

# Zero Waste



## Zero Waste

*“Zero waste is a goal that is both pragmatic and visionary, to guide people to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are resources for others to use. Zero waste means designing and managing products and processes to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them.”*

Zero Waste International Alliance

In 2005 the SCRD adopted the ambitious, long term goal of Zero Waste as defined above. **Zero Waste is a goal and a process** that is both visionary and flexible to meet the needs of a dynamic future for the Sunshine Coast.

**Zero Waste is also an international movement of committed people and best practices** for creating positive change, waste reduction, economic development opportunities and resilience by working towards the elimination of waste in all areas of our individual and collective lives. It is **a goal and a process that involves individuals, communities, businesses, and local, provincial and federal governments**. Zero Waste is about a united spirit and intent, as much as it is about changing the systems and approaches we use to reach the end goal.

## On the Sunshine Coast



The SCRD's road map for waste reduction and waste management is guided by the goal of Zero Waste. The road map is called a Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, a policy and action planning tool that is required by the Province of BC in all regional districts.

Plans are forecasted for 5-10 years, and reviewed every 5 years. The Sunshine Coast Regional Solid Waste Management Plan is currently being updated. By law, the update process includes a local public and technical advisory group, the municipalities, and the Ministry of Environment, as well as public opportunities for input.

Getting to Zero Waste is a journey that the SCRD hopes every resident and business in the region will share. The plan, once finalized will outline a series of progressive, affordable programs, policies and actions for reducing and managing the region's waste over the next 10 years. To learn more about Zero Waste and the

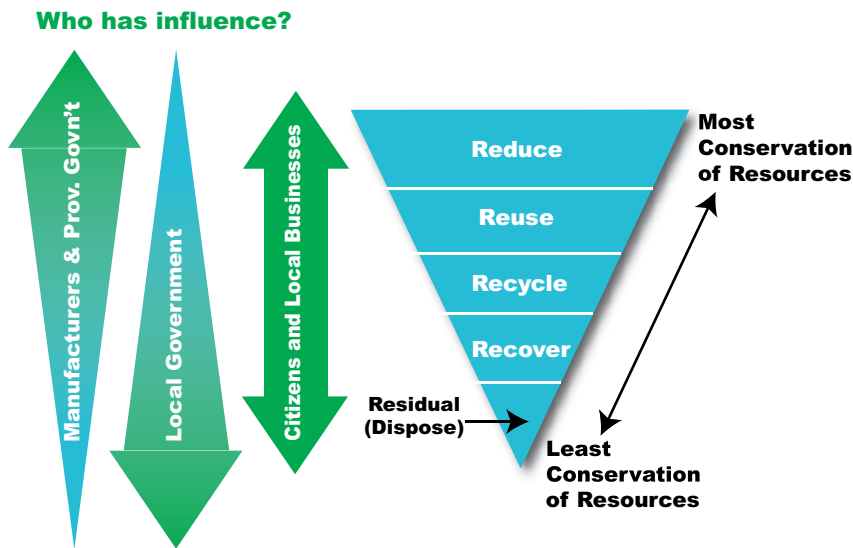
Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Update on the coast: [http://www.scrd.ca/index.php?page\\_id=529](http://www.scrd.ca/index.php?page_id=529) or about Regional Solid Waste Plans in BC <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/mpp/gprswmp1.html#s3>.

Want to know how you currently participate in Zero Waste? See page 2!

For other Zero Waste definitions and resources please see:

- Zero Waste International Alliance: <http://www.zwia.org/>
- Recycling Council of BC: <http://rcbc.bc.ca/education/zero-waste>
- Grassroots Recycling Network <http://www.grn.org/zerowaste/index.html>

## Working Together Toward Zero Waste



### How are we already reducing waste, and who helps make it happen?

Thinking about garbage... Remember the 3Rs? It's a mantra reminiscent of the 1980's: Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Add 2 more R's, Recover and Residual (disposal), and you've got the main actions of the waste hierarchy, a tool that guides solid waste management planning at global, national, provincial and community levels. The 5Rs of the waste hierarchy is the guide for getting closer to Zero Waste.

A series of actions are necessary for each of the 5Rs to responsibly deal with the 'stuff' we produce. The actions and influence of citizens, business, manufacturers, and multiple levels of government are needed to address all 5 Rs. Notice that these groups each have influence at different levels of the waste hierarchy – working together is necessary to get closer to Zero Waste.

**The Province of BC & Manufacturers** have the most influence to shape rules and service related to reducing waste at the source of production. This is done through product Stewardship Programs, to see their website click [here](#).

**Local Governments** often have the most influence to shape the rules and service related to local recycling, disposal energy recovery at landfills.

**Citizens and Business** influence every level of the waste hierarchy because we act and influence with our wallets every day. Careful purchase choices make a big difference in reducing waste!

**What can you do? LOTS!** Business, local governments, and the provincial government all provide services on the Sunshine Coast to keep recyclable and reusable materials out of the landfill. Below is a 'snapshot' of the items you can recycle on the coast. The colours indicate which of the groups above provides the service.

**Green Waste** Pesticides **Wood Waste** **Books** Household Hazardous Waste **Antifreeze** Styrofoam  
 Reusable Items (share shed) **Computers & Electronics** Propane Tanks **Clothing** Asphalt Shingles Car Parts  
**Concrete** Sports Equipment **Toilets** Refundable Bottles **Paint** Pharmaceuticals Furniture & Household Items  
**Tires** Household Batteries **Gypsum Drywall** Tires **Glass** **Printer Toner, Ribbons & Cartridges** Appliances  
 Paint Solvents and Flammables **CDs** Residential Recyclables Building Materials Motor Oil & Filters **Scrap Metal** Car Batteries

To find out where these items are recycled or reused, see the Recycling Directory on the SCRD website, click [here](#).