The Discards Hierarchy

Rethink

Reduce

Reuse

Repair

Recycle

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NMRC
NEW MEXICO RECYCLING COALITION

2020

Recycling Hubs Recently Shuttered – Silver City, Carlsbad

Recycling Hubs Have Stopped Accepting Items – Estancia Valley (paper & plastic), Taos (plastic), Deming (unclear selling to private hauler), Ruidoso (paper), Las Vegas (plastics & paper)

Recycling & diversion rate unknown (2015 last date)

New Mexico Hub and Spoke Recycling
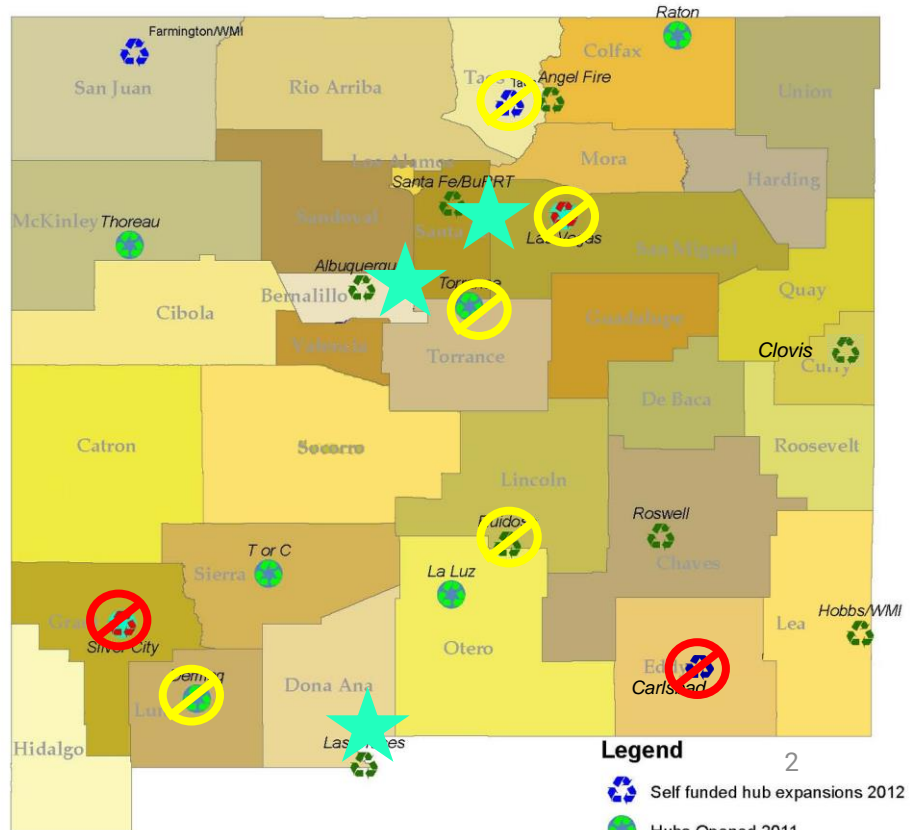
Many communities are committed to keeping their recycling programs going despite increased processing costs

Legend

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- Self funded hub expansions 2012
- Hubs Opened 2011
- Hub Improvement Grants 2012
- Existing Hubs

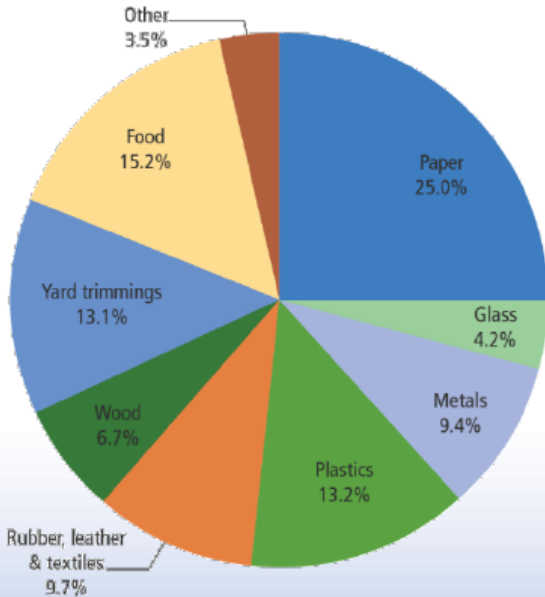# What do you do first?
Turn off the faucet or grab a mop?

Zero Waste is a Concept that Covers Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Repair & Recycle

- *Zero Waste International Alliance Definition:* 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 (Pollution Prevention!)
- Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health
- Divert 90% and No Burn, No Bury. This means waste to energy is NOT Zero Waste.

