

1 [Supporting Additional Environmental Education and Awareness for San Francisco Youth]

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3 **Resolution urging the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families to coordinate with the**  
4 **Department of the Environment to offer trainings and workshops for grantee organizations and**  
5 **their youth participants.**

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7 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a duty to protect the natural  
8 environment, the economy, and the health of its citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2002, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted a goal of  
10 achieving 75% diversion from landfill by 2010 and a long-term goal of achieving zero waste;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Zero waste means sending zero discards to the landfill or high-  
13 temperature destruction and promotes highest and best use of materials and a waste  
14 reduction hierarchy that includes: preventing waste, reducing and reusing first, and then  
15 recycling and composting; and

16 WHEREAS, As stated in the Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance (Board  
17 of Supervisors Ordinance No. 100-09), all persons in San Francisco must separate their  
18 refuse into recyclables, compostable, and trash, placing each type of refuse in a separate  
19 container designated for disposal of that type of refuse; no person may mix recyclables,  
20 compostable or trash, or deposit refuse of one type in a collection container designated for  
21 another type of refuse, except as otherwise provided in this Chapter 3; and

22 WHEREAS, The Department of Environment provides education, outreach, technical  
23 assistance, trainings, and resources about recycling and composting to residents,  
24 businesses, employees, students, and visitors to San Francisco; and

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1           WHEREAS, The Department of Environment has conducted extensive outreach to K-  
2 12 students throughout the city for more than fifteen years resulting in significant increases in  
3 waste diversion; and

4           WHEREAS, The Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF) provides  
5 grant support to 294 organizations a year and serves 53,956 participants, 55% of which are  
6 between the ages 11 to 17; and

7           WHEREAS, Due to a variety of factors (including Principals, Custodial Services and  
8 Student Nutrition Services), middle and high school communities (including students, school  
9 administration, and afterschool providers) would benefit from greater awareness and  
10 education about how to recycle and compost more in order to send less trash to the landfill;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, DCYF can reach out to an even broader range of youth via their grantees,  
13 especially the underrepresented, and can provide a vital link between education from the  
14 Department of the Environment, and these youth; and

15           WHEREAS, To assess the needs of middle and high school communities around  
16 sorting waste, the Youth Commission conducted a survey of 530 young people in San  
17 Francisco to better understand their practices and commitment to zero waste; and

18           WHEREAS, The young people surveyed offered an array of recommendations for how  
19 San Francisco can better support their efforts to sort waste such as additional classroom  
20 lessons, making it easier for residents and students to recycle and compost at home, and  
21 providing greater opportunities to recycle (such as at dedicated recycling centers); and

22           WHEREAS, When asked, “How often do you compost and recycle at home, school,  
23 and in public spaces?”, youth age 11 to 24 responded as follows -- 3% said they never  
24 compost at home, 8% said they rarely compost at home, 24% said they sometimes compost  
25 at home; 2% said they never compost at school, 7% said they rarely compost at school, 41%

1 said they sometimes compost at school; 3% said they never compost in public places, 13%  
2 said they rarely compost public places, 65% said they sometimes compost in public places;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, When asked, “How often do you compost and recycle at home, school,  
5 and in public spaces?”, youth age 11 to 24 responded as follows -- 2% said they never recycle  
6 at home, 2% said they rarely recycle at home, 15% said they sometimes recycle at home; 1%  
7 said they never recycle at school, 3% said they rarely recycle at school, 26% said they  
8 sometimes recycle at school; 1% said they never recycle in public places, 9% said they rarely  
9 recycle in public places, 54% said they sometimes recycle in public places; and

10 WHEREAS, When asked what would make sorting waste easier, 50% of respondents  
11 wished to learn about the big impact sorting waste has on the environment, and 74% of youth  
12 respondents expressed a desire for clear and larger signs in even more school areas detailing  
13 how to sort waste; and

14 WHEREAS, When young people are exposed to positive behaviors in elementary  
15 school, such as recycling, composting, and voting, they are more likely to model the behavior  
16 as they move into adulthood; and

17 WHEREAS, It is important to extend this education beyond the walls of the classroom,  
18 and into other environments like after-school programs; and

19 WHEREAS, When educated on the importance and the practice of recycling and  
20 composting young people can also become ambassadors in teaching their families and peers  
21 how to recycle and compost; and

22 WHEREAS, To achieve zero waste, it will take all San Franciscans including young  
23 people to make it a reality; and

24 WHEREAS, By educating and empowering our youth about the important practice of  
25 recycling and composting, we can foster social norms that make the daily practice of this duty

1 a more common and acceptable behavior among middle school and high school students;  
2 now, therefore, be it

3           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges Department of  
4 Children, Youth, and Their Families to offer environmental trainings lead by Department of  
5 Environment (SFE) to DCYF grantee organizations, and encourage grantees to host  
6 environmental workshops for their youth participants each year focused on sorting waste and  
7 other environmental awareness education deemed necessary; and, be it

8           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges DCYF to coordinate with  
9 SFE and their School Education Team, who are willing and able, to provide these trainings for  
10 DCYF grantees and their youth participants assuming time and resources allow for it.

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