



Tips to get you closer to Zero Waste – Your Home

Refuse

1. Fight junk mail. It's not just a waste of resources, but also of time. Visit www.ecocycle.org/junkmail for 6 easy steps to stop junk mail.
2. Turn down freebies from conferences, fairs, and parties. Every time you take one, you create a demand to make more. Do you really need another "free" pen?
3. Do not use plastic straws. Use reusable and/or compostable straws instead.

Reduce

1. Declutter your home, and donate to your local thrift shop. You'll lighten your load and make precious resources available to those looking to buy secondhand.
2. Reduce your shopping trips and keep a shopping list. The less you bring home, the less waste you'll have to deal with. Purchase items with less plastic and packaging.

Reuse

1. Swap disposables for reusables (start using handkerchiefs, refillable bottles, shopping totes, cloth napkins, rags, etc.). You might find that you don't miss your paper towels, but rather enjoy the savings.
2. Avoid grocery shopping waste: Bring reusable totes, cloth bags (for bulk aisles), and jars (for wet items like cheese and deli foods) to the store and farmers market.

Recycle

1. Know your city's recycling policies and locations,
Village of Larchmont and Unincorporated Town of Mamaroneck – 40 Maxwell Ave., Larchmont,
Village of Mamaroneck – 313 Lafayette Avenue, Mamaroneck.

Think of recycling as a last resort. Have you refused, reduced, or reused first? Question the need and life-cycle of your purchases. Shopping is voting. Questions on how to recycle/dispose of a waste item? **Go to <https://lmsanitation.org/waste-wizard-recyclopedia>.**

2. Buy primarily in bulk or secondhand, but if you must buy new, choose glass, metal, or cardboard. Avoid plastic: Much of it gets shipped across the world for recycling and often ends up in the incinerator/landfill (or worse yet, the ocean).

Rot

1. Purchase a compost bin from the Maxwell Recycling Center for your home which includes a handy guide and get to know what it can include (dryer lint, hair, and nails are all compostable).
2. Use compostable cups, plates, cutlery etc. and add them to the compostable bin. Turn your home kitchen trash can into one large compost receptacle. The bigger the compost receptacle, the more likely you'll be to use it freely.

An attempt at going zero waste starts with small changes.

It's within anyone's reach, and change starts at home.



Tips to get you closer to Zero Waste – Business

Following are some of the measures you can take to achieve Zero Waste in your business:

Assess Your Company's Current Waste Management and Disposal

Audit your current waste generation to establish a baseline to track your future progress. Determine the sources, types and volumes of trash being generated in your business, and if it is being placed in the right containers. Investigate if you have enough recycling or waste collection bins available and positioned for best results.

Designate a Waste Management Champion or Team

Depending on the size of your company, you may wish to select a champion or cross-functional team to investigate your current situation, identify goals, and generate an implementation plan.

Go After the Low-Hanging Fruit and Build Momentum

After the waste audit, it should be easier to determine what waste items you can eliminate right away. Talk to your employees about how the items that are going into the trash can be efficiently recycled, reused or composted. Simple steps to reduce energy consumption include switching off lights, upgrading lighting systems, or keeping doors and windows closed to improve heating or refrigeration efficiency.

Set Specific Waste Reduction Goals

Request suppliers to convert to a reusable packaging system to eliminate the generation of packaging waste. Short term goal achievement is also an excellent way to generate enthusiasm among employees and customers and signal to other stakeholders your resolve towards eliminating waste.

Engage Employees in Zero Waste Goal Attainment

After setting goals, you or your team needs to establish and follow specific strategies. Engaging employees is one of the most important steps in implementing policies. Raising employee awareness in conjunction with providing the training and resources needed to succeed are essential steps of your Zero Waste journey. Ultimately, your perspective should shift from waste reduction to resource conservation.

Make Use of Reusable Packaging

Packaging materials account for one of the largest portions of waste generated. Where feasible, consider switching to reusable alternatives for pallets or containers.

Being a Zero Waste business has multiple benefits. Firstly, it can save your business the cost of waste management and disposal as well as the regulatory complications that can accompany emissions and waste generation. Secondly, you can brand and market your business as a "Green Business."

Customers increasingly want to see tangible proof of environmentally responsible operation of businesses they support. Becoming a Zero Waste company can help you build trust with customers, trading partners, and local communities.

Eliminating waste production in your operation can improve the material flow and lower costs in your business. Thus avoiding and eliminating waste can help the bottom line of your business in several ways.