

# ZERO WASTE MONTHLY



**BUSINESS NEWSLETTER**



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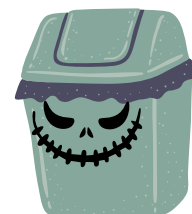
## **>>> DON'T LET WASTE HAUNT YOUR BOTTOM LINE!**



**Stacy Savage**  
Founder & CEO

This month, we're diving into a waste topic that's more relevant—and perhaps scarier—than ever: Zombie Appliances. We'll explore how to combat the “Energy Vampires” in your home and also explore how businesses can confront the rising costs and environmental impact of waste. Join us to uncover effective zero waste strategies, highlight success stories, and show how reducing waste can improve your company's efficiency, brand image, and profits.

Get ready to face the waste monster and come out ahead!

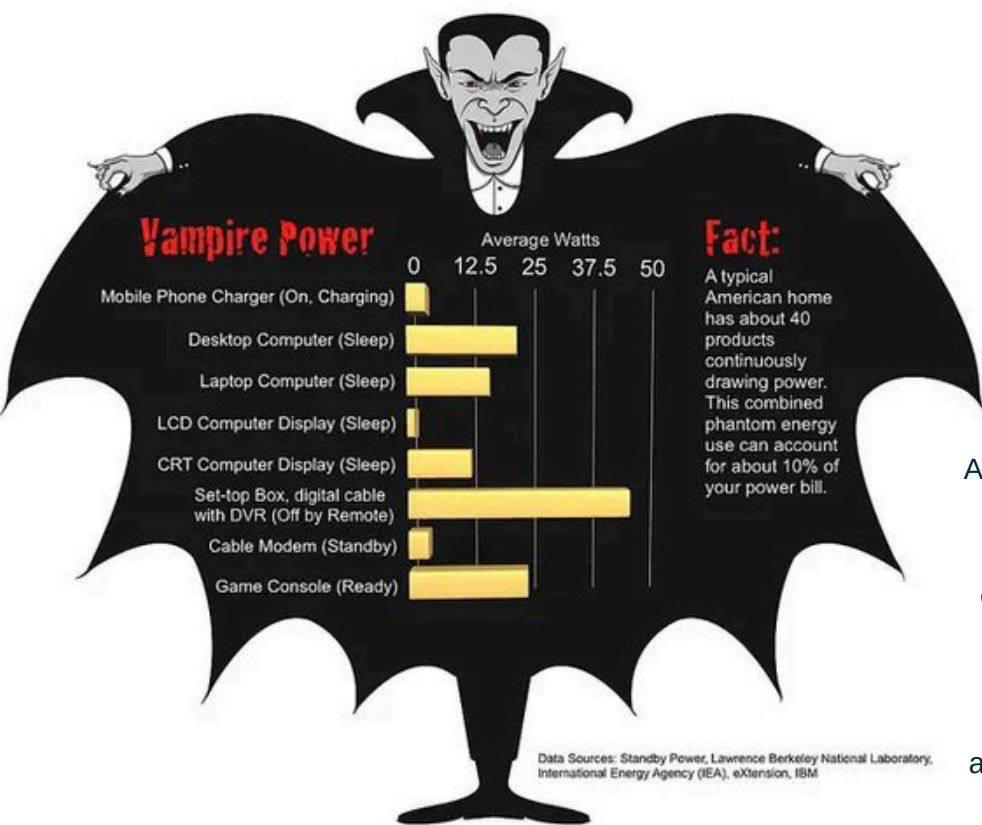


# THE SCOOP!

## Zero Waste for Business



By Jon Savage  
Executive Vice President



### ➤➤➤ ZOMBIE APPLIANCES & ENERGY VAMPIRES CAUSE PHANTOM LOADS

As Halloween draws near, it's a perfect time to shed light on menace that might be lurking in your own home—zombie appliances and energy vampires causing phantom loads. Did you know that three pounds of carbon emissions are emitted from the average two-person household on a daily basis for appliances that are turned off? This is called a phantom load. These are the energy-sucking devices that never truly power down, silently draining your resources even when you believe they are laid to rest. Examples include old TVs, gaming consoles, desktop computers, and appliances with constant digital displays.

### ➤➤➤ PFAS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: EPA'S BOLD MOVE TO TACKLE FOREVER CHEMICALS

The EPA is proposing to add 16 specific PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) and 15 PFAS categories, which include over 100 individual PFAS, to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). These substances would be classified as chemicals of special concern, requiring stricter reporting, even for small amounts. This expansion of the TRI is part of the EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap, aimed at addressing the health and environmental risks of PFAS by encouraging pollution prevention and increasing public awareness of the release of these "forever chemicals" into the environment.



### AUSTIN'S MULTIFAMILY COMPOSTING ORDINANCE GOES INTO EFFECT



The Austin City Council recently passed legislation mandating that owners and operators of residential properties with five or more units provide commercial composting services to tenants and employees starting next October. This new requirement will not be covered by the city's existing single-family composting program, but instead must be serviced by private collectors paid for by property owners. Costs will range from 80 cents to \$2.90 per unit monthly, advising property managers to select a hauler that best meets their specific needs.

