

ZERO WASTE MONTHLY

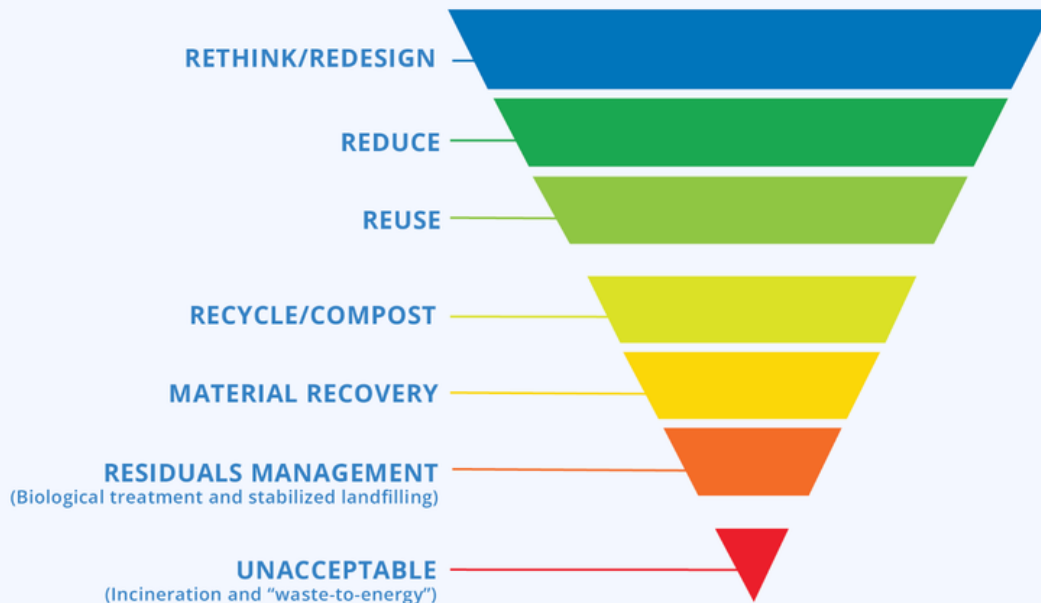
**BUSINESS NEWSLETTER**

Brought to you by Zero Waste Strategies

0waste.org

THE ZERO WASTE HIERARCHY 8.1

For detailed version visit www.zwia.org/zwh



Welcome! This month, we're sharing stories and updates that show how circularity is gaining ground in real, practical ways.



Stacy Savage
Founder & CEO

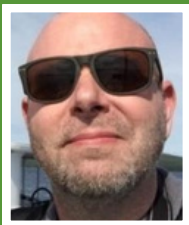
@TexasTrashTalker

From the passage of California's new SB 54 packaging law and showing how the Zero Waste Hierarchy works to metals reuse in the jewelry industry and highlights from the Texas Recycling Summit, May's edition is packed with education and inspiration!

You'll also find coverage on International Compost Awareness Week in "Tex's Corner" and upcoming industry events, plus a few more timely updates that show where the zero waste conversation is headed next.

This issue is all about progress, momentum, and the many ways businesses and communities are turning waste into opportunity going into the summer!

See y'all on the inside...



Jon Savage
Executive
Vice President

THE SCOOP!

Zero Waste Business News & Updates



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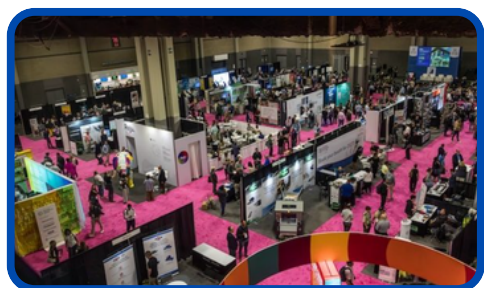
PANDORA SHIFTS TO 100% RECYCLED SILVER AND GOLD

Pandora now crafts all jewelry with 100% recycled silver and gold, reaching its goal 1 year early after a five-year transition. The move avoids about 58,000 tons of CO₂e annually and was achieved through strong supplier partnerships, audits, and company-wide commitments.



NEW REPORT: SATISFACTION LEVELS IN SUSTAINABILITY PROFESSION

Trellis released a new report showing the sustainability profession is still active, but it is under more pressure, with slower growth in headcount and budgets, more compliance work, weaker CEO support, and much higher stress and discouragement among professionals.



