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5 **AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**
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7 Affirming Milwaukee County’s commitment to environmentally sustainable practices
8 through the reduction or elimination of the use of single-use plastic or polystyrene foam
9 products in County-owned and operated facilities and requesting the Director of
10 Sustainability to draft contract language for approval by the Milwaukee County Board of
11 Supervisors directing Milwaukee County vendors and contractors to reduce or eliminate
12 the use of single-use plastic or polystyrene foam products in County facilities
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15 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors created the Green
16 Purchasing Taskforce in 2006 to encourage the use of environmentally preferable
17 products, including those that reduce waste, save energy and are less toxic; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted File No. 07-
20 111, on July 26, 2007, creating an environmental and conservation “Green Print”
21 initiative for Milwaukee County in response to the recommendations of the Green
22 Purchasing Taskforce; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Green Print initiative instructs the Director of Sustainability to
25 oversee current and future energy efficiency and eco-friendly initiatives, including
26 improvement of recycling efforts; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reports that
29 the average Wisconsin resident disposes of 1.9 pounds of recyclables every day; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Rochester Institute of Technology estimates that plastic debris
32 makes up 80 percent of the litter on Great Lakes shorelines and that nearly 22 million
33 pounds of plastic enter the Great Lakes each year, with more than half of that amount
34 entering Lake Michigan; and
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36 WHEREAS, polystyrene foam, used in food and beverage packaging, is not
37 biodegradable and difficult to recycle and, because of this, the Wisconsin DNR allows it
38 to be landfilled or incinerated; and
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40 WHEREAS, rules and guidelines governing which items can and cannot be
41 recycled are often confusing and, frequently, items that may appear to be recyclable are
42 not, including plastic wrap, labels, clamshell packaging, and very small plastic items as
43 these are difficult to process at recycling facilities; and
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45 WHEREAS, single-use plastic and polystyrene foam are more frequently used in
46 the provision of food products, including food containers, straws, utensils, and
47 packaging; and
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49 WHEREAS, alternatives to single-use plastic and polystyrene foam are much
50 more widely accessible and available as we learn more about the harm that single-use
51 products have on the environment; and
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53 WHEREAS, municipalities across the United States have started to assess their
54 single-use product policies in an effort to reduce or eliminate their use and promote
55 products that are reusable, biodegradable, or compostable; and
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57 WHEREAS, Plastic-Free MKE is a local coalition made up of private, public, and
58 non-profit entities, including the City of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Riverkeeper, and the
59 Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), encouraging the elimination of
60 single-use plastics throughout the community; and
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62 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is committed to the reduction or elimination of
63 single-use products in County-owned and operated facilities; and
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65 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County also holds many contracts with vendors for food,
66 beverage, recreation, and other services throughout the County; and
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68 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County wants to improve upon its efforts to reduce or
69 eliminate single-use plastics and encourage its vendors to adhere to a similar
70 commitment for services provided in County facilities; and
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72 WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment (PE&E), at its
73 meeting of May 19, 2020, laid over File No. 20-147 to the call of the chairperson
74 (vote 5-0); and
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76 WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of
77 April 13, 2021, recommended adoption of File No. 20-147 as amended (vote 5-0); now,
78 therefore,
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80 BE IT RESOLVED, that Milwaukee County reaffirms its commitment to
81 environmental sustainability and recycling efforts throughout the County; and
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83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the policy of Milwaukee County to reduce
84 or eliminate single-use plastic products and polystyrene foam distributed by entities on
85 property owned, operated or supported by Milwaukee County; and
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87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Parks, Recreation, and
88 Culture is requested to reduce its provision of single-use plastics and polystyrene foam
89 in **2020 2021**, with a goal of reaching 50 percent reduction upon final adoption of this
90 resolution; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture shall have a goal of 100 percent elimination of the provision of single-use plastic and polystyrene foam in ~~2021~~ 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ~~2021~~ 2022 Recommended Budget for the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture shall reflect the budgetary impact of switching to non-plastic and polystyrene foam commodities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Sustainability, working in conjunction with the Office of Corporation Counsel, is requested to draft language that could be added to future contracts with applicable vendors on the County's policy related to single-use plastic and polystyrene foam; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Sustainability is requested to communicate this policy and the future potential contract language to County administrators that oversee agreements to encourage vendors to begin complying with the policy in advance of contract renewals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Sustainability is requested to notify all County contract holders of the contents of this resolution and, in the case of long-term leases, the potential for contract language to be added upon renewal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each Milwaukee County department shall provide an update to the Committee on Finance detailing single-use plastic and polystyrene foam reduction efforts during the budget review process in October ~~2020~~ 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors encourages the Milwaukee County Executive to promote the reduction of single-use plastic and polystyrene foam in all Milwaukee County departments, include appropriate language in all applicable contracts not subject to County Board approval, and with all entities receiving financial support from Milwaukee County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Milwaukee County, through the Office of Sustainability, will join the Plastic-Free MKE coalition to promote and encourage the elimination of single-use plastics in Milwaukee.