

Attachment 4 – Zero Waste Proclamations

Zero Waste Proclamation

The CNMI plans to advance Zero Waste Principles. CNMI Governor Palacios signed a 2023 Zero Waste Proclamation. (see below). The proclamation recognized:

The Zero Waste International Alliance defines “Zero Waste” as the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.

Additional information on CNMI’s 2023 Zero Waste Visioning Sessions is in [Section D – Public Participation](#).

CNMI Proclamations

CNMI Governor Palacios’ 2023 “Zero Waste Proclamation”, said the following:

WHEREAS, the Zero Waste International Alliance defines “Zero Waste” as the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health; and

WHEREAS decisions about how goods such as food, packaging, and building materials are produced, transported, used, and disposed of can make a big difference in the amount of the resources used, greenhouse gases emitted, environmental impacts created, and waste produced; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is committed to taking the necessary action and expanding our Commonwealth’s efforts in ensuring wise resource use and combating climate change by reducing, reusing, and recycling waste, which will create more jobs for our people and unlock economic development opportunities here in our islands; and

WHEREAS, the CNMI’s 2021-2030 Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP) supports the 10-year Sustainable Development Goal that by 2030, 50% of the recyclable waste stream will be diverted from CNMI’s environmentally-compliant waste management facilities on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands with diverted waste composted, reused, or sold to support sustainable waste management systems; and

WHEREAS, the CNMI’s Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan will solidify a clear and realistic path forward for the CNMI government to follow that will include strategies for the prevention, collection, and processing of residential and commercial waste, as well as benchmark metrics to track progress towards management goals; and
WHEREAS, the island of Tinian has been leading efforts to assess and implement Zero Waste management opportunities to protect people, the environment, and support economically diverse and sustainable growth; and

WHEREAS, the Tinian Zero Waste Study and Pilot Project will solidify a clear and realistic path forward for the Tinian leadership to follow that will include strategies for the prevention, collection, and processing of residential and commercial waste, as well as benchmark metrics to illustrate the progress towards management goals; and **WHEREAS**, since 2020, the Inter-Island Solid Waste Management Taskforce, comprised of representatives from Department of Public Works, Office of Planning and Development, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the Offices of the Mayors of the Northern Islands, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and supported by the United States Environmental Protection Agency aims to have a completed comprehensive integrated solid waste management plan that includes “Zero Waste” initiatives ready for incorporation into the next CSDP update by 2025; and

WHEREAS, all community members of the CNMI can play a part in envisioning improved resource management planning through upcoming visioning workshops, plan development, and implementation efforts which will include increasing options for waste disposal that respond to community needs.

2022 CNMI Recycles Week Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) recognizes that America Recycles Day, which began over two decades ago on November 15th, 1997, is a call to a unified global movement aiming to improve waste management systems and combating the effects of climate change in our environments.

WHEREAS, other nations and countries across the globe have initiated similar movements, “Go Green” campaigns, and adopting recycling strategies to influence sustainable living and taking responsibility by assisting with protecting the environment – land and sea, natural resources, and the precious lives that inhabit this earth.

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth acknowledges the significance of the continued prosperity of its citizens who call these islands “home” and takes part in this unified call to global action.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Recycling Economic Information (REI) Report published in November, 2020 reveals recycling is a critical part of the U.S. economy that created 681,000 jobs, increased \$37.8 billion in wages, and generated \$5.5 billion in tax revenue.

WHEREAS, the CNMI is committed to taking the necessary action and expanding our Commonwealth’s efforts in combating climate change by reducing, reusing, and recycling waste, which will create more jobs for our people and unlock a door of possibilities and increased economic output here in our islands.

WHEREAS, the island of Tinian has been leading efforts to assess and implement Zero Waste management opportunities to protect people, the environment, and support economically diverse and sustainable growth.

WHEREAS, the CNMI's 2021-2030 Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP) supports the 10-year Sustainable Development Goal that by 2030, 50% of the recyclable waste stream will be diverted from CNMI's environmentally-compliant waste management facilities on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands with diverted waste composted, reused, or sold to support sustainable waste management systems.

WHEREAS, since 2020, the Inter-Island Solid Waste Management Taskforce, comprised of representatives from Department of Public Works, Office of Planning and Development, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the Offices of the Mayors and supported by USEPA aims to have a completed comprehensive integrated solid waste management plan that includes "Zero Waste" initiatives ready for incorporation into the next CSDP update by 2025.

WHEREAS, on America Recycles Day, November 15th, we join as one Commonwealth to celebrate this day of awareness by bringing focus to the actions and strategies like the reduce, reuse, and recycle method that we can take partake in as a community.

WHEREAS, taking the necessary action and expanding our Commonwealth's efforts in combating climate change by reducing, reusing, and recycling waste supports job creation, economic development, and sets a regional example for excellence in sustainability.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RALPH DLG. TORRES, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the Commonwealth, do hereby proclaim **November 13-19, 2022** as

CNMI RECYCLES WEEK

I encourage everyone in our community to acknowledge and take part in the efforts to combat climate change, promote sustainable living, and protect our environment for our children and the future generations of our great Commonwealth. On America Recycles Day, we affirm our commitment to preserving our precious resources, working towards more sustainable production, consumption, and disposal practices, and creating a healthier and cleaner world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this 15th day of November 2022

RALPH DLG. TORRES

Governor
