

ZERO WASTE MONTHLY

>>> BUSINESS NEWSLETTER <<<

Brought to you by Zero Waste Strategies

0waste.org**Zero Waste Strategies**

AUDITS / CONSULTING / EDUCATION / SOLUTIONS

REAL SOLUTIONS.
LESS WASTE.
A BRIGHTER FUTURE.OCTOBER 2026
EDITION #32

October is
Zero Waste Month!

Simple ways to celebrate
Halloween and fall while
keeping waste out of
the landfill.

**TEX'S CORNER**

Paws-itively simple ways
to cut spooky-season
waste at work.

**PACKAGING EPR**

New report explores
producer responsibility,
costs, jobs, and recycling
investment.

**CIRCULARITY NEWS**

Phone recycling, Disneyland
diversion data, construction,
and film recycling pilots.

**PODCAST & TELA**

Meet STAR's Jeremy Starritt
and learn about the Texas
Environmental Leadership
Awards.

**TRAINING & RESOURCES**

Explore Women in Waste,
Cash for Trash, and our
zero waste family guide.

**Stacy Savage**

Founder & CEO

@TexasTrashTalker

October is Zero Waste Month and this edition of the our  business newsletter is packed fuller than a kid's Halloween candy sack!

This month, we tackle holiday trick-or-treating waste and alternatives, celebrate the 28th annual Texas Environmental Leadership Awards, and spotlight Women in Circularity.

Also, tune into the 2nd and 3rd episodes of our new podcast, *The Waste Stream*, find out more about our 6-month online course, *Consulting for Women in Waste: Gain Freedom, Build Wealth, and Grow Your Brand!*

Happy Fall, y'all! 



Jon Savage
Executive
Vice President

THE SCOOP!

Zero Waste Business News & Updates



1



WOMEN IN CIRCULARITY AT THE E-SCRAP CONFERENCE

Women in Circularity partners with Resource Recycling to host an “Advancing ITAD” session at E-Scrap, featuring leaders from Apkudo, Google, Microsoft, Sage, and Sims. Panels, small-group discussions, and networking will advance circularity in device recovery, reuse, and recycling.



PHONE RECYCLING CHANGES COULD SPUR \$2.2B IN CRITICAL MINERALS RECOVERY

An Ellen MacArthur Foundation report estimates North America could recover \$2.2 billion in critical minerals from phones by 2040 through durable designs, easier repairs, convenient collection, improved recycling infrastructure, and expanded processing capacity.



RCON 2026: HOW DISNEYLAND IS USING DATA TO RETHINK WASTE DIVERSION

Disneyland Resort is using waste data to improve diversion, reduce contamination, and guide purchasing decisions. Experts emphasize that successful recycling requires better collection and sorting, coordinated data sharing, and remanufacturing products from reclaimed materials.



CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EMBRACES CIRCULARITY

Construction companies across America are increasingly embracing circular practices, green certifications like TRUE Zero Waste for Facilities, and large-scale industrial recycling operations to cut waste and emissions.



COMMERCIAL FILM RECYCLING PILOT PROGRAMS LAUNCH IN CALIFORNIA

The Flexible Film Recycling Alliance launched two California commercial recycling pilots to test collection models for plastic film from warehouses, retailers, and businesses. The programs will evaluate costs, logistics, and scalable approaches to support future recycling and EPR initiatives.



Who Pays for Packaging Waste? New Report Makes the Economic Case for EPR

National coordination could unlock recycling investment and reduce administrative costs—but results will depend on policy design and implementation. Packaging has a price long after a customer opens the box. Collection, sorting, processing, and disposal all cost money, and local governments, ratepayers, and taxpayers often help cover the bill. A September 2026 report from RTI International examines how shifting that responsibility to producers could reshape recycling investment, municipal budgets, and business operations.

Funded by SC Johnson with technical advisory support from World Wildlife Fund, the study models a hypothetical national extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework, not an enacted federal program or a specific legislative proposal. Under EPR, producers help finance the systems that manage their packaging after use, typically through a producer responsibility organization. RTI's modeled framework covers consumer packaging and paper, with producers funding the full net cost of covered-material management.

Nationally consistent definitions and reporting requirements would provide a common foundation while allowing state-led implementation to reflect local conditions. Fees could also reward packaging reduction, recyclability, recycled content, and reuse potential. The study projects substantial economic activity associated with expanded recycling investment and operations:

- \$111 billion in economic value added over 10 years—a measure of contribution to the economy, not net profit or taxpayer savings.
- \$9.5 billion in state and local tax revenue over that period.
- Approximately 36,200 direct ongoing jobs in collection, sorting, and processing once expanded systems are operational. Additional employment would be supported through suppliers and workers' spending.

