



# Climate Resilience Committee

## Legislation

## Resolution



**A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CLIMATE RESILIENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDING TO THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION TO DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO WORK WITH THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT AND ALL NECESSARY DEPARTMENTS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN EFFECTIVE WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PROGRAM THAT MAXIMIZES THE VALUE OF MATERIALS, REDUCES LANDFILL DEPENDENCY, MOVES THE CITY TOWARD A LOW-WASTE FUTURE, ADJUSTS THE WASTE FEE AND IDENTIFIES ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES TO MAKE THE WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE, ENFORCES EXISTING RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS, CREATES AN INVESTMENT PLAN FOR FLEET MODERNIZATION, COLLABORATES WITH COUNTY AND STATE DEPARTMENTS, AND ESTABLISHES AN IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE WITH SPECIFIC ACTION STEPS.**

WHEREAS, the City of Miami faces an urgent waste management crisis, with [Miami-Dade County residents generating 8.41 pounds per capita per day](#) (almost twice the national average and more than five times the worldwide average), and [Miami-Dade County landfills projected to reach full capacity within six years](#), while the county's incinerator, [which previously handled 12% of the County's waste](#), burned down in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the [Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan \(CDMP\)](#) requires the County [to maintain at least five years of landfill capacity, and failure to do so would result in a moratorium on new development](#), directly impacting the City of Miami's economy and growth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami's current solid waste system is financially unsustainable, operating at a deficit due to [solid waste fees that have not increased since 2010](#), despite inflation, rising operational costs, and an aging fleet of collection vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has established a statewide recycling goal of 75% under [Florida Statutes § 403.706](#), yet [Miami-Dade County has a recycling rate below 20%](#) and a contamination rate of approximately 40%, severely diminishing the effectiveness and economic viability of recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, the [University of Georgia's Jambeck Research Group Circularity Assessment Protocol \(CAP\) report](#), in partnership with Ocean Conservancy, has provided clear data on the inefficiencies in Miami's waste and recycling systems and has recommended improvements aligned with low- and zero-waste strategies; and

WHEREAS, [Miami-Dade County Code § 15-2](#) and [City of Miami Code Section 22-1](#) require all commercial properties, including multifamily residential buildings, to establish diversion-effective recycling programs, yet [compliance remains low \(at 35%\)](#) and enforcement remains insufficient, leading to significant waste of recyclable materials; and

WHEREAS, an effective waste reduction and recycling program is essential to mitigating air and water pollution, reducing the burden on landfills, protecting Biscayne Bay and local waterways from plastic and other waste, and advancing the City's climate resiliency goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Miami Climate Resilience Committee strongly recommends that the City Commission direct the City Manager to work with the Solid Waste Department and all necessary departments to:

**1. Waste Reduction, Diversion, Recycling, and Circular Economy Plan –**

Develop and implement a comprehensive waste reduction, diversion, and recycling program that maximizes the value of materials, reduces landfill dependency, and moves the City toward a low-waste future. This program should include:

- a. Renew and expand recycling education, outreach initiatives, standardized bin labeling, and contamination auditing with penalties, to enhance participation and reduce contamination; and
- b. Consideration of waste diversion policies, including yard waste chipping, food composting, and repair and reuse programs; and
- c. Support for, and procurement from, local businesses and manufacturers that utilize recycled materials to create a circular economy.

**2. Financial Sustainability and Funding Mechanisms –** Conduct a financial analysis to determine necessary adjustments to the solid waste fee and explore alternative funding sources, ensuring the waste management system is financially sustainable. The analysis should include:

- a. Detail the one-time capital expenditures and recurring operational expenses necessary over the next 5 years; and
- b. Determine how a tiered fee structure can incentivize waste reduction; and
- c. Explore grants and partnerships to support the development of recycling infrastructure.

**3. Enforcement of Existing Recycling Requirements –** Strengthen and renew enforcement of [Miami-Dade County Code § 15-2](#) and [City of Miami Code Section 22-1](#), requiring effective recycling at multifamily residential and commercial properties. This includes:

- a. Drafting a new policy that requires [standardized labeling](#) on all dumpsters and bins, indicating the appropriate items for each bin; and
- b. Enhancing Zoning and Building codes to ensure the appropriate infrastructure and accessibility to recycling; and

- c. Increase inspections, compliance efforts, and contamination monitoring; and
  - d. Implementing penalties for non-compliance; and
  - e. Assisting properties in establishing compliant recycling systems through targeted assistance programs.
4. **Fleet Modernization and Infrastructure Investment** – Prioritize investment in waste and recycling infrastructure, including the replacement of aging waste collection vehicles with modern, efficient, low-pollution models, particularly electric or low-emission vehicles. These vehicles should also be equipped with contamination monitoring cameras and technology.
  5. **Collaboration with Miami-Dade County, the State of Florida and the Community** – Work in partnership with Miami-Dade County, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Community to align local policies with state recycling goals and best practices, ensuring Miami contributes to the statewide 75% recycling target ([Florida Statutes § 403.706](#)).
  6. **Implementation Timeline** – Present a detailed implementation plan to the City Commission within 120 days, including cost estimates, projected impacts, and a timeline for phased improvements.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of April, 2025**

*Aaron DeMayo*

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Aaron DeMayo, Chairman

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April 22nd, 2025

Date

**Vote Record:**

<i>Member</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Absent/Not Voting</i>
Aaron DeMayo, Chair, D2	X		
Nkosi Muse, Vice Chair, D5	X		
Wayne Pathman, Esq., Member, D3			X
Grant Musser, Member, Manager	X		
Avra Jain, Member, At- Large			X
Sarahi A. Perez, Member, At-Large (between ages 18-25)	X		
Silvio Frank Pupo-Casco, Member, D1	X		
Barbara K. Bisno, Member, Mayor	X		