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2021-2022

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**A Resolution Urging Solid Waste Reduction Goals
for Dining Services at Ball State University
Adopted
November 14, 2022**

WHEREAS compostable materials—including food waste, used single-use compostable dining containers and utensils, and paper and paper board—deposited in landfills undergoes anaerobic decomposition approximately 1 year after burial; during which time, methane-producing bacteria begin to decompose the waste and generate methane.

WHEREAS, methane is a potent greenhouse gas about 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide in driving climate change.

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”), indicates that landfills were the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the United States accounting for about 15% of emissions in 2019.

WHEREAS, the use of single-use compostable products contribute to the continuous demand for fiber crops that require fertilizers and the depletion of natural resources, including forests;

WHEREAS, waste reduction strategies are critical for reducing greenhouse gases and will also reduce emissions from energy consumption, reduce methane emissions from landfills, and increase storage of carbon in trees; and

WHEREAS, waste management is largely determined at the local level when designing and operating food establishments at Ball State University;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That:

1. All new and renovated dining facilities on the Ball State University campus be designed to store, clean, and use reusable plate ware, drinking containers, and utensils in their facilities.
2. Dining and catering services reduce the flow of compostable materials and non-compostable materials to landfills by 40% by 2030.