefore*, be it resolved, that on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize April 2022 as Food Waste Reduction Month, highlighting these resolutions and moving the County forward to engage in food waste prevention and recovery efforts, develop and share food waste prevention and recovery best practices, and ground the community in the traditions of food saving and composting.



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Brownie Newman  
Chairman, Buncombe County Board of Commissioners