Two illustrative municipal case studies in Thornton, Colorado, and Miami County, Indiana project annual waste-management cost reductions of roughly 49%–53% by the end of the modeled period. Those results are not nationwide averages or guaranteed tax cuts. Instead, producer funding and reduced landfilling could give local governments flexibility to improve services, delay cost increases, or support other priorities.

For producers, coordination could reduce administrative duplication. Drawing on a small sample of nine large multinational corporations, RTI estimates annual administrative compliance costs of approximately \$4.3 million per modeled producer under aligned rules across 50 states, compared with \$8.3 million under 50 distinct frameworks. These estimates exclude producer program fees and should not be treated as representative of small businesses.

RTI's Texas scenario models an increase in recycling performance for covered materials from 17% to 47%. Supporting that increase would require seven additional materials recovery facilities, two regional hub-and-spoke systems, more than \$200 million in facility upgrades and equipment, and expanded education and collection access. Once operational, the modeled system could support 3,360 direct ongoing jobs and approximately \$1.2 billion in annual economic value added, including broader supply-chain and household-spending effects.

Our takeaway at Zero Waste Strategies: prepare for producer accountability without waiting to improve your packaging. Inventory materials, strengthen supplier data, eliminate unnecessary components, and assess reusable alternatives. For governments and institutions, document service gaps, contract costs, and infrastructure needs. EPR's promise is not simply collecting more, it is financing a system that prevents waste and turns recovered materials into dependable resources.



Tex Savage
Chief Cuddle Officer

🐾 Tex's Corner: Don't Let Waste Haunt Your Business! 🐾

Hello, humans! October is here, which means pumpkins, spooky decorations, and enough candy wrappers to haunt your trash cans until Thanksgiving. But fear not! Tex is here with some paws-itively simple tips to keep your business from becoming a zero waste horror story.

👻 Spot the scary stuff:

Take a peek inside your trash and recycling bins. What keeps showing up that shouldn't be there? Identify the biggest offenders and find a better home for them.

🎃 Reuse before you replace:

Decorations, office supplies, shipping materials, and event items don't need to be one-and-done. Give them another life—or donate them to someone who can.

🍬 Skip the excess:

Before ordering supplies or goodies, ask yourself: Do we really need this much? Buying only what you need means less waste, less storage, and less money disappearing into the trash.

🐱 Make one small change:

You don't have to transform your entire operation overnight. Pick ONE waste-reduction improvement and stick with it for the next 30 days. Small changes add up—just ask a cat about patience.

This Halloween, don't let unnecessary waste be the thing that scares you. Reduce it, reuse it, repair it, donate it, and recycle it whenever possible.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have some very important napping to do.

— Tex 🐾





SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT



4



DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS?! Zero Waste Strategies has a brand new podcast! Subscribe today to [The Waste Stream](#) where we explore zero waste and circular economy concepts and strategies to help residents, businesses, and governments save money!



Tune into the [2nd episode](#) of *The Waste Stream* as we chat with the founder of [Race to Zero Waste](#), Teresa Bradley, and Communications Director, Hayden Sloan. Zero Waste Month is the brainchild of Race to Zero Waste and is celebrated every October with a worldwide digital campaign to help people and businesses reduce wastes to landfills and prioritize reuse and recycling. Take the [Zero Waste Challenge](#) and commit to small changes each day!



Tune into the [3rd episode](#) of *The Waste Stream* as we chat with Jeremy Starritt, Immediate Past Chair of the State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR), about the organization's 28th annual [Texas Environmental Leadership Awards \(TELA\)](#) this week! Join the movers and shakers in the waste management, recycling, and composting industries from across the state! Tickets available at [RecyclingStar.org](#)



UPCOMING INDUSTRY EVENTS



<u>National Zero Waste Conference</u>	October 21-22	Virtual
<u>Texas Environmental Leadership Awards</u>	October 22	Austin, TX
<u>Women's Environmental Leadership Summit</u>	November 9-10	Oak Ridge, TN
<u>Georgia Recycling Coalition</u>	November 11	Griffin, GA
<u>NYSAR 37th Annual Conference</u>	November 18-20	Cooperstown, NY
<u>Great Lakes PFAS Summit</u>	December 1-3	Virtual
<u>CDRA Conference & Tradeshow</u>	January 26-28	Bonita Springs, FL
<u>US Composting Council Conference</u>	February 1-4	Jacksonville, FL
<u>Southeast Recycling Conference (SERC)</u>	February 16-19	Destin, FL
<u>Wisconsin Integrated Resource Mgmt.</u>	February 24-26	Lake Geneva, WI
<u>World Recycling Convention</u>	May 5-6	Milan, Italy



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

Join 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.





[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 US

8

[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](#)

