



Images - Guardian Newspaper UK

Zero Waste:

Zero waste is an international grass-roots movement challenging our ideas and practices around waste (aka resource) management. Put simply our ‘traditional’ waste management (bury, burn, ignore) responses have not kept pace with the scale, persistence and toxicity of the issues that literally accumulate around us today.

Zero waste is a key strand within the boarder challenge of sustainability. This is because reconceptualising the so-called waste-stream as what is really is – resources – which can be conserved, used efficiently and recycled back into economy; it is a win-win. Zero waste practices support employment, business innovation and ‘green growth’ as well as reducing energy and water usage, GHG emissions, pollution and loss of bio-diversity.

Zero waste is good for the economy as well as the environment. It is in everybody’s best interest to sustainably manage all resources - and hence embodied environmental impacts – throughout cycles of production and consumption. Zero waste envisions:

- a necessary paradigm shift and economic transformation,
- involved and inspired communities,
- innovative and effective recycling technologies and the
- application of proven market based instruments which empower producers and consumers (facilitated by government) to share responsibility for ‘closing the resource loop’.

The journey towards a zero waste economy is creative, interesting, popular, employs clean-green technology and is achievable. Zero waste is common sense!



ZWA Vision

To develop education and research programmes which delivers the knowledge and technical innovation to enable New Zealand communities to realise the environmental, social and economic benefits of zero waste.



Who:

Jonathon Hannon is the coordinator the ZWA. He has extensive experience working with the people, organisations and activities, which underwrite the recycling industry's role as an environmental service provider to the New Zealand economy. Within Massey this work area is supported by: Professors: Peter Kemp, Vince Neall, John Holland and Sarah McLaren and Dr Chris Anderson and links in with the work of the 'Massey University Sustainability Steering Group'.

What:

Since its inception the ZWA has participated in a range of educational and sector development projects covering a diversity of subject areas such as:

- Issues opportunities associated with waste and recycling
- Product stewardship / extended producer responsibility
- Organic recycling / composting
- Recycling policy, planning and strategy
- Recycling systems, technologies and infrastructure
- Industrial ecology / material life cycles
- Construction and demolition waste minimisation
- Public spaces / event recycling
- Local government / community enterprise programme development.





There is a wide community of people and programmes locally around the world, which demonstrate and encourage the move towards zero waste and sustainability. For more information see:

- The Green Hub - <http://www.greenhub.co.nz/>
- WasteWatchers - www.wastewatchers.co.nz/
- Zero Waste Education NZ - www.zerowasteeducation.co.nz/
- WasteNot Consulting - www.wastenot.co.nz/
- Eunomia Consulting - www.eunomia-consulting.co.nz/
- Wanaka Wastebusters - www.wanakawastebusters.co.nz/
- Xtreme Waste - <http://www.xtremewaste.org.nz/>
- Community Recycling Network (CRN) - <http://communityrecyclers.org.nz/>
- Zero Waste New Zealand <http://www.zerowaste.co.nz/>
- WasteMINZ www.wasteminz.org.nz/
- Scrap Metal Recycling Association of New Zealand (SMRANZ) <http://www.scrapmetal.org.nz/index.php>
- Zero Waster Australia <http://zerowasteaustralia.org/>
- Zero Waste Europe <http://www.zerowasteeurope.eu/>
- Grass Roots Recycling Network (GRRN) <http://www.grrn.org/zerowaste>
- Sound Resource Management – Zero Waste in the 21st Century <http://www.zerowaste.com>
- Zero Waste America <http://www.zerowasteamerica.org>
- Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA) <http://zwia.org/joomla/>

