



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

RESOLUTION

SHORT TITLE – REDUCING AND RECYCLING PLASTICS IN AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SPONSOR CD: Thurston CD

AREA: NW SW NC SC NE SE

RESOLUTION TYPE:

- Policy
- Position Statement
- Recognition
- Study

RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY (check any option that applies):

- WACD
- WSCC
- OTHER STATE AGENCY Agriculture, Ecology
- NRCS
- NACD
- NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER _____

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT:

Conservation district clients often use products that make use of various plastics – such as haylage wrap, polypropylene feed sacks, baling twine, chemical product containers; shrink-wrap (such as around newly purchased agricultural equipment), and likely many more applications. Farmers and ranchers do not currently have options to recycle much of their plastic waste, which results in costly disposal in landfills, or on-site burning contributing to air and water pollution. Agricultural plastics are often dirty from use and not desirable to many existing recycling markets. Further, reducing plastic use and plastic recycling is a real need in aquaculture and nursery production.

TCD supported the development of an agricultural plastics recycling program over a decade ago, but regional and global recycling markets are volatile and lacked the sustainability to build a robust and reliable recycling program. Statewide coordination and support is needed to ensure program accessibility and success.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture and Ecology may have existing programs that begin to address the issue of plastics recycling, but gaps remain for agricultural plastics.

Working with WSDA and DOE, WSCC and WACD could identify opportunities to expand current efforts (and publicize them), identify existing needs and gaps, and analyze the viability of creating recycling programs that can receive all agricultural plastics.



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An assessment and adjustment of the effectiveness of the implemented program is recommended at year 1, 3 and 5.

Reducing and recycling plastics will promote better air quality by reducing on-farm burning of plastics, and divert products from landfills and protect waters of the state along with wildlife.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE:

WACD and WSCC work with the Washington Departments of Agriculture and Ecology to identify current programs for reducing and recycling agricultural and related plastics and develop a plan for coordination, expansion, and publicizing of programs, along with further needs and opportunities analysis.

TYPE OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION (check all boxes that apply):

- Technical (changes address grammar, punctuation, sentence flow and makes **NO** substantive change(s) to the existing policy.
- Substantive change to existing policy. If in doubt, check the box.
- New policy.

ARE WACD RESOURCES (FUNDING, STAFF CAPACITY, ETC.) REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?

- NO**
- YES** (briefly explain): Estimate 8-16 hours per quarter for coordination and plan development.