

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT FOR
BUNCOMBE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- WHEREAS, Buncombe County recognizes the urgent need to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- WHEREAS, North Carolina Executive Order No. 246 encourages local governments to incorporate the social costs of Greenhouse Gas Emissions into their decision making processes;
- WHEREAS, sustainable procurement practices play a crucial role in achieving these goals by promoting the purchase of goods and services that minimize environmental impact, including the reduction of harmful chemicals and pollutants;
- WHEREAS, incorporating sustainability practices into its procurement practices helps to ensure that projects undertaken by Buncombe County align with its commitment to environmental responsibility and stewardship;
- WHEREAS, sustainable procurement practices not only contribute to environmental protection and climate mitigation efforts but also generate long-term cost savings for the County by reducing energy consumption, waste generation, and lifecycle costs associated with products and services;
- WHEREAS, adopting sustainable procurement principles aligns with the values and priorities of the County to promote public health, safety, and well-being, ensuring that procurement decisions reflect the County's commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible resource management;
- WHEREAS, Buncombe County has already taken significant steps to reduce waste through Solid Waste programming and incorporate best practices in green design and construction through its LEED Gold resolution;
- WHEREAS, Buncombe County recognizes the principles of climate justice and equity, acknowledging that the impacts of climate change are disproportionately felt by marginalized and vulnerable communities, including low-income households, communities of color, indigenous peoples, and other historically marginalized groups;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners hereby support the community wide efforts to minimize or eliminate environmentally harmful products, including single use plastics, and will lead by example through encouraging sustainable procurement practices as a priority in its internal operations, integrating environmental considerations into all stages of procurement processes by:

1. Incorporating, where feasible and beneficial, requirements for plastic reduction and the use of biodegradable or compostable alternatives into its procurement processes;
2. Actively working towards procurement decisions that minimize negative impacts of goods and services including greenhouse gas emissions, landfill waste, inequity, and pollutants in county operations;
3. Exploring alternative materials and practices to eliminate or minimize the use of single-use plastics in County events;
4. Engaging with employees, and other stakeholders to encourage the adoption of reusable products and practices as part of a broader strategy to reduce plastic waste and protect the environment.
5. Encourage the procurement of goods and services that meet established sustainability

standards and are more protective of human health, including but not limited to certifications such as Energy Star, WaterSense, LEED, and Green Seal, BPI and Safer Choice;

6. Collaborating with suppliers and contractors to identify and implement innovative solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimize waste, protect public health, and promote the use of renewable resources;
7. Communicating its commitment to sustainable procurement to suppliers, contractors, and the community at large, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and collaboration;
8. Allocating adequate resources and support to enable the successful implementation of this resolution in a fiscally responsible manner within appropriated funding sources;
9. That this Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted this the 7th day of May, 2024.

BOARD OF COMISSIONERS FOR
THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

ATTEST

Stacey Woody, Interim Clerk

By: _____
Brownie Newman, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM

County Attorney