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4 **A RESOLUTION**

5
6 Affirming Milwaukee County’s commitment to environmentally sustainable practices
7 through the reduction or elimination of the use of single-use plastic or polystyrene foam
8 products in County-owned and operated facilities and requesting the Director of
9 Sustainability to draft contract language for approval by the Milwaukee County Board of
10 Supervisors directing Milwaukee County vendors and contractors to reduce or eliminate
11 the use of single-use plastic or polystyrene foam products in County facilities
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14 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors created the Green
15 Purchasing Taskforce in 2006 to encourage the use of environmentally preferable
16 products, including those that reduce waste, save energy and are less toxic; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted File No. 07-
19 111, on July 26, 2007, creating an environmental and conservation “Green Print”
20 initiative for Milwaukee County in response to the recommendations of the Green
21 Purchasing Taskforce; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Green Print initiative instructs the Director of Sustainability to
24 oversee current and future energy efficiency and eco-friendly initiatives, including
25 improvement of recycling efforts; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reports that
28 the average Wisconsin resident disposes of 1.9 pounds of recyclables every day; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Rochester Institute of Technology estimates that plastic debris
31 makes up 80 percent of the litter on Great Lakes shorelines and that nearly 22 million
32 pounds of plastic enter the Great Lakes each year, with more than half of that amount
33 entering Lake Michigan; and
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35 WHEREAS, polystyrene foam, used in food and beverage packaging, is not
36 biodegradable and difficult to recycle and, because of this, the Wisconsin DNR allows it
37 to be landfilled or incinerated; and
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39 WHEREAS, rules and guidelines governing which items can and cannot be
40 recycled are often confusing and, frequently, items that may appear to be recyclable are
41 not, including plastic wrap, labels, clamshell packaging, and very small plastic items as
42 these are difficult to process at recycling facilities; and
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44 WHEREAS, single-use plastic and polystyrene foam are more frequently used in
45 the provision of food products, including food containers, straws, utensils, and
46 packaging; and

47 WHEREAS, alternatives to single-use plastic and polystyrene foam are much
48 more widely accessible and available as we learn more about the harm that single-use
49 products have on the environment; and

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51 WHEREAS, municipalities across the United States have started to assess their
52 single-use product policies in an effort to reduce or eliminate their use and promote
53 products that are reusable, biodegradable, or compostable; and

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55 WHEREAS, Plastic-Free MKE is a local coalition made up of private, public, and
56 non-profit entities, including the City of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Riverkeeper, and the
57 Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), encouraging the elimination of
58 single-use plastics throughout the community; and

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60 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is committed to the reduction or elimination of
61 single-use products in County-owned and operated facilities; and

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63 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County also holds many contracts with vendors for food,
64 beverage, recreation, and other services throughout the County; and

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66 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County wants to improve upon its efforts to reduce or
67 eliminate single-use plastics and encourage its vendors to adhere to a similar
68 commitment for services provided in County facilities; now, therefore,

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70 BE IT RESOLVED, that Milwaukee County reaffirms its commitment to
71 environmental sustainability and recycling efforts throughout the County; and

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73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the policy of Milwaukee County to reduce
74 or eliminate single-use plastic products and polystyrene foam distributed by entities on
75 property owned, operated or supported by Milwaukee County; and

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77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Parks, Recreation, and
78 Culture is requested to reduce its provision of single-use plastics and polystyrene foam
79 in 2020, with a goal of reaching 50 percent reduction upon final adoption of this
80 resolution; and

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

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

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90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Sustainability, working in
91 conjunction with the Office of Corporation Counsel, is requested to draft language that

92 could be added to future contracts with applicable vendors on the County's policy
93 related to single-use plastic and polystyrene foam; and

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

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

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104 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each Milwaukee County department shall
105 provide an update to the Committee on Finance and Audit detailing single-use plastic
106 and polystyrene foam reduction efforts during the budget review process in October
107 2020; and

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

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