



## Earth Action Committee Minutes – November 13, 2019 Arcata Co-op Conference Room, Arcata

**Board Members:** Cheri Strong

**Member-Employees:** Kiya Villareal, Emily Walter

1. **Welcomes and Review** - At 6:50pm the meeting was called to order.
2. **Approve Minutes** - Consensus reached to approve the August 2019 minutes.
3. **Member Comments**
  - Get rid of plastic produce bags and sell compostable bags.
4. **Arcata Proposed Plastic Ordinance**

Kiya and Jay attended a local business meeting with the city of Arcata to give feedback on the City's proposal. We invited Mendes to attend and they did. We gave feedback. City staff clarified that if this proposal passes in January it would take effect one year later, following community education. They are very adamant about charging \$0.25 for accessory items. The proposal is set to be approved in January.
5. **RCEA Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy (CAPE)**

Tabled
6. **Strategic Planning**

Tabled
7. **Sustainability Coordinator Update**
  - Zero Waste Week
    - o Been involved with both Arcata and Eureka zero waste groups. Eureka is really upping their game.
    - o Holding a Zero Waste Day event at the Arcata store and plan to do an event at the Eureka store next year.
    - o Passing out a member only bulk coupon 11/14 while tabling at the Arcata.
  - Bike Friendliness
    - o We have a bike kit for the Arcata store. It's a test before doing one in Eureka.
  - Terra Cycling
    - o The Wellness Department is excited to test this recycling program out with Tom's and Weleda products.
8. **Next Agenda Items**
  - RCEA CAPE
  - City of Arcata Plastic Ordinance
  - Terra Cycle Participation Update
9. **Next Meeting Date**

Next meeting will be December 11, 6:45-8pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35pm

*Minutes by Emily Walter*

## **EAC Sustainability Update October/November 2019**

Prepared by Kiya Villarreal

### **In -Store:**

Planning for Zero Waste Day, the reclaimed “America Recycles Day” is well underway. We are hosting some demonstrations on-site. Communications regarding partnering with other organizations has been difficult during power outages, but we have had preliminary discussions with Zero Waste Humboldt and City of Arcata.

### **Compost:**

The Local Worm Guy (LWG) recently participated in a composting seminar that took them all over California. I look forward to hearing from LWG and what they learned. Our composting space at both stores would benefit from very large clean-up and re-painting. Our raw organics output is steadily high and was audited on 10/29 at 10am, yielding a very low contamination rate. The next audit will be within two weeks and occur directly following the lunch rush.

We have a farmer willing to take on more of our organics waste if we can separate eggshells and coffee grounds and keep those going to LWG.

A proposal is being written to envision the Co-op having their own composter by next year.

### **Community/City Involvement:**

Air Resources Board reports are submitted for multiple years of data. Abe closed the deal on this open-ended issue I was unable to complete.

City of Arcata Foodware Waste Reduction Ordinance has been drafted by staff on directions from the City Council. The draft received comments from business owners in the area during a workshop on 10/23 and will be incorporated by (City of Arcata) staff and submitted for approval by City Council in December. It is the most ambitious and all-encompassing ordinance of its kind.

In my own words, this ordinance is different because the primary goal is not simply to reduce plastics but directly increase durable use throughout the entire city.

### *Live Project List:*

- Green Teams- approved but so short staffed so have not been scheduled by managers yet
- Bike Friendliness- decided we don't need the “logo” at this moment to implement the principles of bike friendliness.
- Terra Cycle Recycling Program- We have the programs bags for collection but not a place to put collection sites.
- Internal staff training videos for proper sorting around the stores.