

8:15 am Pacific Time
October 3, 2024

The logo for the National Zero Waste Conference is a blue circle with a white border. Inside the circle, the word "NATIONAL" is at the top, "ZERO" is in the middle in a large font with a green recycling symbol to its right, "WASTE" is below "ZERO", and "CONFERENCE" is at the bottom.

NATIONAL
ZERO
WASTE
CONFERENCE

Keynote #1

Burning Injustice – Stanislaus County's Path to Zero Waste

Moderator: Ruth Abbe

Speaker:

Bianca Lopez

Hosted by:



Day 2 • Zero Waste Communities

**8:15 am Pacific Time
October 3, 2024**



Bianca Lopez
Co-Founder/Project Director
Valley Improvement Projects

**Keynote #1 - Burning Injustice -
Stanislaus County's Path to Zero Waste**



National Zero Waste Conference 2024

Day 2 • Zero Waste Communities

Hosted by:





Environmental Justice and Zero Waste

Environmental Justice 101

Definition: The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

The Principles of Environmental Justice (EJ)

- 1) **Environmental Justice** affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.
- 2) **Environmental Justice** demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.
- 3) **Environmental Justice** mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.
- 4) **Environmental Justice** calls for universal protection from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food.
- 5) **Environmental Justice** affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination of all peoples.
- 6) **Environmental Justice** demands the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.
- 7) **Environmental Justice** demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.
- 8) **Environmental Justice** affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.
- 9) **Environmental Justice** protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.
- 10) **Environmental Justice** considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration On Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.
- 11) **Environmental Justice** must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignty and self-determination.
- 12) **Environmental Justice** affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and provided fair access for all to the full range of resources.
- 13) **Environmental Justice** calls for the strict enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on people of color.
- 14) **Environmental Justice** opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.
- 15) **Environmental Justice** opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms.
- 16) **Environmental Justice** calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.
- 17) **Environmental Justice** requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and to produce as little waste as possible; and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprioritize our lifestyles to ensure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.

More info on environmental justice and environmental racism can be found online at www.ejnet.org/ej/

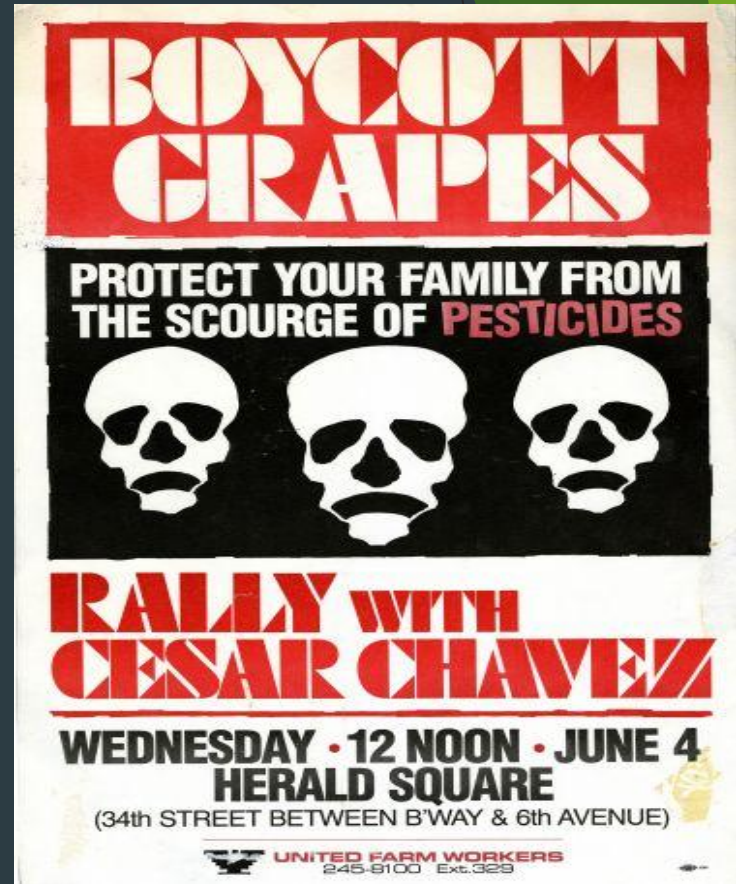
History of the EJ Movement

- 1968: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. advocated for more sanitary working conditions during the Memphis Sanitation Strike
- 1960s-70s: Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and UFW include pesticide exposure and contaminated drinking water as part of their movement for farmworker justice
- 1982: Civil Rights and Environmental activists protested the construction of a toxic landfill near an African-American community in Warren County, North Carolina
- 1991: The First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit met for three days in Washington DC, a second Summit was held in 2002



