

ZERO WASTE MONTHLY



BUSINESS NEWSLETTER



Brought to you by Zero Waste Strategies

0waste.org



»»» LABOR OF LOVE

As we celebrate the growth and renewal that the month of May brings, we also acknowledge May Day, also known as International Workers' Day.

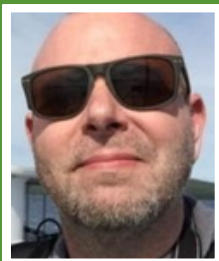
This newsletter is dedicated to the people behind the progress - the workers who make sustainability possible. From sanitation crews to warehouse sorters, facility managers to sustainability officers, labor is the engine driving zero waste and circular economy innovation.

In this issue, we shine a light on how worker rights intersect with environmental responsibility. You'll find highlights from recent sustainability conferences that are shaping the future of green business, success stories from companies achieving major zero waste milestones, and a compelling case study showing how one business turned its waste reduction strategy into a catalyst for growth and savings.



Stacy Savage
Founder & CEO

Let's recognize the critical role of labor in building a cleaner, more just world—and learn how smart sustainability practices support both people and the planet.



Jon Savage

Executive Vice President

THE SCOOP!

Zero Waste Business News & Updates



SIX KEY ARCHETYPES OF SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT - WHICH ONE ARE YOU?



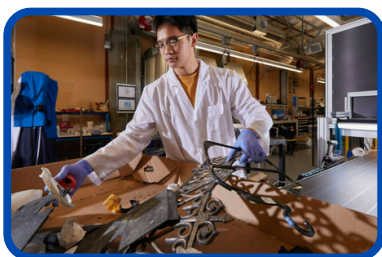
Researchers have pinpointed 6 key archetypes that assist in the understanding of how company leaders perceive sustainability. This can be the key to aligning strategies and building internal champions. When sustainability teams recognize these distinct mindsets and tailor their engagement accordingly, efforts are more likely to succeed across the business.

SKULLCANDY FIRST RECIPIENT OF REMA INNOVATION AWARD

The Recycled Materials Association (ReMA) honored Skullcandy for its bold commitment to sustainability, highlighted by the new EcoBuds—battery-free, made with recycled plastic, and boasting a 50% lower carbon footprint. The brand also refurbishes returned products and supports climate-focused nonprofits through its Music With a Mission program.



TECH GIANTS & AI TACKLE FLEX PLASTICS RECYCLING



Google's X and Dow are partnering to boost recycling of hard-to-process plastic films and flexible packaging using AI-powered detection systems. This pilot tech identifies materials at the molecular level, aiming to unlock new recycling streams and guide smarter packaging design. With only 5% of flexible plastics currently recycled in the U.S., this could be a game-changer for circularity.

WOMEN AND CLIMATE SPEAKER DATABASE



Women and Climate community provides a joyful and safe space for women and nonbinary professionals from around the world to learn and talk about climate. The group accelerates climate action by inspiring more women to get started on their climate journey and empowering those who are working on climate today.



CRITICAL MINERALS SET FOR NATIONAL SECURITY REVIEW



The White House has launched a national security investigation into U.S. dependence on imported lithium, nickel, and rare earths—possibly leading to tariffs or quotas. This could raise costs for EV, battery, and defense manufacturers while creating new opportunities for domestic and allied-nation processing.



MAY'S FEATURED STORY



May 1st is May Day, also known as International Workers' Day. It honors the labor movement's struggles & achievements in securing workers' rights.

May Day's roots trace back to the 1886 Haymarket Affair in Chicago when labor unions organized a nationwide strike demanding an eight-hour workday. One of the peaceful protests turned violent leading to deaths and a controversial trial of labor activists. This event galvanized the international labor movement.

May Day is especially relevant to sanitation workers, who are often under-recognized despite doing some of the most essential, physically demanding, and hazardous work in society. These workers are on the front lines of public health, environmental protection, and city functioning—yet they frequently face low wages, poor working conditions, and a lack of visibility.

Why May Day Matters to Sanitation Workers:

- Essential, not expendable: They keep communities clean and prevent disease. This is work that became even more visible during the COVID pandemic.
- Labor justice: May Day highlights the need for fair pay, safety protections, and dignity, which are issues sanitation workers have historically had to fight for.
- Solidarity: It connects them with the global labor movement, showing that their struggles are shared and supported worldwide.

At Zero Waste Strategies, we honor the laborers who make quality of life a priority for their neighbors.





Tex Savage
Chief Cuddle Officer



EXPAND YOUR MAY DAY KNOWLEDGE

Here are some additional key facts about May Day:

May Day has helped elevate issues like minimum wage, collective bargaining, anti-child labor laws, and occupational health and safety standards into global policy discussions.

Sanitation workers who collect, sort, recycle, compost, and dispose of waste face some of the most dangerous working conditions of any profession.

