**RESOLUTION #XX-XX**

**TOWNSHIP/BOROUGH OF XX, COUNTY OF XX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLAN TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE, IMPLEMENT TIERED PERMITTING, AND ALLOW COMMUNITY GARDEN COMPOSTING**

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, the State of New Jersey enacted a food waste reduction mandate with the goal of significantly decreasing food waste sent to landfills and incinerators; and

**WHEREAS**, this mandate has **not** been fully implemented, and over 1.3 million tons of food waste are still landfilled or incinerated annually in New Jersey – generating the equivalent of 1.5 million tons of CO2e.  According to ReFED, landfilled food waste has actually gone up by 10% since the Act was put in place.

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s landfills are nearing capacity, with estimates showing a potential loss of 40% of remaining landfill space within the next decade—leading to increased tipping fees and greater financial burden on municipalities and residents; and

**WHEREAS**, composting food scraps, yard waste, and other organic materials significantly reduces landfill waste, curbs methane emissions, and contributes to soil health, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, community gardens are ideal sites for localized composting, enabling responsible reuse of organic materials while providing community, educational, and environmental benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, reducing food waste and expanding composting efforts align with both local and statewide goals for sustainability, climate action, and cost-effective waste management; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation **S2426/A2090**, which calls for the development of a comprehensive county-level strategy to reduce food waste and implement tiered permitting for composting operations, would provide [TOWNSHIP/BOROUGH OF XX] with tools to lower disposal costs, increase recycling rates, conserve natural resources, and reduce pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation **S1040/A2102**, which exempts certain community composting operations from burdensome NJDEP permitting requirements, would make composting more accessible and affordable—encouraging community gardens to support environmental stewardship, resilience, and education;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that [TOWNSHIP/BOROUGH OF XX] urges the New Jersey State Legislature to pass and enact a strong mandate for county-level food waste reduction planning and tiered permitting for composting operations (S2426/A2090);

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that [TOWNSHIP/BOROUGH OF XX] strongly supports the passage of legislation allowing for on-site composting in community gardens without excessive regulatory barriers (S1040/A2102);

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of New Jersey, the State Senate President, the Speaker of the General Assembly, [INSERT LOCAL STATE SENATOR], [INSERT LOCAL ASSEMBLYMEMBER(S)], and any other individuals or agencies deemed appropriate:

1. Senator Paul Sarlo, Chair Budget & Appropriations Committee, sensarlo@njleg.org
2. Senator Bob Smith, Chair Senate Environment, senbsmith@njleg.org
3. Assemblyman James Kennedy, Chair Assembly Environment, asmkennedy@njleg.org
4. Matthew Wasserman, NJ Composting Council, matt@njcomposting.com
5. Association of NJ Environmental Commissions, info@anjec.org

ATTEST:

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XX, Township Clerk XX, Mayor

Adopted: XX