



Proclamation

WHEREAS: When single-use plastic bags, Styrofoam containers, and plastic straws and cutlery are disposed of, they often contaminate waterways, threaten animal and sea life, and pile up as litter or in increasingly expensive landfills; and

WHEREAS: Los Alamos disposes of 1,300 tons per year of compostable food waste at a cost of \$65,000 per year; and

WHEREAS: Providing single-use items and disposing of single-use items and food waste are significant costs to businesses and the County; and

WHEREAS: Compostable single-use items of all kinds are available, and progress continues in cost reduction of compostables; and

WHEREAS: If decreased volume of waste, and technologies such as composting, reduce the County's cost of collection and disposal, the savings will be returned to our citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS: Businesses that promote reusable containers (as allowable under sanitary requirements), and simply ask customers before providing single-use bags or straws, can significantly reduce wasteful use and cost; and

WHEREAS: When businesses charge explicit fees, such as 5 or 10 cents per bag, for single-use items, customers reduce their use of such items.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos supports and encourages our citizens and local businesses that are moving toward zero waste and substitution of single-use plastics with reusable (when allowable), recyclable, or compostable alternatives; and

FURTHERMORE, the Council encourages all businesses in Los Alamos to do the same, and to consider offering reusable bags (when allowable) for a reasonable cost and enabling customers to reduce the wasteful use of single-use bags, straws, and containers.

DATED this ____ day of _____.

Sara C. Scott, Chair
Los Alamos County Council