

**Buchanan, Rita**

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**Subject:** FW: Agenda Item #18 > Support ZWP and Polystyrene Ban

**From:** Greg Gunther <[ggunther@frogkick.com](mailto:ggunther@frogkick.com)>

**Date:** October 17, 2014 at 5:32:21 PM PDT

**To:** Mark Jomsky <[mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net)>

**Cc:** Mayor Bogaard <[BBogaard@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:BBogaard@cityofpasadena.net)>, "Victor Gordo c/o Vannia DeLaCuba" <[vdelacuba@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:vdelacuba@cityofpasadena.net)>, <[JohnJKennedy@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:JohnJKennedy@cityofpasadena.net)>, Margaret McAustin

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**Subject: Agenda Item #18 > Support ZWP and Polystyrene Ban**

Dear Mayor Bogaard, City Councilmembers and City Staff –

My name is Greg Gunther (resident of Pasadena's Central District) – and I'm writing out of concern for the health of our community and integrity of our environment.

**With regard to Item #18 ("Zero Waste Strategic Plan") on the 10-20-2014 Agenda, I urge City Council to wholeheartedly support the Environmental Advisory Commission's recommendations:**

- **Adopt the Zero Waste Strategic Plan**
- **Accelerate the exploration of a polystyrene ban**

Polystyrene is a well-known and extremely serious environmental problem – it breaks up into small pieces which cannot be retrieved, and ultimately harms both wildlife and human populations. Fortunately, this dangerous situation can be effectively remedied with inexpensive alternatives.

Responsible business owners, and responsible municipalities across the country have willingly stepped forward proactively to ensure that they are part of the solution (not part of the problem). It is time for Pasadena to follow suit.

Thank you –  
// Greg Gunther

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Pasadena, CA 91101-5668

[ggunther@frogkick.com](mailto:ggunther@frogkick.com)

**Iraheta, Alba**

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**From:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** FW: 5 new petition signatures: Jack Eidt, Rose Richmond...

**From:** Jack Eidt [mailto:mail@changemail.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 17, 2014 12:17 AM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** 5 new petition signatures: Jack Eidt, Rose Richmond...

5 new people recently signed Day One, Inc.'s petition "[Pasadena City Council: Support Sustainable, Healthy Takeout Food Packaging: Phase Out Styrofoam](#)" on Change.org.

There are now 155 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Day One, Inc. by clicking here:  
<http://www.change.org/p/pasadena-city-council-support-sustainable-healthy-takeout-food-packaging-phase-out-styrofoam/responses/new?response=24008c973a18>

Dear Pasadena City Council,

I Support Sustainable, Healthy Takeout Food Packaging in the City of Pasadena: Please Phase Out Single-Use Styrofoam! Styrofoam (polystyrene) food packaging such as single-use cups and plates is a wasteful, unhealthy, and easily-replaceable source of non-biodegradable trash. --One of Styrofoam's components, styrene, is a known hazardous substance that releases toxins into food when Styrofoam products are used in reheating. --Polystyrene food packaging is lightweight, easily blown into public spaces, and very difficult to recycle. --The City of Pasadena does NOT recycle any styrofoam that has been contaminated with food (i.e., carry-out food containers). --Polystyrene kills wildlife and is a major source of plastic marine pollution. --A study published in 2011 found that 71% of all the plastic flowing through the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers is foam. --The US EPA states that styrene can have serious impacts on human health, wildlife and the aquatic environment because the product breaks down, contaminating food and entering the food chain when ingested by marine life. --Affordable, safe alternatives exist. Over 60 California cities and counties have already adopted local policies phasing out styrofoam and requiring the use of recyclable or compostable takeout containers. Examples include the Cities of Santa Monica (2007), Dana Point, West Hollywood (1990), Newport Beach, Ojai and Oakland. BY SIGNING THIS PETITION, I AM URGING PASADENA TO JOIN THE GROWING NUMBER OF CITIES TO PHASE OUT THE USE OF STYROFOAM (POLYSTYRENE) TAKEOUT CONTAINERS AND REQUIRE THE USE OF HEALTHIER RECYCLABLE/COMPOSTABLE ALTERNATIVES.

