

TAKE THE ZERO WASTE PLEDGE!!!

Women can lead the way!!!

The diagram consists of three overlapping circles. The top circle is green and labeled 'Women's Leadership'. The bottom-left circle is purple and labeled 'Sustainable Development'. The bottom-right circle is orange and labeled 'Global Governance'. The intersection of all three circles contains the following text:

1. Women are empowered as decision-makers and leaders, especially in environmental and sustainable development arenas.
2. Sustainable development policies, plans and practices are gender responsive.
3. Global governance is transparent, accountable and effective.

Eco-Cycle in Boulder, Colorado was the first curb side recycling in the USA in 1976. Since then they have grown and their model is respected and followed all around the world.

Eco-Cycle states:
"Our wasteful, polluting and consuming practices significantly contribute to climate change. The system of how we produce, ship, consume, and dispose of goods and food accounts for 42% of our greenhouse gas emissions. That's almost half the problem."

Zero Waste is one of the quickest and easiest ways to address climate change and build healthy communities."

Climate change is affecting all of us on the planet. Women are disproportionately affected but are also the keys to climate action!

In undeveloped countries women and children are affected the most having to walk miles every day for clean water. Women are also the largest force in agriculture. As caretakers, women are most affected by severe weather and natural disaster events as they take care of the children and elderly and are often last to leave.

In developed countries, women have a central role in decisions for their household: what to buy, rate of consumption and waste. This is called conscious consumerism.

Women are more likely to believe in the science of global warming and are more concerned with health and safety issues. They are also more likely to recycle and be more environmentally conscious.

We as women have a responsibility because of our decision making power and leadership role in our households! And we educate our next generation!

Many NGO's are women based and together we are powerful: professionally, personally and politically!

We are part of the solution and we can make a difference!

The Zero Waste Economy

Designing a Full-Cycle System—Upstream AND Downstream



Women's Role and Responsibility in Environmental Leadership

Women are the principal managers and decision makers for their family's wellbeing, playing a major role in energy choices, consumer decisions, waste, family health, nutrition and education.

COMPOST – REDUCE – REUSE – RECYCLE = Zero Waste

Zero Waste agenda creates a 42% Impact

Pledge to strive for Zero Waste at work and at home!

Business and Professional Women (BPW Boulder) ZERO WASTE EVENT GUIDELINES

These are guidelines based on current recommendations: (try to keep printed materials to a minimum at all events)

SMALL EVENTS (up to 25)

GETTING THERE - encourage carpooling (this should always be included in invitation info)

WATER

- Avoid plastic bottled water by encouraging members to bring their reusable water bottles (this should always be included in the invitation info)
- Have a member volunteer to bring real pitchers and real cups to provide for those who forget to bring their reusable bottles
- For members who are concerned about tap water, chlorine and fluoride, encourage them to bring their own filtered water in a reusable container

PLATES

- Each chapter can purchase real plates, (light weight plastic) real utensils that can be brought in a large Tupperware bin and collected at the end to take home to wash) A BPW Boulder member was able to purchase all of this (place settings for 25) for around \$100 at Target (she watched for sales). Cloth napkins can be made or often found at second hand stores.

RECYCLE

- Provide a receptacle for recyclables and collect it at the end of the event. (Remember when taking it to a recycle bin to empty the bag. (Single stream recycling plants do not want ANY plastic bags as they get caught in the machinery and they have to shut down costing time and money.) If there are any compostable products at your event please collect and make sure they end up in a commercial compost. **The purpose of composting is to keep items out of landfills.** If they end up in the landfill methane gas is created which is over 20 times more potent than CO₂. **(Plastic plates and utensils are NOT recyclable.)**
- Make an announcement that "This is a Zero Waste event" and encourage folks to make sure they are putting the right materials in the right bins and **congratulate everyone for having a Zero Waste event!!!**

LARGE EVENTS (up to 100 or more) (again encourage reusable water bottles include in invitation)

GETTING THERE - encourage carpooling (this should always be included in invitation info)

CHOOSE VENUE OR CATERING COMPANY that offers real plates, cups, flat wear and cloth napkins

- If the catering company or venue is using compostable materials we need to be assured that they will be properly collecting them and that they will end up in a commercial compost **(plastic plates and utensils are NOT recyclable)**

- Make sure trash bins, recycle bins and compost bins are clearly marked (you can get plastic coated signs with pictures of what goes where for free from Eco-Cycle in Boulder or Waste Management in Denver)

- Use toilet paper made from recycled materials, cloth hand towels

- Make an announcement that "This is a Zero Waste event" and encourage folks to make sure they are putting the right materials in the right bins and **congratulate everyone for having a Zero Waste event!!!**

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION!!!

