

ZERO WASTE MONTHLY

**BUSINESS NEWSLETTER**

Brought to you by Zero Waste Strategies

0waste.org

ZERO WASTE STRATEGIES
Strategize. Implement. Sustain.

ZERO WASTE Monthly

NEWS, INSIGHTS & INSPIRATION
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS
Ideas that drive real impact

STRONGER TOGETHER
Building connections for change

INNOVATE & INSPIRE
Fresh perspectives for a better tomorrow

AUGUST 2026

TOGETHER, WE CAN
CREATE LASTING
CHANGE.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Policy & Industry Updates
- Circular Economy in Action
- Zero Waste Tips & Tools
- Spotlight: Women in Waste
- Events & Opportunities

Less Waste. Stronger Communities. Brighter Future. ♡

**Stacy Savage**

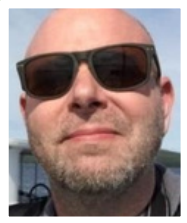
Founder & CEO

@TexasTrashTalker

From the promise and complexity of autonomous landfill equipment to the growing need for stronger accountability in global e-waste trade, this month we're exploring the issues shaping today's circular economy!

Inside, you'll find timely industry updates on organics recycling, Tribal recycling and composting investments, plastics recovery, and new technology being used to improve safety and efficiency across the waste sector. Our featured story examines the recent alert involving suspected illegal U.S. e-waste shipments to the Philippines.

We're also celebrating a national award Zero Waste Strategies recently received! Dive into this edition to build your zero waste expertise and learn about upcoming events that keep our industry connected, informed, and moving forward. Let's get into it!



Jon Savage
Executive
Vice President

THE SCOOP!

Zero Waste Business News & Updates



1



WM PARTNERS WITH CATERPILLAR TO PILOT AUTONOMOUS HEAVY LANDFILL EQUIPMENT

WM is advancing its “landfill of the future” initiative by partnering with Caterpillar to test autonomous landfill equipment following a successful remote-control bulldozer pilot designed to improve operator safety, productivity, and site visibility.



EPA ANNOUNCES \$28M IN SWIFR GRANTS FOR TRIBAL RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

EPA announced \$28 million across 23 SWIFR grants to tribes and intertribal consortia for recycling and composting infrastructure, funding projects like relocation-driven recycling in Alaska, fish-waste composting in Michigan, and curbside recycling upgrades in Florida and New York.



RECYCLERS TURN TO AI AND SMART SECURITY AS THEFT THREAT INTENSIFIES

Copper theft is straining vehicle recyclers as thieves target unmonitored yards. Industry experts say prevention now relies on digital intake records, AI-powered video surveillance, license plate recognition, and real-time deterrence.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR ORGANICS RECYCLING IN 2026?

Industry leaders say organics recycling faces infrastructure lagging policy ambition, uncertain biogas offtake markets, weak compost demand, and financing mismatched to long-term needs. Success in 2026 will hinge on reliability, participation, harmonized EPR policy, & disciplined growth.



US RECYCLING RATES RISE DESPITE DROP IN BOTTLES

US plastics recycling reached 5.13 billion pounds in 2024, up 2.3% from 2022, though trends diverged—film rose 18.6% while bottles fell 3.2%. Industry groups say market pressures and policy gaps threaten growth despite strong domestic infrastructure.



AUGUST'S FEATURED STORY



Photo Credit:
Daily Tribune

184 U.S. Containers Suspected of Illegal E-waste Halted by Filipino Port

The global e-waste challenge is not simply about how we recycle discarded electronics, it is also about where those materials ultimately go and who bears the environmental and health risks when trade is poorly regulated.

The Basel Action Network (BAN), a Seattle-based watchdog organization, and the Philippines-based Environmental Task Force Against Illegal E-Waste Imports have alerted Philippine authorities to 184 shipping containers believed to be carrying electronic scrap from the United States. The containers were scheduled to arrive at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone between August 6 and September 30. The groups have called on the Philippine Bureau of Customs and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to detain and inspect the shipments before allowing them into the country.

The Philippines is a party to the Basel Convention, the international treaty intended to control cross-border movement of hazardous and other controlled wastes. Since the US is not a party to that convention, environmental advocates argue that if the containers are confirmed to contain Basel-controlled e-scrap, the shipments could constitute illegal traffic because there is no Article 11 agreement in place between the two countries to authorize that trade.

This alert follows a recent enforcement action involving three containers also suspected of carrying e-waste from the United States. Those containers were reportedly declared as “scrap copper,” but Philippine customs officials placed them under “Retain on Board” status rather than allowing them to be unloaded.

