



A Proclamation to Move the Town of Woodfin Away From Single Use Plastics

WHEREAS, plastic pollution starts with fossil fuel extraction and harms individuals, communities, and ecosystems all along the supply chain.

WHEREAS, studies have shown the presence of microplastics in terrestrial and marine systems throughout the entire planet, including human food systems and human bodies, and have been detected in troubling concentrations in the French Broad River; and

WHEREAS, oil refineries, plastic manufacturers, and incinerators are disproportionately located in low-wealth and low-income communities, which bear the brunt of the associated health impacts; and

WHEREAS, recycling alone is insufficient to meet these threats as plastic production accounts for 20 percent of global fossil fuel consumption, and the majority of plastics created cannot be recycled in standard curbside recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags cause operational problems at recycling processing facilities, landfills, and transfer stations, and contribute to litter throughout the WNC region; and

WHEREAS, single-use plastic bags degrade the environment, pollute our rivers and streams, block storm drains, become entangled in treetops, and foul public areas; and

WHEREAS, styrene, the main ingredient in polystyrene, has been declared as a probable carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the World Health Organization, and others; and



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WHEREAS, it is the duty of Woodfin Town government to protect the natural environment, the economy, and the health of its residents and visitors; and

the lifespan of local landfills; and

policies that reduce the presence of

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Constitution guarantees the people of the State the right to enjoy a clean and healthy environment. N.C. Const. art. XIV § 5.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WOODFIN TOWN COUNCIL THAT:

The Town Council is dedicated to reducing its carbon footprint, extending the life of its landfill, and improving the quality of its French Broad waters.

In honor of Earth Day 2024, the Town Council urges all government entities, private businesses, and residents to forgo or limit their uses of plastic bags, other single-use plastics, and Styrofoam wherever and whenever possible.

The Town Council hereby encourages all town departments to begin to phasing-out the use of plastic bags, single use plastics, and Styrofoam by incrementally substituting such products with viable alternatives where possible, or recycling plastics when feasible alternatives are unavailable, with the aim of fully implementing the aforementioned directives within the Town of Woodfin departments and facilities, by January 1, 2025.