



**WHAT
IS
ZERO
WASTE?**

Zero Waste is...

A strategy that strives to reduce the amount of waste produced through more efficient use and re-use of materials by manufacturers, wiser purchasing decisions by consumers, and improved recycling throughout society.

Zero waste calls for:

- Moving from a 'waste management' model to a 'materials management' model that reduces and eventually eliminates "waste"



**Zero Waste Is a
Philosophy That Proposes
Policies and Initiatives to
Reduce Waste at
its source.**

Asking the Right Questions

- Zero Waste doesn't ask "how do we get rid of all this waste?"
- Zero Waste asks "Why are we generating so much of it?"



Zero Waste looks at garbage as bad design

- It says we must start designing with the environment and reuse in mind.



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- **Ideally, producers would be responsible for the costs associated with life-cycle impacts of their products**
- **Reduce materials used**
- **Design products and packaging that can be reused and/or recycled**

Less Toxics

- Zero Waste calls for hazardous substances to be removed from the manufacturing process when safer alternatives exist
- ‘green chemistry’ – using materials that are benign by design



Return Organics To the Earth

- **Zero Waste** supports composting.
- **Our depleted soils** must have organic matter returned to them to ensure continued fertility.



Zero Waste Supports Entrepreneurship and Green Jobs

- Recycling, reuse and repair offers local opportunities for entrepreneurs to become part of the solution.



Zero Waste is a Local *and* Global Movement

- Municipalities, Regions, Provinces, States, Countries around the world are implementing Zero Waste plans and initiatives



Great News in Ontario!

- Oct. 2008 The Ontario Ministry of the Environment has released a discussion paper for public consultation: “Toward a Zero Waste Future: Review of Ontario’s Waste Diversion Act, 2002.”
- Ministry wants public input – Get your voice and opinions heard!
- Comment deadline April 1st, 2009



Ministry's Paper: 4 Key Building Blocks

- Framework for change built on EPR
- Reduce and Reuse, then Recycle
- Addressing the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) waste stream
- All sectors contributing to a common goal

Zero Waste says we can no longer afford to throw stuff out and forget about the consequences



Zero Waste



A philosophy, a goal and a strategy that can lead to a sustainable future.

Bibliography

- Benneian, Liz. 2008. Ontario Zero Waste Coalition.
- Ontario Ministry of the Environment. October 2008. *TOWARD A ZERO WASTE FUTURE: REVIEW OF ONTARIO'S WASTE DIVERSION ACT, 2002: Discussion Paper for Public Consultation*. http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/er/documents/2008/010-4676.pdf