

Zero Waste Bucket

Missoula strives to become a Zero Waste community.

Reducing our waste by using less, reusing more, and recycling as much as markets allow reduces greenhouse gases (GHG) that come from manufacturing, transportation and landfilling. Promoting the development of policies, programs, incentives, and local business endeavors that reduce waste and provide goods and services make our community more resilient and less reliant on distant markets, thereby further reducing consumption-related GHG emissions. This group recognizes the many opportunities for waste reduction in the Missoula area.

Strategies

Build Support for Waste Reduction across Sectors

Discover opportunities for local government, institutions, businesses and organizations to lead Missoula toward Zero Waste.

1. Partner with City Council champions to develop a Missoula Zero Waste Resolution to present to City Council;
2. Encourage local entities already committed to sustainability to prioritize community-wide waste reduction in their strategic objectives;
3. Engage business community in recognizing opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship as Missoula moves toward Zero Waste.

Investigate Community Waste Behaviors & Real and Perceived Barriers to Waste Reduction

Develop an understanding of current behaviors, needs, and perceptions to support program development and steward a shift toward a culture of waste reduction in Missoula.

1. Conduct a community survey;
2. Host focus group discussions about waste;
3. Identify behaviors and barriers that can be addressed via education, policies, and/or programs.

Foster Community Understanding of Benefits of Waste Reduction

Identify opportunities for community education particularly in support of any new waste reduction policies adopted by the City of Missoula.

1. Outreach to the community around waste reduction with a balance between local issues and general information;
2. Educate community leaders as to best practices for waste reduction incentives and disincentives for wasting;
3. Advocate for a Zero Waste community that values transparency and clarity in its waste reduction policies, programs and practices.

A key objective for this group is to work with City Council to develop and adopt a Zero Waste Resolution, which will:

- Declare to the community that the City is committed to reducing waste;
- Establish a community-wide waste reduction goal and timeline with benchmarks;
- Invigorate the development of policies, programs, and incentives to promote waste reduction activities and opportunities. Possibilities include an ordinance to increase deconstruction practices, a community-wide food scraps composting program, bans on plastic bags and Styrofoam™, expanded household hazardous waste collection, and increased opportunities for recycling

Zero Waste Missoula

Having emerged from ClimateSmart Missoula, **Zero Waste Missoula** represents the diverse support for waste reduction that already exists in our community. It is a group of Missoula businesses, nonprofits, and individuals dedicated to working with the Missoula community to conserve and recover all landfill-bound resources and to utilize discards in

ways that contribute productively to natural systems and our local and regional economies. See zwia.org for a comprehensive definition of “Zero Waste” from the Zero Waste International Alliance.

Zero Waste Missoula Members

Heath Carey, Katie Deuel, Jeremy Drake, Loreen Green, Bradley Layton, Jenny Mish, Martin NoRunner, Graham Roy, Beth Schenk, Stephon Smith, Will Halliburton, and Tim Zalinger

Interested in joining Zero Waste Missoula?

Please contact Jeremy Drake (jeremy@homeresource.org) for more information.