



A Resolution Concerning the Impact of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Bottles on the Greater Tucson Regional Community

Whereas, the use of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles to contain consumer beverages and water is a fast growing segment of the container industry allowing consumers additional choices in product selection and convenience, and;

Whereas, nationally, only about 23% of PET containers are recycled with the remainder either disposed of in waste containers or illegally deposited as litter, and;

Whereas, the City of Tucson manages a blue barrel program for recycling and has established several remote recycling areas, and local waste haulers also operate recycling programs, which collect PET bottles, and;

Whereas, PET bottles collected for recycling are currently valued at approximately \$400 per ton and represent a valuable resource that can be processed into useful products, and;

Whereas, in the United States, PET bottles are produced from petroleum and, although the content of petroleum-based plastic bottles has been substantially reduced by manufacturers, their production results in the use of millions of barrels of oil on an annual basis, and;

Whereas, the illegal disposal of PET bottles represents a significant and growing proportion of litter that degrades the quality of the environment, diminishes the aesthetic value of the desert landscape, and places an improper burden on local governments and volunteer community groups to remedy.

In Consideration Thereof the PAG Regional Council:

Declares that PET bottles, of all kinds, that are not properly disposed and which are illegally deposited as litter significantly diminish the quality of the urban and natural environment, and;

Directs PAG staff, in consultation with PAG jurisdictions and appropriate government and non-governmental agencies, to promote the recycling of PET bottles and collect information on the prevalence of PET bottles in litter within Pima County.