TEXTILES RECYCLING EXPO USA UNITES INDUSTRY IN CHARLOTTE DEBUT

The inaugural Textiles Recycling Expo USA drew 1,858 visitors, 95 exhibitors, and 52 speakers to Charlotte, uniting brands, recyclers, manufacturers, and policymakers around textile recycling and circular solutions. Organizers called the event a major milestone for North America's textile industry.



FARM BILL PASSES HOUSE WITH NEW COMPOST LANGUAGE

The U.S. House passed its 2026 farm bill draft with language recognizing composting as a USDA conservation practice, potentially expanding federal support for compost use, food waste diversion, biogas programs, soil health initiatives, and composting infrastructure nationwide.

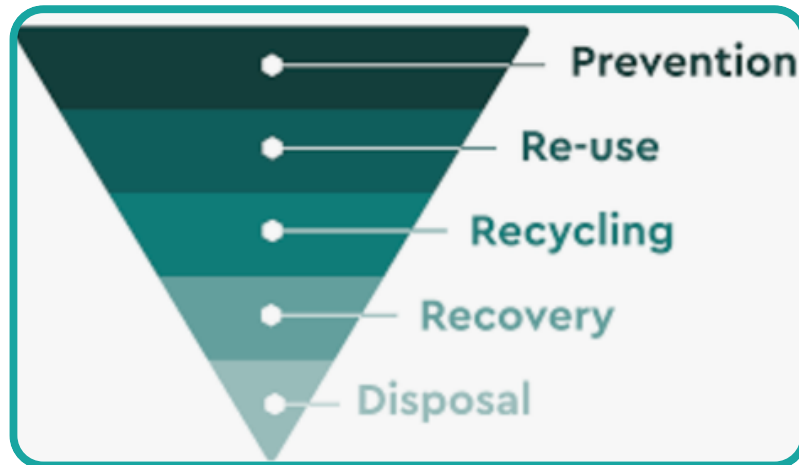


CALIFORNIA SB 54 PACKAGING EPR LAW TAKES EFFECT

California's SB 54 packaging law took effect May 1, 2026, shifting responsibility for packaging waste to producers through an extended producer responsibility program. The law targets a 25% reduction in packaging waste and 65% recycling of single-use plastics, among other requirements.



MAY FEATURED STORY



Zero Waste is globally defined as a goal of 90% or more waste reduction from landfills and incinerators. The [Zero Waste Hierarchy](#) is a practical framework that helps communities, governments, and businesses make better decisions about materials. Instead of defaulting to disposal, it prioritizes actions that prevent waste first, like reducing consumption, reusing materials, and redesigning systems, followed by recycling and composting, with landfill and incineration as last resorts.

This approach shifts the focus from “managing waste” to preventing it altogether, which unlocks both environmental and economic benefits. The hierarchy provides a clear roadmap for reducing costs, improving efficiency, and meeting growing sustainability expectations:

- Communities benefit from cleaner environments, improved public health, and longer-lasting landfills.
- Governments gain a tool to reduce infrastructure strain and meet climate goals.
- Businesses can cut waste-related costs, improve operations, and strengthen their brand.

Organizations that apply the zero waste hierarchy often see immediate and measurable results, such as lower purchasing and disposal costs, increased material efficiency, reduced regulatory and financial risk, and stronger customer trust and market positioning. Over time, these improvements drive innovation and long-term resilience.

Relying on disposal is becoming more expensive and less viable. Landfill costs are rising, capacity is shrinking, and regulations are tightening. Organizations that fail to adapt risk higher operating costs, lost materials, and reputational damage. Just as importantly, they miss opportunities to capture value from materials that could be reused, repaired, or composted.

Zero waste systems are inherently local and labor-driven. Activities like reuse, repair, recycling, and composting create significantly more jobs than landfilling or incineration. These jobs support small businesses, generate local revenue, and keep resources circulating within the community, strengthening the local economy while reducing environmental impact.



Tex Savage
Chief Cuddle Officer

EXPAND YOUR EARTH DAY KNOWLEDGE



[International Compost Awareness Week \(ICAW\) 2026](#) took place May 3–9, celebrating the compost industry’s largest global education and awareness campaign. Held each year during the first full week of May, ICAW brings together communities, schools, governments, and businesses to highlight the environmental benefits of composting and healthy soils. Events range from backyard composting workshops to large-scale commercial demonstrations, showing how everyone can contribute to a more sustainable future.

