

ZERO WASTE MONTHLY



BUSINESS NEWSLETTER



Brought to you by Zero Waste Strategies

0waste.org



LET'S CELEBRATE EARTH MONTH & EARTH DAY!



Stacy Savage
Founder & CEO
@TexasTrashTalker

Earth Day reminds us that real change happens when awareness turns into action, and that every choice we make, whether at home, at work, and in our communities, has the power to reduce waste and build a more sustainable future.

In this issue, you'll find inspiration, ideas, and practical takeaways to help you honor the planet in meaningful ways. From the history and importance of Earth Day to timely industry news and events, this month's newsletter is packed with purpose.

We're also sharing ways to celebrate Earth Month with intention and to keep the momentum going all year long. Here's to a month of reflection, action, and progress and to doing our part to leave the Earth better than we found it.





Jon Savage
Executive
Vice President

THE SCOOP!

Zero Waste Business News & Updates



WAR-DRIVEN FUEL COSTS COMPOUND RECYCLING WOES

War in Iran has driven oil prices up ~60%, raising diesel costs 10–20% and straining U.S. recycling through higher freight rates and selective drivers. The U.S. Energy Information Administration expects continued volatility, with prices easing later if disruptions subside.



GLOBAL WASTE GENERATION COULD RISE 50% BY 2050: WORLD BANK

The World Bank warns global waste could rise 50% by 2050 to 3.9 billion tons, with 30% unmanaged. Growth is fastest in lower-income regions. Investments, policy, and circular solutions are critical to reduce environmental harm, costs, and disparities.



SAN MATEO COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT LAUNCH DASHLOOP PILOT

DoorDash launched DashLoop, a three-month pilot in Half Moon Bay and nearby Coastside communities. Partnering with Dispatch Goods, it provides reusable containers at no cost, aiming to reduce single-use waste, emissions, and support sustainable local food delivery systems.



REPORT HIGHLIGHTS VALUABLE IMPACTS OF MATTRESS RECYCLING

The Mattress Recycling Council reports strong growth from its Bye Bye Mattress program in Connecticut. By recycling over 1.9 million mattresses in ten years it has recovered steel, foam, and wood, expanded municipal participation, and reduced landfill waste.



REFED REPORT SHOWS FIRST MEANINGFUL DROP IN U.S. FOOD WASTE SINCE PANDEMIC

The U.S. generated 70 million tons of surplus food in 2024, but ReFED says that figure dipped for the first time in years, suggesting food waste reduction efforts may be gaining real traction. The report also highlights growing business, policy, and investment momentum to keep that progress moving.



Earth Day began in 1970 as a powerful grassroots movement, born out of a growing public concern for pollution, environmental harm, and the future of our planet. At the time, people across the country were witnessing the effects of unchecked industrial growth, dirty air, polluted water, and a culture that treated natural resources as if they were endless. Earth Day gave those concerns a voice. It brought millions of people together, raised awareness on a national scale, and helped spark meaningful policy change that still shapes environmental protection today.

More than 50 years later, Earth Day still matters, maybe even more than ever. We are living in a time of climate disruption, resource scarcity, and mounting waste, but we are also living in a time of innovation, creativity, and growing awareness. That's what makes Earth Day so meaningful. It reminds us that change is possible when people care enough to act, and that lasting progress often begins with small, steady steps taken by ordinary people, businesses, and communities that are willing to do things differently.

Earth Day is not only a global celebration, it's about our recommitment. A chance to pause and recognize the systems we have built, the habits we have normalized, and the opportunities we have to do better. Every time we choose reuse over disposal, repair over replacement, or composting over landfill, we are making a decision that supports a healthier, more resilient future. Rethinking our waste systems is helping create a ripple effect across the world.

That is why Earth Day continues to inspire. It's a reminder that environmental stewardship is not a trend, but a responsibility. It is a call to action, but also a call to hope that we can build smarter systems, reduce waste, protect resources, and leave something better behind for the next generation. At Zero Waste Strategies, that is the work we believe in every day, and Earth Day gives us all another reason to keep moving forward with fierce purpose.



TEXAS DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

Austin Advances Zero Waste Goals with New Qualified Processor Certification

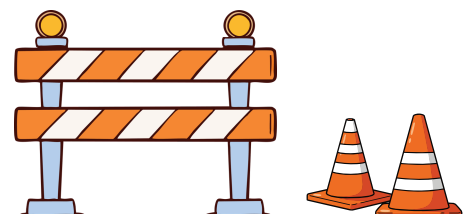
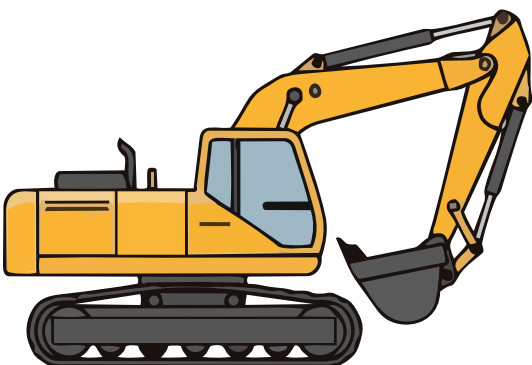
Austin is making major progress toward its zero waste goals - and Zero Waste Strategies helped make it happen.

