

Less Plastic Buncombe Month

WHEREAS, Earth Day is April 22 and this year's global theme is Planet vs. Plastics, which calls for widespread awareness of the health risks of plastics and a rapid phaseout of all single-use plastics; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastic products including expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam™) are disposable and not designed for repeated use and are typically produced from petrochemicals; and

WHEREAS, a significant volume of single-use plastic is discarded and becomes litter found in rivers, roadways, and other public and private areas throughout Buncombe County and its environs; and

WHEREAS, a 2022 waste characterization study indicated that over 14.3% of Buncombe's landfilled residential waste is non-recyclable plastic; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastic bag litter blocks storm drains, becomes entangled in treetops, and fouls public areas; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastic litter can degrade into microplastics that threaten the environment and public health and have been detected in the French Broad River; and

WHEREAS, reducing the use of single-use plastics in our community will bolster the County's solid waste operations and extend the lifespan of our local landfill; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastic reduction will safeguard community health and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is dedicated to reducing its carbon footprint, improving the quality of its French Broad waters and maintaining a clean and healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is dedicated to developing equitable sustainable procurement processes; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is dedicated to reducing single-use plastic consumption by replacing such products with alternatives where feasible and beneficial; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is dedicated to encouraging its employees to use reusable products and practices as part of a broader strategy to reduce plastic waste and protect the environment; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is currently providing information and resources through the Less Plastic Buncombe campaign to encourage residents to reduce their single-use plastic consumption;

NOW THEREFORE, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 2024 as **Less Plastic Buncombe Month** in Buncombe County, NC and urge all government entities, private businesses, and residents to forgo or limit their use of plastic bags, other single-use plastics, and expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam™) wherever and whenever possible.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of Buncombe County to be affixed this 16th day of April 2024.

Brownie Newman
Chairman, Buncombe County Board of Commissioners