Resolution urging the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families to coordinate with the Department of the Environment to offer trainings and workshops for grantee organizations and their youth participants.

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a duty to protect the natural environment, the economy, and the health of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted a goal of achieving 75% diversion from landfill by 2010 and a long-term goal of achieving zero waste; and

WHEREAS, Zero waste means sending zero discards to the landfill or high-temperature destruction and promotes highest and best use of materials and a waste reduction hierarchy that includes: preventing waste, reducing and reusing first, and then recycling and composting; and

WHEREAS, As stated in the Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance (Board of Supervisors Ordinance No. 100-09), all persons in San Francisco must separate their refuse into recyclables, compostable, and trash, placing each type of refuse in a separate container designated for disposal of that type of refuse; no person may mix recyclables, compostable or trash, or deposit refuse of one type in a collection container designated for another type of refuse, except as otherwise provided in this Chapter 3; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Environment provides education, outreach, technical assistance, trainings, and resources about recycling and composting to residents, businesses, employees, students, and visitors to San Francisco; and
WHEREAS, The Department of Environment has conducted extensive outreach to K-12 students throughout the city for more than fifteen years resulting in significant increases in waste diversion; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF) provides grant support to 294 organizations a year and serves 53,956 participants, 55% of which are between the ages 11 to 17; and

WHEREAS, Due to a variety of factors (including Principals, Custodial Services and Student Nutrition Services), middle and high school communities (including students, school administration, and afterschool providers) would benefit from greater awareness and education about how to recycle and compost more in order to send less trash to the landfill; and

WHEREAS, DCYF can reach out to an even broader range of youth via their grantees, especially the underrepresented, and can provide a vital link between education from the Department of the Environment, and these youth; and

WHEREAS, To assess the needs of middle and high school communities around sorting waste, the Youth Commission conducted a survey of 530 young people in San Francisco to better understand their practices and commitment to zero waste; and

WHEREAS, The young people surveyed offered an array of recommendations for how San Francisco can better support their efforts to sort waste such as additional classroom lessons, making it easier for residents and students to recycle and compost at home, and providing greater opportunities to recycle (such as at dedicated recycling centers); and

WHEREAS, When asked, “How often do you compost and recycle at home, school, and in public spaces?”, youth age 11 to 24 responded as follows -- 3% said they never compost at home, 8% said they rarely compost at home, 24% said they sometimes compost at home; 2% said they never compost at school, 7% said they rarely compost at school, 41%
said they sometimes compost at school; 3% said they never compost in public places, 13% said they rarely compost public places, 65% said they sometimes compost in public places; and

WHEREAS, When asked, “How often do you compost and recycle at home, school, and in public spaces?”, youth age 11 to 24 responded as follows -- 2% said they never recycle at home, 2% said they rarely recycle at home, 15% said they sometimes recycle at home; 1% said they never recycle at school, 3% said they rarely recycle at school, 26% said they sometimes recycle at school; 1% said they never recycle in public places, 9% said they rarely recycle in public places, 54% said they sometimes recycle in public places; and

WHEREAS, When asked what would make sorting waste easier, 50% of respondents wished to learn about the big impact sorting waste has on the environment, and 74% of youth respondents expressed a desire for clear and larger signs in even more school areas detailing how to sort waste; and

WHEREAS, When young people are exposed to positive behaviors in elementary school, such as recycling, composting, and voting, they are more likely to model the behavior as they move into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, It is important to extend this education beyond the walls of the classroom, and into other environments like after-school programs; and

WHEREAS, When educated on the importance and the practice of recycling and composting young people can also become ambassadors in teaching their families and peers how to recycle and compost; and

WHEREAS, To achieve zero waste, it will take all San Franciscans including young people to make it a reality; and

WHEREAS, By educating and empowering our youth about the important practice of recycling and composting, we can foster social norms that make the daily practice of this duty
a more common and acceptable behavior among middle school and high school students; 
now, therefore, be it 

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges Department of 
Children, Youth, and Their Families to offer environmental trainings lead by Department of 
Environment (SFE) to DCYF grantee organizations, and encourage grantees to host 
environmental workshops for their youth participants each year focused on sorting waste and 
other environmental awareness education deemed necessary; and, be it 

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges DCYF to coordinate with 
SFE and their School Education Team, who are willing and able, to provide these trainings for 
DCYF grantees and their youth participants assuming time and resources allow for it.
Resolution urging the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families to coordinate with the Department of the Environment to offer trainings and workshops for grantee organizations and their youth participants.

April 24, 2018 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Breed, Cohen, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Sheehy, Stefani, Tang and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/24/2018 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board