Sincerely,

- 155. Jack Eidt Los Angeles, California
- 154. Rose Richmond West Hollywood, California
- 151. David Cutter Pasadena, California
- 150. Wilton Mui Pasadena, California
- 149. Linda Kite Los Angeles, California

**Iraheta, Alba**

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**From:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** FW: Please strengthen and adopt the Zero Waste Plan

**From:** Jonathan Edwards [mailto:[jedwards@gmail.com](mailto:jedwards@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 20, 2014 12:30 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Cc:** Morey Wolfson; Wesley Reutimann  
**Subject:** Please strengthen and adopt the Zero Waste Plan

Dear Mayor Bogaard, Council Members and City Staff,

I support the city's move to be a sustainable city. Please strengthen and adopt the draft Zero Waste Plan.

I suggest that the local polystyrene policy be strengthened by:

1. Adjust the adoption/target date to be sooner. We can accomplish this sooner than Dec 31, 2015.
2. Expand/Specify the polystyrene alternative options to be studied to be "Environmentally-Preferrable" containers, not just "compostable"

My understanding is that The EAC suggested that the Department should research more than only "compostable" alternatives to polystyrene. There are a variety of environmentally-preferable containers (such as bio-based and PET containers) that serve as not-perfect, but far preferable, alternatives to polystyrene.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Jonathan Edwards • DOWNTOWN PASADENA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
CITRUST INSURANCE AGENCY / ACI COMMERCIAL INSURANCE BROKERS**

*Health Insurance Agent + Home, Auto, & Business Insurance*  
Pasadena, California • cellphone (626) 676-3466 • California License # 0F63642

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[www.downtownpasadena.org](http://www.downtownpasadena.org)

**From:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** FW: Adoption of Local Polystyrene Policy

**From:** amy@godayone.org [mailto:amy@godayone.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 20, 2014 3:07 PM  
**To:** Bogaard, Bill  
**Subject:** Adoption of Local Polystyrene Policy

Dear Mayor Bogaard, Council Members and City Staff,

As a resident of the San Gabriel Valley and as someone who works in the city of Pasadena, I am concerned about the health of our community and environment, I am writing you today to urge the City to adopt the draft Zero Waste Plan, as well as a local polystyrene policy.

Polystyrene food packaging such as single-use cups is a wasteful, unhealthy source of non-biodegradable trash that over 80 Cities and Counties across the state of California have moved to regulate over the past two decades in an effort to address polystyrene's many negative impacts, including:

- One of Styrofoam's components, styrene, is a known hazardous substance that releases toxins into food when Styrofoam products are used in reheating (e.g., microwave).
- Polystyrene food packaging is lightweight, easily blown into public spaces, and very difficult to recycle.
- The City of Pasadena does NOT recycle any styrofoam that has been contaminated with food (i.e., carry-out food containers).
- Polystyrene is a major source of plastic marine pollution.
- The US EPA states that styrene can have serious impacts on human health, wildlife and the aquatic environment because the product breaks down and can clog waterways.
- Recyclable and/or compostable alternatives are readily available at little additional cost to the consumer.

The Cities of Santa Monica, Dana Point, Newport Beach, Ojai and Oakland, to name a few, have already adopted local polystyrene policies to great success. The time is long overdue for Pasadena to follow suit. Please support the draft Zero Waste Plan and the 2015 adoption of a local polystyrene policy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amy Wong  
Nutrition Education Obesity Prevention Assistant  
Day One  
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626-229-9750  
[amy@goDAYONE.org](mailto:amy@goDAYONE.org)  
Day One builds vibrant, healthy cities  
by advancing public health,  
empowering youth, and  
igniting change