[Texas Disposal Systems \(TDS\)](#), located in Creedmor, TX, has been named the City of Austin’s only Qualified Processor (QP) for construction and demolition (C&D) materials. As the City’s only certified third-party evaluator, Zero Waste Strategies verified TDS’s recycling and diversion performance, confirming a 67% diversion rate, which is well above the city’s 50% requirement.

“Independent verification turns sustainability goals into trustworthy results,” said Stacy Savage, Founder and CEO of Zero Waste Strategies. “With more than two-thirds of C&D materials responsibly recovered and reused, contractors using the TDS facility can trust their debris is managed transparently, sustainably, and in full compliance with city requirements.”

The new Qualified Processor designation allows general contractors on affected Austin projects to comply with the minimum diversion requirements of the city’s [C&D recycling ordinance](#) with confidence. By directing debris to a verified facility like TDS, they simplify compliance, reduce landfill use, and support Austin’s circular economy.

TDS and the City of Austin will host a press event on Earth Day, April 22, 2026, at the Creedmor facility to celebrate this milestone in the city’s journey to zero waste.



EXPAND YOUR EARTH DAY KNOWLEDGE



Tex Savage
Chief Cuddle Officer



Here are some key facts about Earth Month and Earth Day:

How Earth Day Started:

Earth Day was started in 1970 by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. It grew out of a national teach-in idea to bring environmental issues onto the public agenda, and the first Earth Day mobilized about 20 million Americans!

Environmental Awareness:

Earth Day and Earth Month are designed to raise awareness about environmental issues and promote action to protect the planet.

Global Movement:

Earth Day went global in 1990, with events and activities taking place worldwide.

Environmental Protection Agency:

The Earth Day movement helped lead to the creation of the EPA in 1970.

Earth Month:

The month of April is now recognized as [Earth Month](#), a time to focus on sustainability, conservation, and making greener choices.

Earth Day Theme:

The theme for Earth Day 2026 is [OUR POWER, OUR PLANET](#), inviting everyone around the globe to unite behind renewable energy, and to triple the global generation of clean electricity by 2030.

Global Participation:

Earth Day is celebrated in over 190 countries.

Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring":

The book "Silent Spring," which documented the negative environmental effects of pesticides, played a role in raising environmental awareness in the 1960s.



>>> SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT <<<



STAR WEBINAR

On March 18th, our founder & CEO gave a webinar presentation for the State of Texas Alliance for Recycling ([STAR](#)) all about all about food waste management and how businesses can earn an IRS tax credit for legal food donations! Tune into the recording to learn how Texas businesses can cut down on food waste, save money, and make a positive environmental impact. Recording can be found [here](#).

BUSCH SYSTEMS MONTHLY WEBINAR

Recently, Stacy joined Busch Systems as part of its monthly webinar series to talk about proven employee education and engagement strategies to drive waste reduction and proper waste diversion techniques. Watch the webinar recording [here](#) and grab the free resource guide, too!



Environmental News: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly

Reusables vs. recyclables, Texas landfill methane emissions, & Spokane's incinerator fight



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, & THE UGLY

Get the latest updates on US Zero Waste and Circular Economy stories, business innovations, and legislation through our weekly YouTube series, "Environmental News: The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly." Watch the full series on our [YouTube Playlist page](#).



UPCOMING INDUSTRY EVENTS



<u>Race 2 Zero Waste</u>	April 21-23	Park City, UT
<u>SWANA Road-E-O</u>	April 24-25	Fort Meyers, FL
<u>Textiles Recycling Expo USA</u>	April 29-30	Charlotte, NC
<u>CARE Carpet Recycling Annual</u>	May 5-6	Chattanooga, TN
<u>2026 Green Sports Alliance Summit</u>	May 5-7	Columbus, OH
<u>Tire Recycling Conference</u>	May 12-14	Denver, CO
<u>State of Texas Alliance for Recycling Summit</u>	May 14-15	Denton, TX
<u>Waste Leadership Summit</u>	June 8-9	Washington, DC
<u>Michigan Environmental Compliance Conference</u>	June 9-10	Lansing, MI
<u>Annual Garbageman's Invitational</u>	June 16-18	Temecula, CA
<u>E-Waste World Expo</u>	June 17-18	Frankfurt, Germany



"CONSULTING FOR WOMEN IN WASTE" 12-WEEK ONLINE COURSE



"Consulting for Women in Waste: Build Wealth, Gain Freedom, and Grow Your Brand" is our self-paced, 12-week online training course designed specifically for women sustainability professionals & green graduates who are ready to transform their passion for the environment into a thriving consulting business. Download our free [Resource Guide](#) and get on our email list to learn how more about the program. If you're ready to dive in with us, just [click here](#) to enroll today!

