

What is Zero Waste?



The goal of Zero Waste is to create a closed loop where products are made to be reused, repaired and recycled. It is a practice that minimizes and ultimately eliminates waste.

Why Choose to do a Zero Waste Event?

According to a 2005 report from Iowa DNR, almost 43 percent of the waste going to our landfill could have either been composted or recycled .

Zero Waste practices also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve energy and natural resources.



Components of a Zero Waste Event:

Whether it's a summer picnic outdoors or a holiday gathering at a reception hall, think about what can be reused, composted or recycled.

Reusable: Plates, cups, and cutlery

Compostable: food scraps, napkins, paper towels, paper plates and cups (if used).

Recyclable: pop bottles, cans, glass bottles (beer, wine, hard liquor) water bottles, juice bottles



Zero Waste creates jobs and is good for the economy. For example, U.S. recycling and reuse establishments employ 1.1 million people and gross 236 billion annual revenues.

Zero Waste saves natural resources by reducing consumption and making new items from recycled materials.



For more information, contact the DMASWA Education Office at 563-588-7933.