# THE SCOOP!

## Zero Waste for Business

### ➤➤➤ FUNDING ALERT: MILLIONS AVAILABLE FOR RECYCLING AND CLIMATE INITIATIVES!

As deadlines approach, several grants offering millions of dollars for waste and recycling initiatives are now available, managed by agencies including the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These grants support a variety of programs focused on recycling infrastructure, environmental education, environmental justice, organics, and other climate-related efforts. This new round of funding builds on the historic financial support awarded last year, largely fueled by the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The EPA recently announced new funding opportunities through its Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling and Recycling Education and Outreach grant programs, among other initiatives.



### SEWING UP SUSTAINABILITY: CALIFORNIA'S HISTORIC TEXTILE EPR INITIATIVE



California has made history by becoming the first state in the US to implement an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for textiles, following Governor Gavin Newsom's signing of SB 707 into law. This legislation, backed by various recycling and waste advocacy groups, aims to reduce the amount of textile waste generated by both residential and commercial sources. It mandates that producers of specific apparel and textile items establish a producer responsibility organization for developing a comprehensive plan for the collection, repair, and recycling of these materials.

### ➤➤➤ THE CIRCULARITY INDEX: A FREE TOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS SUCCESS

Circularity, the practice of maximizing the lifespan of materials to reduce waste and resource consumption, is vital for businesses aiming to minimize their environmental footprint. Republic Services, Inc. has introduced the Circularity Index, a free tool to help businesses assess and improve their circular practices, benefiting both the environment and their profitability. With over 300 million tons of waste generated annually in the U.S., and more than 60% going to landfills or incineration, shifting from a traditional "take-make-dispose" model to a circular approach is key to addressing environmental and consumer concerns.





**Tex Savage**  
Chief Cuddle Officer



## EXPAND YOUR ZERO WASTE KNOWLEDGE

- Candy is the biggest contributor to Halloween waste, with each trick-or-treater generating about one pound of trash. Most candy is wrapped in plastic that can't be recycled. To reduce waste, you can try giving out homemade treats, bulk candy with minimal packaging, or treats wrapped in compostable or recyclable packaging.
- Costumes: 35 million Halloween costumes are thrown away in the US each year, and 83% of them are made with non-recyclable plastic. To reduce waste, you can make your own costume using items from your closet, thrift stores, or borrow from a friend. You can also host or attend a costume swap.
- Pumpkins: Around 1 billion pounds of pumpkins are sent to landfills each year, where they break down and emit methane gas. After Halloween, you can add your pumpkin to your compost bin or check with your neighbors or local community for compost drop-offs. You can also save the seeds to roast.
- Decorations: You can make your own decorations using materials you already have, such as recycled paper pumpkin garlands or cheesecloth ghosts. You can also use dried leaves and sticks as decorations.



## MEDIA INTERVIEWS

### Women'sHealth



Our founder & CEO was interviewed by Women's Health magazine to give insights on choosing a reusable water bottle or tumbler. You can get the full story [here](#).

»»» **SPEAKER'S SPOTLIGHT** «««



Recently, our founder & CEO was invited by Climatebase to give an informational training called “Zero Waste 101” to the Fellows in their 2024 cohort. She covered waste reduction tips for home and business, the hierarchy of waste management, and opened up a Q+A session for real-time solutions.



Zero Waste Strategies  
Presents:

# ZERO WASTE 101

**CHECK IT OUT!  
WATCH THE FULL  
SESSION HERE.**



Register now!

## NRC RECYCLING CONGRESS & NYSAR<sup>3</sup> CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

November 19 - 21, 2024

Join the National Recycling Congress for three exciting days of networking, learning, and collaboration with the best in the 3Rs industry. From cutting-edge Circular Economy trends to the latest in Sustainable Materials Management, you'll gain valuable insights and tools to elevate your sustainability efforts! Don't miss out—[register today!](#)



THU  
17



## AmericaPack Summit

a **marcusevans** event

October 17 - October 18

**Americapack Summit**

MON  
21



TUE  
22



October 22 - October 24

**Electronics Sustainability Summit (eSummit)**

MON  
28



October 28 - October 30

**Northeast Recycling Council's 2024 Fall Conference: Rethinking Resource Use: Regional Perspectives**

MON  
28



October 28 - October 30

**World Recycling Convention/Recycling Week 2024**

TUE  
29



October 29 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm EDT

**AMERIPEN Webinar: Understanding Packaging Claims and Labeling Requirements, Session 2: Legislative Pathways: State or Federal?**

# **ABOUT THE COMPANY**

Founded in 2013 by Stacy Savage, [Zero Waste Strategies](#) 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 registered in Austin, TX. The company's client list includes Dell, AT&T, Apple, Kohler, Nestle Purina, 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.

# **BUSINESS SERVICES**

- TRUE Certification
- Waste Audits
- Green Marketing
- Manager Training
- Employee Training
- Public Speaking

# CONTACT US



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