Zero Waste – Current Starting Point

Organics – The Low Hanging Fruit

Figure 4. Total MSW Generation (by material), 2017
267.8 Million Tons

Other 3.5%
Food 15.2%
Yard trimmings 13.1%
Wood 6.7%
Rubber, leather & textiles 9.7%
Plastics 13.2%
Metals 9.4%
Glass 4.2%
Paper 25.0%

- *Nearly 30% of America's Municipal Solid Waste is organic material.*
- *When landfilled organic materials decompose without oxygen to make methane, a greenhouse gas at least 21% more potent than CO2*
- *Use City's biannual yard debris curbside clean up*
- *Start your own backyard composting system*
- *Don't want to do it yourself? Utilize businesses, such as Little Green Bucket or Soilutions*

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LITTLE GREEN BUCKET   Soilutions
COMPLETE THE CYCLE™

Rethink

When it comes to the global waste crisis, we're trying to reduce, reuse, repair and recycle an unmanageable volume and type of material

We need to refuse to continue within this broken system and RETHINK the way we manage waste

Who wants this? NO ONE. Could it be turned into anything else in this state? NO.

Zero Waste/Reduce - INDIVIDUAL level
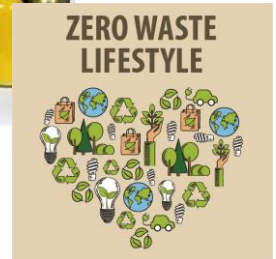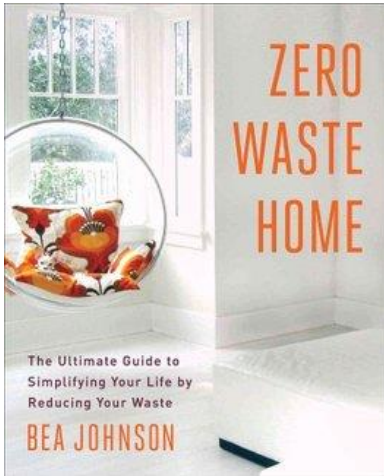
Zero Waste/Rethink & Reduce – SYSTEMATIC level

THE TOP 10 CORPORATE PLASTIC POLLUTERS IN GLOBAL BRAND AUDITS

Rethink - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

*Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a mandatory type of product stewardship that includes, at a minimum, the requirement that the producer's responsibility for their product extends to post-consumer management of that **product and its packaging**. There are two related features of EPR policy: (1) shifting financial and management responsibility, with government oversight, upstream to the producer and away from the public sector; and (2) providing incentives to producers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of their products and packaging.*

Example: Mattress, Carpet, Paint or Other Items Required to Be Taken Back Through Industry Paid For Efforts, PACKAGING

Reduce ❌

Shell's Newest "Cracking" Plant in Pennsylvania

1 million tons of new plastic each year.

Reduce ✓

- Eight states—California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New York, Oregon and Vermont (also straws and Styrofoam coffee cups and take out containers) —have banned single-use plastic bags.

- In NM – Cities of Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County (includes Styrofoam take out containers and straws) and Silver City have some sort of single-use plastic ban (paused due to COVID)

- Cities of Carlsbad and Las Cruces considering bag bans

- Individual businesses banning single use plastic

Our Individual Actions & Demands are creating a Tipping Point for Systems Change

BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC POLLUTION ACT

Introduced by Senator Tom Udall and Representative Alan Lowenthal

BREAK FREE
FROM PLASTIC
POLLUTION

Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act

⬤ Source Reduction
- Plastic Carry-Out Bags - 10 cent fee on all other Carry-out bags
- Plastic Utensils
- Styrofoam food and drinkware
- Styrofoam coolers & shipping packaging (medical exceptions)
- Straws available upon request

⬤ Producer Responsibility
- Packaging, containers, food service products & paper - All materials (plastic, glass, metal, paper) - Regardless of recyclability/compostability
- Producer Responsibility Organizations (PRO)
- Collection/Reuse/Recycling Targets
- Major investment in U.S. domestic recycling/composting infrastructure

⬤ National Container Deposit
- 10-cent national refund for all beverage containers - All material (plastic, glass, metal)
- Modeled off Oregon's bottle bill - Producers use unclaimed deposits for investment in recycling
- Existing state programs can continue or harmonize

Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act

⬤ Post Consumer Recycled Content from US Sources
- Plastic beverage bottles - 25% by 2025, 30% by 2030, 50% by 2035, 80% by 2040
- Other covered products/beverage containers
- EPA and National Institute of Standards and Technology set percentages

⬤ Recycling
- Define recycling and recyclable - Processing capacity in U.S. and geographical distribution
- Standardize product labels
- Standardize receptacle labeling

⬤ Plastic Waste Exports
- Ban on export of plastic waste, scrap and pairings to developing countries.
- Export permitted to OECD countries (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)

⬤ Other Provisions
- Cigarette Butts – Electronic Cigarette Cartridges – Derelict Fishing Gear
- Protect State Action
- **Temporary Pause on New Plastic Production Facilities - Up to three years while Federal Agencies study impacts and update regulations**

Reuse & Repair

NMRC received USDA funding this month to work with rural communities to physically implement the grassroots waste reduction solutions, including **reuse centers, Fix It Clinics, back yard composting trainings & zero waste efforts.**

Open it up. See how it works. Hopefully fix it.

As a Concerned Citizen What Can You Do?

- Knowledge is power. Host a litter clean up and Brand Audit in your neighborhood – learn more at https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/brandaudittoolkit/

- Compost your food scraps and yard waste

- Recycle Correctly!

- Support Zero Waste Policy
  - Single use plastic bans
  - Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act