

**From:** [Phil Carver](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Agenda Item 5.b.  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 7:50:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [350 Salem Testimony on Solid Waste Policy.pdf](#)

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Greeting Mayor, Council and City Staff

Attached are 350 Salem's comments on Agenda Item 5.b. (Council Policy C-25, Solid Waste Management).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Phil Carver, Co-coordinator



Public Comment on Agenda Item 5.b.  
Council Policy C-25, Solid Waste Management

Mayor and City Council:

350 Salem OR appreciated the establishment of the Solid Waste Committee by Mayor Hoy in 2023. Since its inception 350 Salem OR has attended nearly every meeting of the Committee and has offered our comments and recommendations. We are grateful for the work of Councilor Stapleton, and more recently Councilor Nishioka to Chair the Committee, and the participation of Councilors Varney, Gwyn and Hoy.

We are thankful that the Committee has developed and is bringing forward a Council Policy on Solid Waste Management, something that is long overdue. However, we need to express our disappointment that the policy fails to make any commitment to Zero Waste as a goal and guiding principle for solid waste policy, as many other cities in the US have already done.

As defined by the Zero Waste International Alliance, Zero Waste means: "The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health."

According to the EPA the following cities have already embraced this definition and are aspiring to achieve Zero Waste: Austin, TX; Baltimore, MD; Hawai'i County, HI; Boston, MA; Boulder, CO; Chula Vista, CA; Dallas, TX; Delaware County, PA; Los Angeles, CA; Missoula, MT; Montgomery County, MD; Oakland, CA; Oceanside, CA; Palo Alto, CA; San Diego, CA; Washington, DC. We believe Salem should join them.

Another state capital, Austin, TX, has set policy to adopt a goal "to divert 90% of waste from landfills and incinerators by 2040 using a "whole system" approach to evaluate and manage the flow of resources and waste created by our communities" and has adopted a Zero Waste Strategic Plan to achieve this goal.

The Salem City Council has already set two other similar goals — a goal to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050 and a Vision Zero goal to eliminate traffic deaths in a decade. So there is ample precedent for the Council to set a goal for Zero Waste.

*We ask that you amend the Solid Waste Management policy to include an Zero Waste goal to divert 90% of waste from landfills by 2040. We believe this goal is achievable, particularly in light of SB 582, the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act, that is set to be implemented beginning in July of 2025.*

We thank you for your service to our city,

Phil Carver and Laurie Dougherty  
350 Salem OR Co-Coordinator  
November 11, 2024