This situation is an important reminder: recycling is not automatically sustainable simply because a material is labeled recyclable. True circularity requires transparent supply chains, responsible downstream management, and assurance that materials are handled in facilities equipped to protect workers, communities, and the environment.

Electronic waste contains valuable recoverable materials, including metals and components that can support a more circular economy. Yet, it can also contain hazardous substances, such as lead and mercury, that demand careful dismantling, repair, reuse, recycling, or disposal. Exporting poorly characterized or mixed electronic scrap to countries with fewer resources for oversight and safe management does not solve the waste problem—it merely shifts it.

The most responsible approach begins upstream: extend product life through repair and reuse, design electronics for disassembly, purchase durable equipment, establish secure and verified e-waste recycling channels, and demand documentation showing where materials actually go after collection. A zero waste economy must be both resource-conscious and justice-centered.



Tex Savage
Chief Cuddle Officer

Hello, humans! It's August—while you're busy saving the planet, don't forget to save yourselves from the heat.

My expert advice?

Find the coolest spot in the house and claim it first.

Drink plenty of water (freshly poured, thank you).

Keep windows screened so curious cats can enjoy the view safely.

Remember: every cardboard box is a premium feline relaxation station.

Stay cool, stay sustainable, and pause for an afternoon nap. Trust me, it's good for “productivity.”

August is one of my favorite months because the garden is buzzing with bees, butterflies, and birds. I watch every single one from the safety of my favorite window.

Those busy little pollinators help grow the fruits, vegetables, and flowers we all enjoy. If you have a yard, consider planting native flowers, while avoiding unnecessary pesticides and leaving a little water out for wildlife.

I'll continue supervising from indoors—someone has to keep an eye on things around here...

Pawsitively yours,

Tex 🐾

Tex's Corner: Sustainability Meeting Minutes:

Agenda: Improve office sustainability.

Attendance: Me.

Accomplishments:

- 🐾 Supervised the recycling bin
- 🐾 Approved three cardboard boxes for reuse
- 🐾 Conducted a thorough inspection of every paper document left unattended
- 🐾 Reminded the team that sunlight is renewable—and perfect for naps
- 🐾 Increased employee morale simply by existing

Meow-ssion accomplished!!



SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT



4



Outstanding Public Education/Outreach Program

Exceptional program in recycling or in connecting higher education and the industry !

Zero Waste Strategies, Inc.
Stacy Savage



35TH National Recycling Congress
ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

Together We Are Recycling

The [National Recycling Coalition \(NRC\)](#) held its 35th annual National Recycling Congress event on August 5-6 and welcomed speakers from across the US on all sorts of industry topics. Our founder & CEO was awarded the **Outstanding Public Education & Outreach Program** for her 22 years of zero waste advocacy!

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS: THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

Episode #29:

- NY Incinerator Closure
- Landfill equipment automation
- Alleged US illegal e-waste exports



This weekly series highlights 3 zero waste and circular economy stories from across the US, such as innovative community advocacy, legislative policies, supply chain impacts, product development, and more! You can review the entire series [playlist on YouTube](#).

Tune into [Episode #29](#) of **Environmental News: The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly** as our founder & CEO, Stacy Savage, takes a deep dive into this week's topics: a major incinerator closure in NY (the good), WM (Waste Management) and Caterpillar to test remote-controlled and autonomous landfill equipment (the bad), and 184 US shipping containers halted in the Philippines due to suspected illegal e-waste traffic (the ugly).



[Consulting for Women in Waste: Build Wealth, Gain Freedom, and Grow Your Brand](#)

is our 6-month, self-paced 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. **[APPLY NOW!](#)**

Our 8-week online **[“Cash for Trash” Zero Waste Business Academy](#)** 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.





UPCOMING INDUSTRY EVENTS



<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
<u>ReMA Leadership Conference</u>	September 15-16	Chicago, IL
<u>Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals</u>	September 29-October 1	New Orleans, LC
<u>RCon</u>	September 29-October 2	St. Louis, MO
<u>National Zero Waste Conference</u>	October 21-22	Virtual
Texas Environmental Leadership Awards	TBA	Austin, TX
<u>NYSAR 37th Annual Conference</u>	November 18-20	Cooperstown, NY



[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

TRUE Certification

Waste Audits

Green Marketing

Online Courses

Employee Training

Public Speaking

Book a free consultation today!

[Click here](#)

CONTACT US



ZERO WASTE STRATEGIES

Office: 512-693-7677

Online: [Owaste.org](https://owaste.org)



SOCIALS:

[LINKEDIN](#)

[SUBSTACK](#)

[INSTAGRAM](#)

[FACEBOOK](#)

[TIKTOK](#)