Sanitation workers are exposed to:

- Hazardous waste
- Heavy machinery
- Airborne pathogens
- Extreme weather
- Inconsistent job protections, especially in the Global South

May Day has helped shine a light on their struggles and push for:

- ✓ Better pay and benefits in unionized cities and sectors
- ✓ Improved PPE (personal protective equipment) and safety training
- ✓ Stronger representation through municipal and trade unions
- ✓ Recognition as essential workers, especially during the pandemic
- ✓ Policies addressing dignity, rights, and equity, particularly for informal sanitation workers in developing countries

✓ Examples of Progress:

- India: Waste pickers in cities like Pune have organized into worker cooperatives, gaining legal recognition, health benefits, and wages.
- Brazil: São Paulo’s waste collectors (“catadores”) have been recognized in national recycling policies and given formal roles in the circular economy.

💡 Why It Matters Today:

May Day reminds us that a transition to a greener, circular economy must include social justice and the rights, health, and representation of sanitation workers. Their labor is central to environmental goals, yet their well-being is often overlooked.



2025 NOTABLE WASTE & RECYCLING CONFERENCES



STAR Recycling Summit	May 7-9	Georgetown, Texas
ReMA2025 Convention & Exposition	May 12-15	San Diego, California
Federation of New York SWA	May 18-21	Bolton Landing, NY
US Product Stewardship Forum	June 3-5	Chicago, Illinois
15th Annual Garbageman's Invitational	June 17-19	Temecula, California
ReFED Food Waste Solutions Summit	June 23-25	Seattle, Washington
Resource Recycling Conference	Aug. 4-6	Denver, Colorado
Paper & Plastics Recycling Conference	Oct. 15-16	Chicago, Illinois
National Zero Waste Conference	Oct. 22-23	Virtual/Online
E-Scrap Conference	Oct. 27-29	Grapevine, Texas
Corporate Growth Conference	Nov. 12-13	Chicago, Illinois
RCon	Nov. 12-15	Columbus, Ohio



BALCONES RESOURCES IN TEXAS INTERVIEWS WITH WASTE ADVANTAGE



The [“Talking Trash”](#) program by Waste Advantage has released its new interview with Balcones Resources. This episode highlights the history of Balcones as a company and how it not only mobilized to secure a recycling contract with the City of San Antonio, it also built a new state-of-the-art MRF (Materials Recovery Facility), all in just 2 years!



[GREEN JOB BOARDS](#)



The [Trellis job board](#) provides notices for careers in sustainability, climate tech, renewable energy, net zero, the circular economy, ESG and more.



The [Green Jobs Board](#) boasts “Community, empowerment, and you equals the future of green jobs!”



At [Climatebase](#), you can discover jobs at thousands of organizations working on climate solutions.



SPEAKER'S SPOTLIGHT



OUR CEO IS NOW A SPEAKER WITH WOMEN AND CLIMATE



W
AC

SPEAKING TOPICS:
**ZERO WASTE &
CIRCULAR
ECONOMY**

SPECIALIZATIONS:
**CORPORATE WASTE
REDUCTION &
FOOD WASTE
POLICY**

**STACY
SAVAGE**

**WOMEN AND CLIMATE
SPEAKER DATABASE**
Find your next speaker
WWW.WOMENANDCLIMATE.CO/SPEAKER-DATABASE

Zero Waste Strategies founder & CEO, Stacy Savage, was honored to be accepted into the [Women and Climate](#) global speaker's database! If you need a fun and engaging event speaker to discuss Zero Waste & Circular Economy topics, please contact us!

OUR CEO'S INTERVIEW WITH AMERICAN RECYCLER MAGAZINE

Our CEO recently interviewed with [American Recycler Magazine](#) about the "Right to Repair" movement sweeping the nation.

From tractors to cell phones, Americans are demanding the right to fix our broken and obsolete products instead of trashing them, but we must first get around the corporate claims of proprietorship.





ZERO WASTE BUSINESS ACADEMY



Our 8-week online [“Cash for Trash” Zero Waste Business Academy](#) training course equips business owners and managers with the tools to reduce waste, save money, and boost brand reputation.

Through comprehensive training modules on waste reduction, food waste management, and employee education, business owners and managers will learn the key foundational concepts to running an optimized operation.

With bonuses, such as educational resources, private group access, expert consultations, and a Zero Waste Business training certification. This program is designed to empower business leaders to drive sustainability and tap into the growing market of eco-conscious consumers.