Each year, ICAW features a new theme used in its international Poster Contest (see above image), inviting artists ages 14 and older to create designs promoting the importance of composting and compost use. Participants can find inspiration in the Celebrate ICAW Manual, browse the Event Page for ideas and upcoming activities, share their own events, volunteer locally as an ICAW coordinator, sponsor ICAW 2026, and use free educational resources to plan their own celebrations.

Get Involved:

- Find inspiration in the [Celebrate ICAW Manual](#).
- Browse the [Event Page](#) for ideas and planning for future activities or share your own event.
- Learn more about becoming an [ICAW volunteer coordinator](#).
- Show your company’s support by [sponsoring ICAW 2027](#).





>>> TALKIN' TRASH IN TEXAS <<<



PRESS CONFERENCE: AUSTIN CERTIFIES ONLY "QUALIFIED PROCESSOR" FOR C&D WASTE

On April 30th, [Texas Disposal Systems](#) held a press conference to announce its newly minted certification as the City of Austin's only "Qualified Processor" for construction & demolition (C&D) materials recycling. Serving as the only city-approved third-party "Qualified Processor Evaluator," Zero Waste Strategies CEO, Stacy Savage, [spoke at the event](#) detailing her company's role in validating the waste diversion data claimed by TDS in an independent audit verifying the numbers.

Through this process, Zero Waste Strategies confirmed the facility's 67.37% diversion rate, which is well above the fifty percent minimum requirement stated in the [Austin C&D Debris Recycling Ordinance](#), which affects properties of 5,000 sq. ft. or more.

Contractors managing projects affected under this ordinance can now trust they are in compliance when they use the TDS facility to process C&D debris.

27TH ANNUAL TEXAS RECYCLING SUMMIT



May 14-15 | 8 a.m.

UNT Gateway Center, Denton, TX
recyclingstar.org

The State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR) will host its 27th annual "Texas Recycling Summit" event this week at the University of North Texas campus in Denton, TX! There will be 6 educational tracks, speaker presentations, networking, a local recycling facility tour, and electing the board of directors at the annual membership meeting! [Become a member](#)

There is still time to purchase tickets for the event and join some of the most influential business, nonprofit, and municipal leaders across the state! [Buy tickets](#)



>>> SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT <<<



30-DAY EARTH MONTH VIDEO SPRINT

In case you missed it, our founder & CEO Stacy Savage, produced a 30-day video spring all Earth Month long to help businesses and residents be more sustainable. You can watch the entire YouTube playlist [here!](#)

3RD ANNUAL ZERO WASTE FORUM

Zero Waste Strategies celebrated Earth Week in Park City, Utah at the 3rd annual [Zero Waste Forum](#)! Our CEO spoke on the “Women in Circularity” panel with esteemed colleagues to address the “ABCs of Zero Waste: Accountability, Behavior Change, and Compliance”



27TH ANNUAL TEXAS RECYCLING SUMMIT

The State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR) will host its 27th annual Texas Recycling Summit this week! Our founder & CEO has been invited to give 2 presentations during the May 15th slate of sessions.

She will present on the following topics:

- *From Trash to TRUE: Certifying Facilities for Real Waste Reduction & Cost Savings*
- *From Wrecking Ball to Resource Recovery: The Case for Deconstruction Over Demolition*

I'M A SPEAKER AT THE TEXAS RECYCLING SUMMIT!

STATE OF TEXAS RECYCLING ALLIANCE

Founder & CEO @ Zero Waste Strategies
Stacy Savage

MAY 15 | 11:00 AM

From Wrecking Ball to Resource Recovery: The Case for Deconstruction Over Demolition
BREAKOUT ROOM A

REGISTER TODAY AT www.recyclingstar.org



UPCOMING INDUSTRY EVENTS



<u>State of Texas Alliance for Recycling Summit</u>	May 14-15	Denton, TX
<u>California Compost Operations Training</u>	June 1-5	Merced, CA
<u>Waste Leadership Summit</u>	June 8-9	Washington, DC
<u>Michigan Environmental Compliance</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
<u>4th World Recycling Convention</u>	June 22-23	Basel, Switzerland
<u>Indiana Compost Operations Training</u>	August 10-14	Noblesville, IN
<u>Waste & Recycling Expo</u>	August 12-13	Fort Lauderdale, FL
<u>CRRA Annual Conference</u>	August 30-September 2	San Diego, CA
<u>Arkansas Recycling Coalition Conference</u>	August 31-September 2	Hot Springs, AR
<u>Nebraska Recycling Council Conference</u>	September 16	Lincoln, NE



