



## Council Bill 17-0022R

1 Not only are the environmental benefits of Zero Waste efforts significant, they also produce  
2 significant economic gains. One study found that doubling the national recycling rate would  
3 create 1.5 million new well-paying, local, long-term jobs. By their nature, these jobs are  
4 overwhelmingly located in or near the communities increasing recycling.

5 Over time, Baltimore has made great strides in reducing its waste footprint and increasing  
6 recycling. But much more could be done, particularly in our handling of discarded food and  
7 other organic waste. Baltimore needs to develop an effective, long-term, plan to move toward  
8 Zero Waste to support the continued health, well-being, and prosperity of our residents.

9 Although all communities are different and require unique approaches, the successes of many  
10 other cities in these efforts have created a robust and well-understood roadmap that Baltimore  
11 can learn from in its own efforts. These successes should be studied throughout City government  
12 so that their lessons can be applied to create our own Zero Waste plan.

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
14 Council requests that representatives from the Department of Public Works, the Health  
15 Department, Baltimore City Public Schools, the Office of Sustainability, the Department of  
16 Housing and Community Development, and other City agencies involved with waste reduction  
17 efforts in Baltimore appear before it, along with experts on Zero Waste efforts nationwide, to  
18 discuss the development of a Zero Waste plan for Baltimore that will advance sustainability,  
19 public health, and job creation.

20 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
21 Director of Public Works, the Health Commissioner, the Acting Housing Commissioner, the  
22 CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the Office of Sustainability's Sustainability Coordinator,  
23 and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.