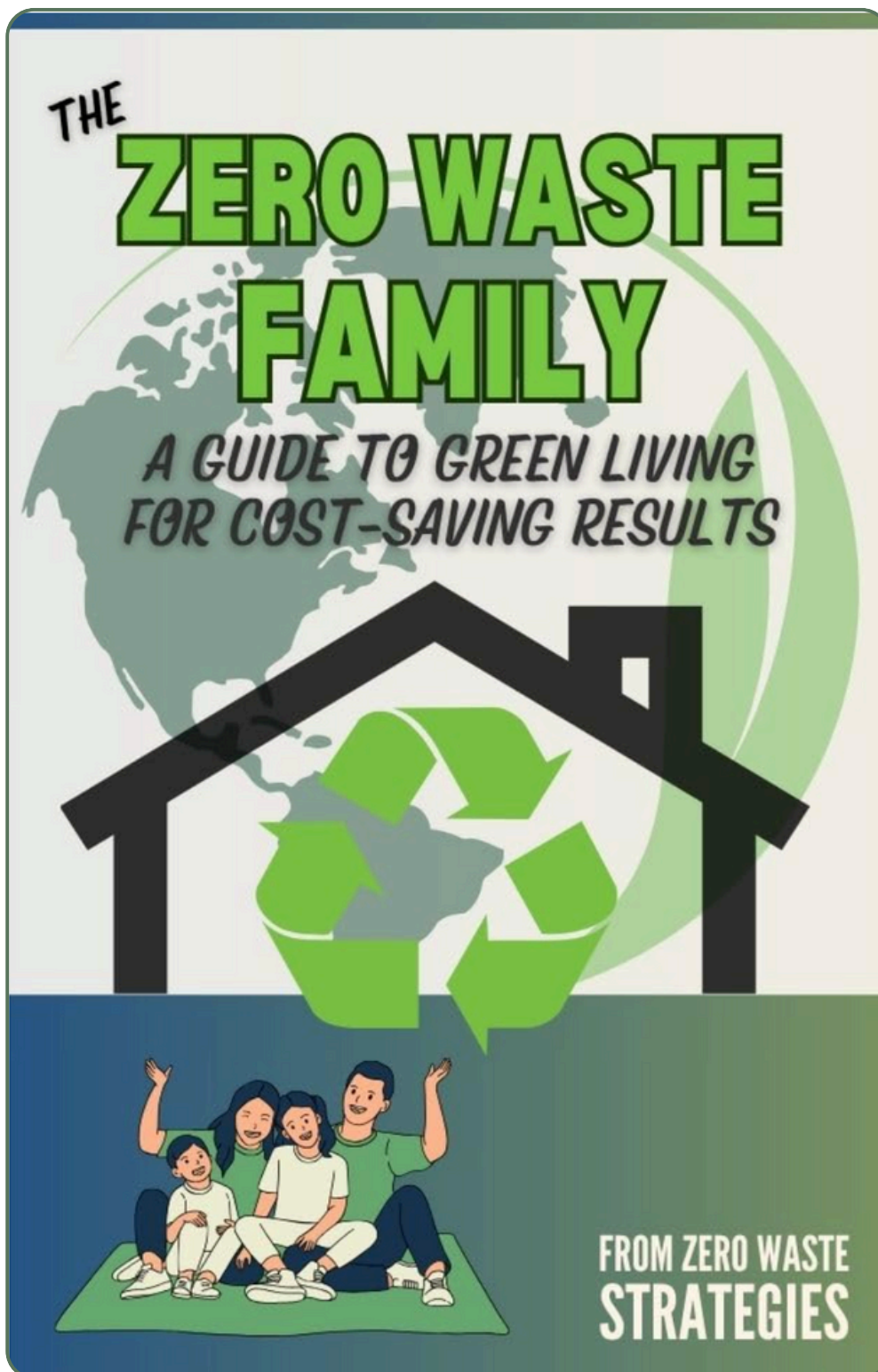
THE SUSTAINABILITY STARTUP: LAUNCH YOUR CONSULTING BUSINESS



Our 12-week online training course, "Sustainability Startup", is designed specifically for sustainability graduates and corporate professionals ready who want to transform their passion for the environment into a thriving consulting business. Download this free [Resource Guide](#) and get on our email list and be the very first to know when this course is LIVE!

BUY
NOW

NEW ZERO WASTE BOOK FOR BUSY FAMILIES!



[The Zero Waste Family: A Guide to Green Living for Cost-Saving Results](#) is your family's new handbook to lead a zero waste lifestyle! Learn waste reduction strategies for each room of your home, events and holidays, and family vacations, plus your kid will love the games & coloring pages included to make "talking trash" fun!

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Zero Waste Strategies was founded in 2013 by [Stacy Savage](#), AKA “The Texas Trash Talker”. ZWS is a sustainability consulting firm specializing in Zero Waste business protocols to support the newly emerging Circular Economy. ZWS works with leaders in the business, government, institutional, and nonprofit sectors who are serious about using waste reduction to drive increased revenue, deeper customer loyalty, employee empowerment, and a green marketing edge.

ZWS is an S-Corp based in Austin, TX. The company's client list includes Dell, AT&T, Apple, Kohler, Nestle Purina, Wayfair, Misfits Market, Boston University, and the City of Austin, among many others. The company is a member in good standing with the US Green Building Council (USGBC), State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR), the Austin Green Business Leaders Program, and the Green Business Bureau.

ZERO WASTE BUSINESS SERVICES

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