



STAFF REPORT

To: Summit County Council
From: Emily Quinton, Sustainability Program Manager
Tim Loveday, Solid Waste Superintendent
Date of meeting: April 3, 2024
Subject: Presentation and Possible Adoption of a Zero Food Waste Compact
Proclamation 2024-02

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION

Consider adopting proclamation 2024-02 in support of the Zero Food Waste Compact.

BACKGROUND

The Summit County Council has long named environmental stewardship as a strategic priority, recognizing the opportunity to work towards a sustainable future for the community at large and within the County government's day to day operations. This commitment is demonstrated through the adoption of ambitious climate change action and sustainability goals and can be seen in action through several programs and initiatives around renewable energy, transportation electrification, green building practices, and more. Collaboration is key to this work, including with municipalities in Summit County and throughout the state, nonprofits, community-based organizations, and with individual community members. Current examples of collaboration, such as with Park City, the Chamber of Commerce, Recycle Utah, and the Park City Community Foundation on the Green Business Program show the strength in working together towards shared goals and values.

Committed to implementing local climate solutions, the Park City Community Foundation ("Community Foundation") announced the Zero Food Waste 2030 goal in April 2023. Working closely with former Congressman Ben McAdams and other sustainability leaders over the past year, the Community Foundation has released a comprehensive strategic plan which serves as a roadmap for reaching the ambitious Zero Food Waste 2030 goal. The plan focuses on three main objectives and outlines steps to engage businesses, local governments, nonprofits, residents, and visitors in efforts to reduce food waste and divert what food waste is produced from Summit County's Three Mile Landfill. Throughout the development of this strategic plan and identification of core activities for 2024, the Community Foundation has engaged with Summit County and Park City Municipal staff from the Sustainability and Solid Waste divisions.

FOCUS ON FOOD WASTE

The Community Foundation recognizes that by focusing on food waste, the community will be empowered to make a big impact through relatively small behavior changes. These changes will lead to significantly less waste being sent to the Summit County landfill which will save money and

contribute to expanding the life of the landfill. As measured through prior waste characterization studies conducted by Summit County and Park City Municipal, most waste being sent to the landfill could be diverted, with up to 60% of the waste entering the landfill in any given year being food waste. Another reason the Community Foundation is focusing on food waste is because food waste breaks down and produces methane when landfilled, a potent greenhouse gas. Getting food waste out of the landfill will reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with solid waste practices while inviting the community to see the resource that food waste can be when it is diverted to uses like composting.

THE ZERO FOOD WASTE COMPACT

With its ambitious Zero Food Waste 2030 goal, the Community Foundation is seeking collective support, input, and commitment from local government, businesses, nonprofits, and residents in the form of a Compact. The Zero Food Waste Compact is designed to find common ground and alignment around core principles for reducing and diverting food waste from the landfill:

- *Minimize food waste, acknowledging that food production is costly and uses critical resources like water, energy, and land.*
- *Divert food waste through composting to reduce a key source of methane in our community.*
- *Collaborate to achieve our goal, knowing that lasting change is only possible when our residents, local government, nonprofits, businesses, and tourists work together.*
- *Support systematic changes in our community that will ultimately provide more effective, sustainable, and economical waste management practices and tools.*
- *Educate ourselves on composting and the importance of food waste diversion.*
- *Share our progress and learnings along the way.*

The Zero Food Waste Compact is attached and was presented to the Summit County and Park City Councils at the last joint meeting held on March 22, 2024. The Summit County Council signaled interest in this effort and the Community Foundation's request to the Council to consider formally supporting the Compact through a Proclamation.

NEXT STEPS

Staff from the Community Foundation and Summit County Sustainability and Solid Waste divisions ask that the Council review the Compact and consider supporting it through the adoption of Summit County Proclamation 2024-02.



Zero Food Waste 2030 Compact: United for a Sustainable Future

We, local governments, nonprofits, businesses, and residents, are joining together to eliminate food waste from the Summit County, Utah landfill by 2030. Recognizing that food waste is a major source of potent greenhouse gases, accounts for more than half the waste in our landfill, and creates a financial burden for our community, this compact calls on community members to make a united commitment to reduce, divert, and eliminate food waste from entering our landfill.

Park City and Summit County are already leaders in addressing climate change, each having committed to ambitious environmental goals. We share a passion for building a healthier world for the next generation. Reducing and diverting food waste is an immediate and impactful step to improve air and water quality, slow climate change, allocate public funds more wisely, and create a more sustainable future.

In support of the Zero Food Waste 2030 goal, we pledge to:

- Minimize food waste, acknowledging that food production is costly and uses critical resources like water, energy, and land.
- Divert food waste through composting to reduce a key source of methane in our community.
- Collaborate to achieve our goal, knowing that lasting change is only possible when our residents, local government, nonprofits, businesses, and tourists work together.
- Support systematic changes in our community that will ultimately provide more effective, sustainable, and economical waste management practices and tools.
- Educate ourselves on composting and the importance of food waste diversion.
- Share our progress and learnings along the way.

By signing this compact, we pledge our support of the Zero Food Waste 2030 goal and to uphold the principles listed above.

Malena Stevens, Chair
On behalf of Summit County Council

Date



Proclamation No. 2024-02

PROCLAMATION ADOPTING

Park City Community Foundation's Zero Food Waste Compact

WHEREAS, Summit County and Park City are at the forefront of sustainability efforts, demonstrated by our shared goals and the dedicated work of individuals at the County and City, community groups, and individuals.

WHEREAS, Summit County and Park City are part of a tight-knit community deeply rooted in our natural environment.

WHEREAS, Park City Community Foundation announced the Zero Food Waste 2030 goal in 2023 aimed at diverting all food waste from the Summit County landfill by 2030.

WHEREAS, when disposed in a landfill, food waste breaks down and releases methane, a greenhouse gas that is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

WHEREAS, Summit County and Park City have both set ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and recognize waste as a contributor to communitywide emissions.

WHEREAS, roughly 80% of the solid waste that reaches Summit County's Three Mile Landfill could be diverted, and according to waste characterization studies conducted by Summit County in 2019, up to 60% is food waste.

WHEREAS, reducing, and by 2030 eliminating the food waste reaching Summit County's landfill will help to extend the life of the landfill, saving taxpayer dollars.

WHEREAS, we care for one another and the place we call home and work to create a sustainable future for our community.

WHEREAS, the Zero Food Waste Compact offers an opportunity for local government, business leaders, and all those that live, work, and play in Summit County to express a shared commitment to reducing food waste overall and diverting food waste away from the landfill to other uses like composting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Summit County Council supports the Zero Food Waste 2030 goal by signing the Zero Food Waste Compact, committing to upholding the principles outlined in Compact, and encouraging all local governments, businesses, organizations, and residents to do the same.



APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of April 2024 by the SUMMIT COUNTY COUNCIL

Malena Stevens, Chair

Tonja B. Hanson, Vice-Chair

Canice Harte

Roger Armstrong

Christopher F. Robinson

Evelyn Furse, Clerk