

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Zero Waste Policy

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) acknowledges that waste generation negatively impacts the health of residents. Placement of waste materials in waste disposal facilities can lead to a transfer of liabilities to future generations. Additionally, waste that is not properly contained or responsibly disposed can lead to blight and unsanitary conditions in the community.

The purpose of the SGVCOG Zero Waste Policy is to:

- Conserve natural resources and protect the environment.
- Minimize pollutants from entering the air, land, and water.
- Mitigate the harmful nature of single-use plastics to the marine environment.
- Lead the San Gabriel Valley region in supporting and implementing zero waste policies.
- Preserve the environment in the San Gabriel Valley for future generations.
- Create a more sustainable and efficient economy.

Policy Statement:

It is the policy of the SGVCOG that the agency will work to:

1. Work to reduce the amount of waste being generated and disposed of by SGVCOG employees and committees to the extent practicable.
2. Encourage employees, cities, residents, and partners to reuse and recycle materials judiciously and pursue source reduction by selecting products or processes that use fewer natural resources, are minimally packaged, and minimize or eliminate the use of toxic materials.
3. Reduce food waste by purchasing only what can reasonably be consumed. Divert recovered food waste to its highest and best use following the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Food Recovery Hierarchy.
4. Incorporate into existing educational materials and programs messages that encourage residents to use their buying power to demonstrate a preference for less-toxic, durable, reusable, recycled, or composted products and materials over unsustainable, toxic, disposable, or single-use products.
5. Reduce the proliferation of unnecessary plastic reusable food service ware and packaging in daily commerce to the extent practicable.
6. Support legislation and policy that drives producers to minimize environmental impacts through improved product design.
7. Support regional, state, and federal efforts to implement laws, policies, and regulations that promote zero waste objectives.
8. Encourage member agencies to adopt zero waste policies and policies that favor environmental and economically sustainable practices in their local jurisdictions.
9. Work locally and regionally to assist in zero waste planning and implementation.