

BeCOMe Zero !!

College of Marin Zero Waste Program

Greg Nelson, Vice President of Finance & College Operations

U.S.

zerowaste

BUSINESS COUNCIL

Why Certification Through USZWBC

- Quantifiable
- Audited every 3 years to maintain certification
- Must maintain improvement levels
- Based on best practices
- 2 employees currently certified



What is Zero Waste

- Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use.
- Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them.
- Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health

Citation: <http://zwia.org/standards/zw-definition/>

Principles of Zero Waste

- Commitment to the triple bottom line – We ensure that social, environmental and economic performance standards are met together.
- Use Precautionary Principle
- Responsibility: Take back products & packaging
- Buy reused, recycled & composted
- Prevent pollution and reduce waste
- Highest and best use
- Economic incentives for customers, workers and suppliers
- Products or services sold are not wasteful or toxic
- Use non-toxic production, reuse and recycling processes

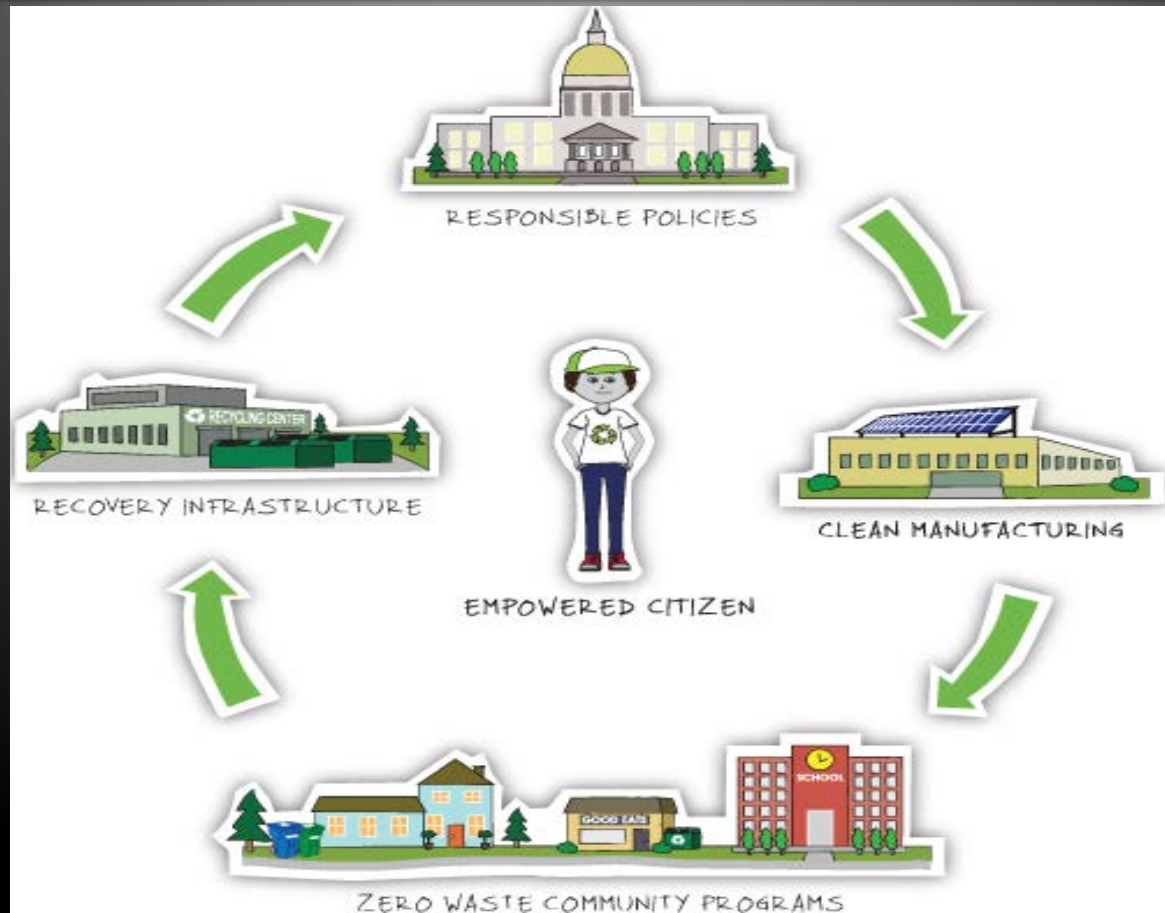
Current System of Doing Things



http://dev.ecocycleinternational.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Zero-Waste-System-cycle_2012_web-width.jpg



Where Should We Be?



Where Does COM Start?

- Communication/Marketing
- Composting
- Recycling on campus
- Policy and procedures
- Reuse of products
- Selling left over or discarded materials
- Down stream production
- Up stream decommissioning/production
- Auditing

Communication/Marketing

可回收的

RECYCLE PAPEL, BOTELLAS Y LATAS



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Communication/Marketing

LANDFILL

垃圾填埋場

BASURERO MUNICIPAL



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Communication/Marketing

COMPOST

廚餘和污紙

DESECHOS Y PAPEL SUCIO



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Communication/Marketing

- Beyond posting signs we need to engage
- We have to be able to sustain program
- Initial and ongoing training for all employees
- Support from staff
- Support from students
- Support from Industry



Composting

Composting



- Starting Fall Semester COM has mandated that Fresh & Natural (Cafeteria) compost all available materials
- Currently composting 3-64 Gallon Bins per week of material
- Next step is to compost to be able to use for IVC organic farm

Recycling

Recycling



- Recycling starts with proper layout and communication
- Currently we conflict internally with how we bag products
- We also conflict bins with Conservation Corps

Recycling Challenges

- Staffing levels
- Need to change color of recycling bags from black
- Partnering with Marin Sanitary for systematic approach
- Need bins for offices and common spaces



Policies and Procedures

P & P



- Large impact to program
- Require vendors to reclaim packing materials
- Make materials from recycled products
- By changing P & P at the top, it has a trickle down affect on the organization

Reuse of Products

Reuse

- Trees
- Trash
- Scraps
- Electronics
- Bottles
- Furniture
- Cardboard
- Pallets
- Shipping straps



Selling Leftover of Discarded Materials

Selling Materials

- Baled Cardboard can be sold for 11-15 cents per pound. Avg. bale weighs 500-800 lbs.
- Glass bottles and cans by weight
- Scrap metals from District



Up & Down Stream Uses

Up & Down Stream

- Up:
 - Where is recycled products going
 - How are bulk surplus items used
 - What is companies recycling philosophy
- Down:
 - Where did products come from (Follett)
 - How was it manufactured
 - What products were used

Auditing

Auditing – Dumpster Diving

- Annually or Bi-annually sifting through trash and see what was missed or not categorized correctly
- Use this information to verify weaknesses in program for improvement
- Use this data to support current diversion efforts



Usually coincides with Earth Day

Where is COM?





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