Why Zero Waste?
Zero Waste Policy

• Approved by the national board in December of 2019
• Updated and improved upon the policies from 1992 & 2008
Why Zero Waste?

- Protect natural resources, the planet and wild spaces (less extraction)
- We are currently using 1.75 times the resources per year than the earth can regenerate by the end of the year
Since humans started cutting down forests, 46% of trees have been felled, according to a 2015 study in the journal Nature.

By the year 2030, we might only have 10% of our forests left… and if we don’t stop deforestation, they could all be gone in 100 years.
For every one ton of waste we produce, there are 71 tons produced upstream from mining, manufacturing, distribution, products and packaging.
1/3 of all food produced in the world is wasted

25% of the world’s fresh water supply is used to grow food that’s never eaten
How much land is used to produce food that never gets eaten?

The land devoted to producing wasted food would be the second largest country in the world by area, roughly 5.4 million square miles.

Learn more at climate.universityofcalifornia.edu
Greenhouse Gas reduction

- If food waste were a country it would be the 3rd largest emitter of greenhouse gases (after China & the USA)
The way we produce, consume and dispose of our products and our food accounts for 42% of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Zero Waste planning is one of the fastest, easiest, most cost-effective ways a community can reduce their climate impact.
Single Use Products and Plastic

80% of US products are used once and then thrown away.
Half of all plastics ever manufactured have been made in the last 15 years.
• There will be more plastics in the ocean than fish by 2050

• A Garbage truck’s worth of plastic ends up in the ocean every minute

• Only 9% of plastic discards are recycled
• 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and 1 million sea birds are killed by marine plastic pollution annually.

• Producing one ton of plastic generates up to 2.5 tons of carbon dioxide.
Plastics are in our waters, wildlife and our bodies

- The average person swallows about a credit card’s worth of plastic every week.
- Researchers recently tested various organs of people who had passed away for microplastics, and they found traces of microplastics in every single organ.
More than 22 million pounds of plastic pollution end up in the Great Lakes every year.
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