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10/20/2014  
Item 18

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED ZERO-WASTE MASTER PLAN  
Submitted to MSC 10/7/14  
Prepared by: Christine Lenches-Hinkel, Waste Less Living, Inc.  
(resubmitted to City Council with edits 10/20/14)

Good Evening Honorable Mayor, Respected members of City Council, City Manager and staff;

Thank you for this opportunity to provide public comment on the Draft Zero-Waste Master Plan that you will be considering adopting tonight. I first wanted to commend the staff for all their hard work and responsiveness to the public's comments in preparing this plan. It is an exciting time and I am grateful to be a part of this process. A few highlights:

1. I am very happy to see the direction the master plan is taking with regard to their guiding principles and its recommended short-term initiatives, particularly the proposed ban on polystyrene and the initiatives for "enhancing educational programs" and "expanding school programs." Just to echo some past comments made on the polystyrene ban, such disposables are a nuisance and environmental hazard as they are made from non-renewable resources. With the right kind of education program in place at both the school and business level, acceptance and desire for such a ban even by the business community can be achieved.
2. With regards to schools, I would like to point out that the Diversion Estimates table on p. 7 does not list schools as a sector group. They certainly can be considered a high generator of organic waste. This is actually the sector that Waste Less Living has been working in for the last 5 years with great success.

I would like to share with the City Council our diversion numbers that we have already recorded and helped schools to divert. Last year we helped High Point Academy divert and compost 8,475 lbs or over 4 tons of organic material. That's just from one small school in Pasadena with a student population of 400. Between 2009 and 2014, Waste Less Living helped to reduce their landfillable trash generation to just 15% with an all time low of 6% on one occasion. At other schools, we have helped them reach upwards of 90% waste diversion rate.

HIGH POINT ACADEMY  
Past Waste Diversion Performance

- TOTAL ORGANICS RECOVERED 2013-2014: 8,475 lbs
- CUMULATIVE TOTAL since 2010: 49,879.7 lbs.
- 2013-2014 WASTE DIVERSION RATE: 85% Trash Rate: 15%
- 2012-2013 WASTE DIVERSION RATE: 87% Trash Rate: 13%

- 2011-2012 WASTE DIVERSION RATE: 85% Trash Rate: 17.6%
- 2010-2011 WASTE DIVERSION RATE: 79% Trash Rate: 20.6%
- 2009-2010 WASTE DIVERSION RATE: 77% Trash Rate: 22.9%

I would also like to share our diversion and greenhouse gas reduction estimates we submitted to CalRecycle for our proposed composting project that would bring composting to the City.

According to our estimates, if all District schools implemented an organics recovery, composting and education program like the one Waste Less Living offers, ***the City has the potential to divert 467 tons/year and reduce greenhouse gases by 196.14 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e per year.***

These numbers, if the City Council, feels is relevant, can be included in the Zero-Waste Master Plan. These estimates are inclusive of the entire school District based on real numbers we have already collected and logged from our partner schools.

Schools are the best place to educate our community on the subject of zero-waste and they are the best place to actually model this new type of resource management system.

Also, item No. 6 on page 18 relates to the scavenging of recyclables. As the organics industry continues to evolve, as evidenced in the passing of AB 1826, I urge the City ***to define more clearly what recyclables actually are and to NOT include food scraps, compostable tableware and other plant or fiber-based products in this definition.*** This is a similar request being made with regards to the proposed revisions to the solid-waste franchise ordinance that the Council has already debated in the past.

Also, please consider including "local processing capacity" in the Objective statement for Item No. 7.

Last, please consider including "composting" as part of the Objective statement for Item No. 9.

In conclusion, I would like to ask that you: 1) consider including the school sector and diversion metrics we can provide in the final version of the zero-waste plan; and 2) not include organics as a 'recyclable' item subject to the anti-scavenging ordinance.

Thank you again for your time and attention. Waste Less Living is here to help and I look forward to continuing the dialogue with Department staff, the committee and respected members of City Council in our joint efforts to get the City to Zero-Waste.