

# Goals, Objectives & Policies



## Solid Waste Element

**PROVIDE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTES IN A MANNER WHICH ASSURES PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY, PROTECTS ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES, AND CONSERVES ENERGY.**

**GOAL 1**

**By 2020, reduce by 75% the amount of solid waste that would have been disposed of in the absence of landfill diversion practices such as recycling, reuse and composting. The City shall establish a goal of recycling recyclable solid waste at a rate of 40% by December 31, 2012; 50% by December 31, 2014; 60% by December 31, 2016; 70% by December 31, 2018; and 75% by December 31, 2020.**

**Objective 1.1**

- 1.1.1 The City shall minimize the amount of solid waste that must be disposed of in a landfill. In order of priority, minimization shall be attained by (1) source reduction of waste; (2) re-use; (3) recycling; (4) composting; and (5) landfilling.
- 1.1.2 The City shall continue to utilize procurement procedures that follow State and federal guidelines in terms of the paper purchasing policy by purchasing paper with a minimum of 25% post-consumer recycled content.
- 1.1.3 By 2015, the City shall certify that at least 12% of all city households are backyard composting their food and yard wastes.
- 1.1.4 The City shall encourage citizens to use re-usable tote bags for groceries and other retail shopping through the distribution of approximately 5,000 "Curbside Manners" brochures between 2010 and 2020.
- 1.1.5 By 2015, 98% of all multi-family residential and commercial properties shall participate in a recycling program.

**Policies**



- 1.1.6 The City shall continue to require new multi-family, commercial, and institutional developments to include recycling receptacles or have provisions for access to off-site recycling facilities. Recycling receptacles shall also be placed at public parks, the airport, and other places of public assembly.
- 1.1.7 The City shall encourage the State to allow only food and beverage containers that are recyclable, returnable, or degradable through the distribution of approximately 5,000 "Curbside Manners" brochures between 2010 and 2020.
- 1.1.8 The City shall maintain at least a 75% set out rate for the residential curbside recycling program.
- 1.1.9 The City will continue to expand the two-bin program to encourage separation of paper recyclables from plastic, metals and glass throughout the mandatory collection area of the city.

## Objective 1.2

**Prevent the disposal of hazardous waste that would cause significant degradation of the environment. Coordinate with hazardous materials service providers to increase the capacity of hazardous materials management facilities.**

### Policies

- 1.2.1 The City shall enforce illegal dumping laws. Such enforcement shall include efforts to clean up existing illegal dump sites, and develop or revise ordinances to increase the feasibility of prosecuting illegal dumpers.
- 1.2.2 Through coordination with the County and other waste material handlers, the City will continue to participate in a periodic, convenient special waste collection program for difficult-to-dispose-of waste such as tires, used oil, batteries, and asbestos, and will utilize the Household Hazardous Waste Center to promote increased reuse and recycling by the general public.
- 1.2.3 The City shall continue to coordinate with the Florida Departments of Transportation and Environmental Protection regarding the transportation of hazardous wastes within city limits.
- 1.2.4 The City shall continue to coordinate with the Alachua County Department of Environmental Protection, which requires submission of a hazardous materials management plan as a contingency for all development approvals for sites where hazardous materials may be handled.

**Conduct ongoing education campaigns to maintain citizen awareness of proper solid and hazardous waste management practices.**

**Objective 1.3**

- 1.3.1 The City shall continue to receive and publicize an annual report prepared by Alachua County, as set forth by Sec. 403.706(7), F.S., describing trends in the county solid waste management program, including, at a minimum, amounts by type of waste, amount and type of waste recycled, and percent of the population participating in recycling.
- 1.3.2 The City, in cooperation with Alachua County, shall continue to sponsor solid and hazardous waste education programs for school students and interested citizens.
- 1.3.3 The City shall continue to provide information to the local legislative delegation to support State and federal initiatives that encourage source reduction, re-use, recycling, and composting, and discourage use of difficult-to-recycle paper such as "slick" or "glossy" paper and "junk" mail.
- 1.3.4 The City shall continue to follow the provisions of the source reduction and recycling procurement policy that is intended to increase the recycled content of products purchased and used by the City, reduce waste in the manufacture and use of products purchased and used by the City, and encourage businesses that promote recycling to locate within the Gainesville area.

Policies

**Establish a level of service (LOS) standard for the disposal of solid waste generated by current and future City waste generators.**

**Objective 1.4**

- 1.4.1 The following LOS standard for disposal and collection capacity shall be established: 0.655 tons of solid waste per capita per year disposed (3.6 pounds of solid waste per capita per day disposed). The City shall continue to maintain contracts with solid waste haulers and landfill operators that require replacement and purchase of collection trucks necessary to collect 1.07 tons of solid waste per capita per year (5.9 pounds per capita per day).
- 1.4.2 The City shall continue to ensure that waste tonnages being generated within city limits are being accurately monitored by requiring monthly reporting of solid waste tonnages being delivered to disposal facilities as required by Section 403.706(18), F.S. Monthly tonnages shall also be reported for recyclables (including yard trash).

Policies



**Objective 1.5**

**The City shall coordinate with solid waste management facility providers for future increases in disposal capacity needed to maintain adequate disposal service levels throughout the 10-year planning period.**

Policies

- 1.5.1 In accordance with the "Interlocal Agreement for Solid Waste Management Services Between Alachua County and The City of Gainesville, Florida", Alachua County shall develop and maintain solid waste management facilities as necessary for the receipt, processing and/or disposal of all acceptable waste from within city limits. The City shall continue to abide by an interlocal agreement with the solid waste management facility provider(s) (currently Alachua County), effective December 21, 1998, that ensures that disposal capacity is available for the disposal of 3.6 pounds of solid waste per capita per day by City waste generators. This shall include, but not be necessarily limited to, all residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, and institutional waste. The agreement shall remain in effect until December 31, 2018. Upon mutual agreement of the parties, the agreement may be renewed for additional five-year periods.
  
- 1.5.2 If the solid waste management facility provider(s) is, at some future date, unable to provide disposal capacity and landfill space for city waste generators, the City shall increase the rate of citywide re-use, composting and recycling, prepare a report investigating the feasibility of resource recovery [waste-to-energy], and prohibit all development until the City can provide landfill service consistent with the LOS standard or contract with a landfill service provider to dispose of the waste.