ZERO WASTE BUSINESS ACADEMY

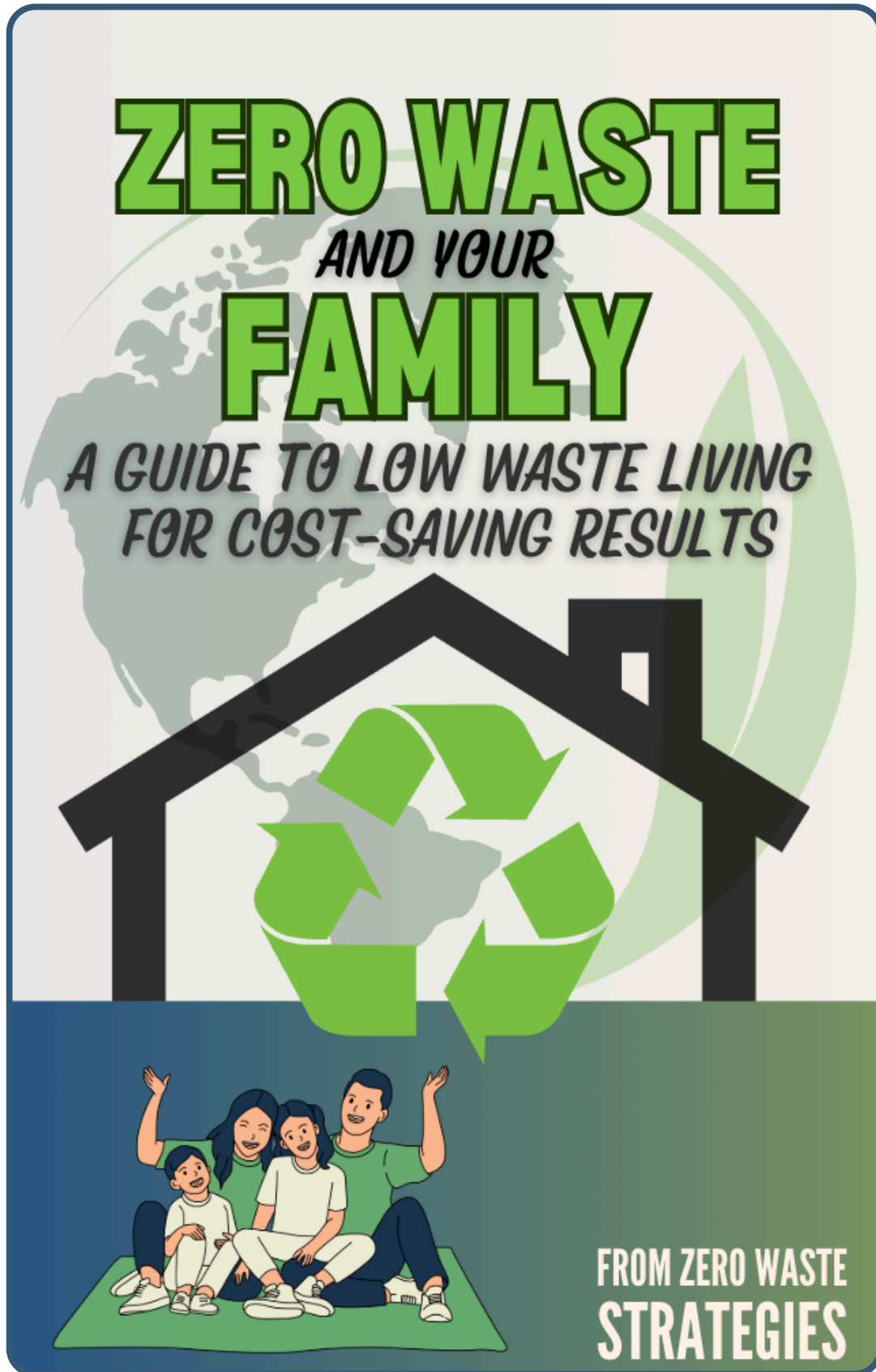
Our 8-week online ["Cash for Trash" Zero Waste Business Academy](#) training course equips business owners and managers with the tools to reduce waste, save money, and boost brand reputation.

Through comprehensive training modules on waste reduction, food waste management, employee education, and green marketing strategies, 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.

Enroll at [this link](#). Our next cohort starts soon...see y'all there!





[Zero Waste and Your 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 OUR COMPANY

[Zero Waste Strategies \(ZWS\)](#) 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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