"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

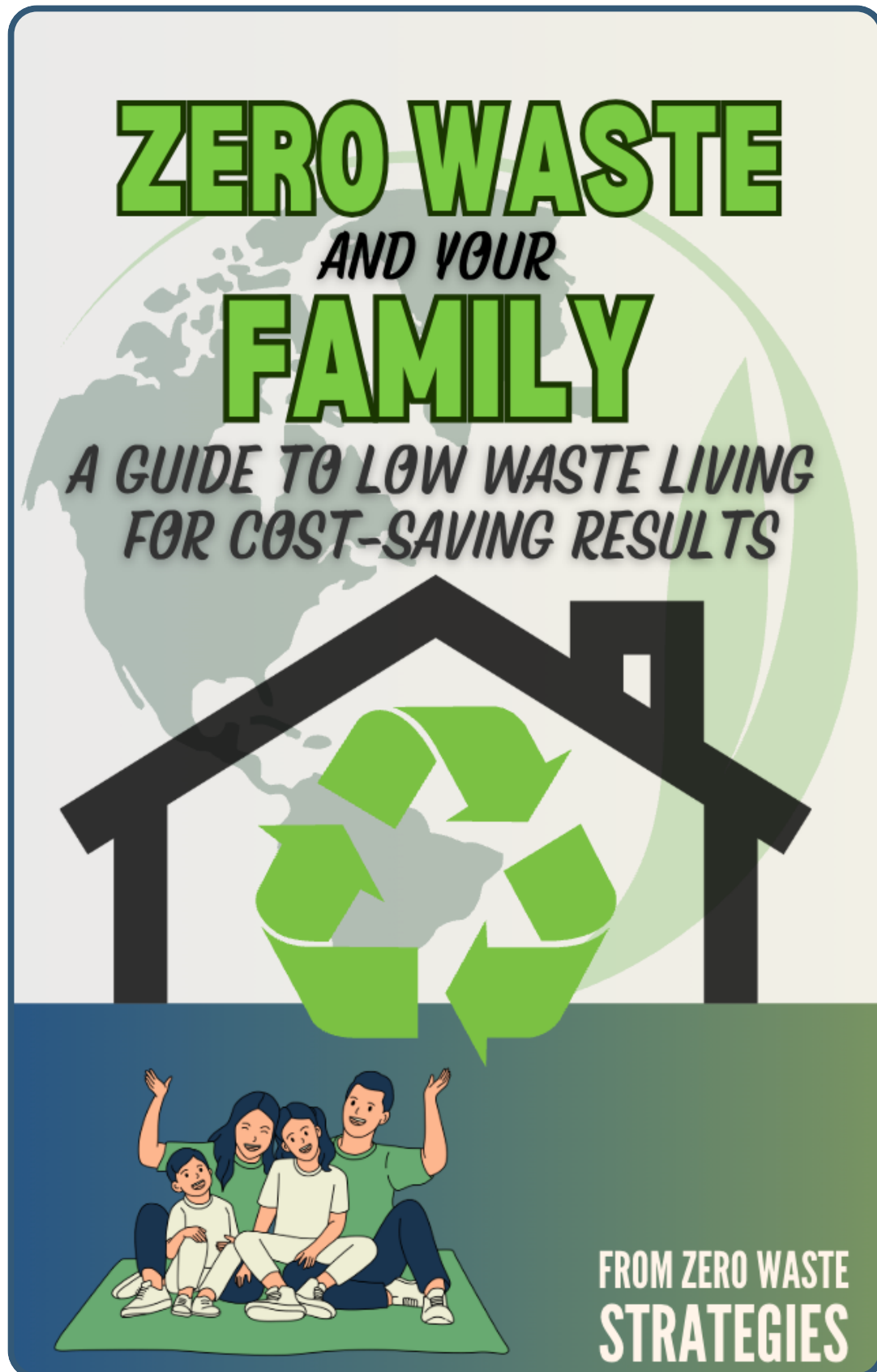
Our 8-week online ["Cash for Trash" Zero Waste Business Academy](#) training course equips business owners and managers with the tools to reduce waste, save money, and boost brand reputation.

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.

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