



RESOLUTION NO. _____ RESOLUTION ON REDUCING FOOD WASTE IN K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, [number] meals are served each year to the [number] children enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) public schools in [State];

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture estimates that more than 20 percent of the food served during lunch in public schools goes uneaten, and the amount is higher—roughly 30 percent—for milk and vegetables;

WHEREAS, studies estimate that K-12 public schools in the United States generate as much as 530,000 tons of food waste and 45 million gallons of milk waste annually;

WHEREAS, surplus food can be donated to students and their families as well as nonprofit hunger relief organizations;

WHEREAS, the cost of school food waste in the United States is roughly \$1.7 billion each school year, according to some estimates;

WHEREAS, when food is wasted, water and other resources used to produce that food also are wasted;

WHEREAS, the most common destination for food waste is landfills, where it is typically the largest component of disposed waste and is responsible for 58 percent of fugitive methane emissions; and

WHEREAS, reducing food waste and diverting it from landfills and incinerators mitigates climate change, conserves water and other natural resources, provides food to individuals experiencing food insecurity, saves money, extends the useful life of landfills, and produces beneficial products such as compost, a valuable soil amendment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the policy of [State] to encourage the reduction of food waste in K-12 public schools through food waste prevention, surplus food rescue, and food scrap recycling;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [state legislative body] authorizes a [legislative committee] to study and report on opportunities for food waste reduction in K-12 public schools;

For more information, please contact:

Darby Hoover Linda Breggin
dhoover@nrdc.org lbreggin@eli.org

www.nrdc.org
www.facebook.com/NRDC.org
www.twitter.com/NRDC

www.eli.org
www.linkedin.com/company/environmental-law-institute
www.twitter.com/ELIORG

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [legislative committee] shall reference the publicly available Model State Law on Reducing Food Waste in K-12 Public Schools and consider whether to adopt the measures outlined, including but not limited to: “offer versus serve” practices, minimum seated lunch times, recess before lunch, share tables, lactose-free and ultra-high-temperature milk options, meal marketing, surplus food donation, composting, and school food waste audits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [legislative committee] shall also consider opportunities for [State] and public school districts to facilitate implementation of food waste reduction measures in K-12 public schools through establishing a food waste reduction goal, fostering awareness, providing training, assigning employees responsibility for advancing food waste reduction, and offering grants and incentives.

ADOPTED by the [state legislative body] this _____ day of _____, 20__