

Watauga County Entertains Idea of Zero Waste Plan

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Last night, The Watauga County Commissioners entertained a resolution to support a countywide Zero Waste Plan. Jasmine Shoshona, on behalf of the Zero Waste Task Force, presented the resolution.

After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed to gain input from other stakeholders in the county, namely the Towns of Boone and Blowing Rock, and ASU. They will include it as a discussion item at a joint meeting those groups will hold May 14th. A Zero Waste Initiative promotes composting, recycling and reusing waste to reduce the amount of garbage sent to a landfill. In addition to providing environmental benefits, it has the potential to save taxpayers money, especially if residents participate. Watauga County residents currently spend about \$43 per ton, or over \$2.2million dollars a year to dispose of over 51,700 tons of garbage. Gov. Easley is currently proposing to increase that amount by \$2.00 per ton to raise funds for statewide landfill pollution management. The Town of Boone has already passed a resolution in favor of a Zero Waste Plan and has begun work to develop that plan with the assistance of the Zero Waste Task Force.