“Those who live in the area of grape vineyards are constantly exposed to cancer, birth deformity, miscarriages, sterility, respiratory difficulties and death. You find toxic substances in the fields, streets, soils, air, water, playgrounds, parks, and the poison and killing of children continues unabated.”

-Cesar Chavez quote, days before his death in 1993, AZ, poster to the right is from 1976, NY



Environmental Racism

- Rooted in the Civil Rights Movement for Racial Justice and Equity
- The legacy of “Redlining”
- A 1984 study by Cerrell Associates for the California Waste Management Board named rural, low income, less educated, and even “Catholic” communities as prime areas to site incinerators, landfills, power plants, and other toxic facilities (*0% of incinerators in the country are in communities of color)
- A 1987 study found that although the socioeconomic status of residents appeared to play an important role in the location of hazardous waste sites, the residents' race was the most significant factor among the variables analyzed
- A 20-year later follow-up study in 2007 showed people of color are found to be more concentrated around hazardous waste facilities than previously shown in the 1987 study
- Black Americans are three times more likely to die from air pollution-related causes than white Americans
- Latino children in the U.S. are nearly twice as likely to be hospitalized for asthma and are 40% more likely to die from asthma than white children.

CalEnviroScreen4.0

- CalEnviroScreen is a mapping tool that helps identify California communities that are most affected by many sources of pollution, and where people are often especially vulnerable to pollution's effects.
- CalEnviroScreen uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce scores for every census tract in the state.
- “Cumulative impacts” means exposures and public health effects from all sources of pollution in a geographic area.
- Cumulative impacts also take into account groups of people that are especially sensitive to pollution's effects, such as young children and people with asthma, and socioeconomic factors, such as poverty, race and ethnicity, and education.



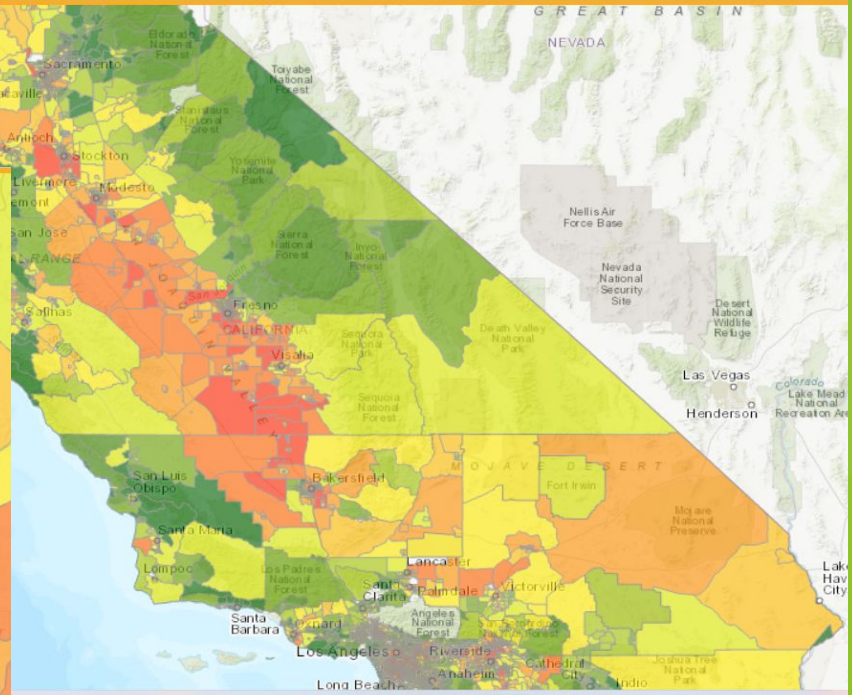
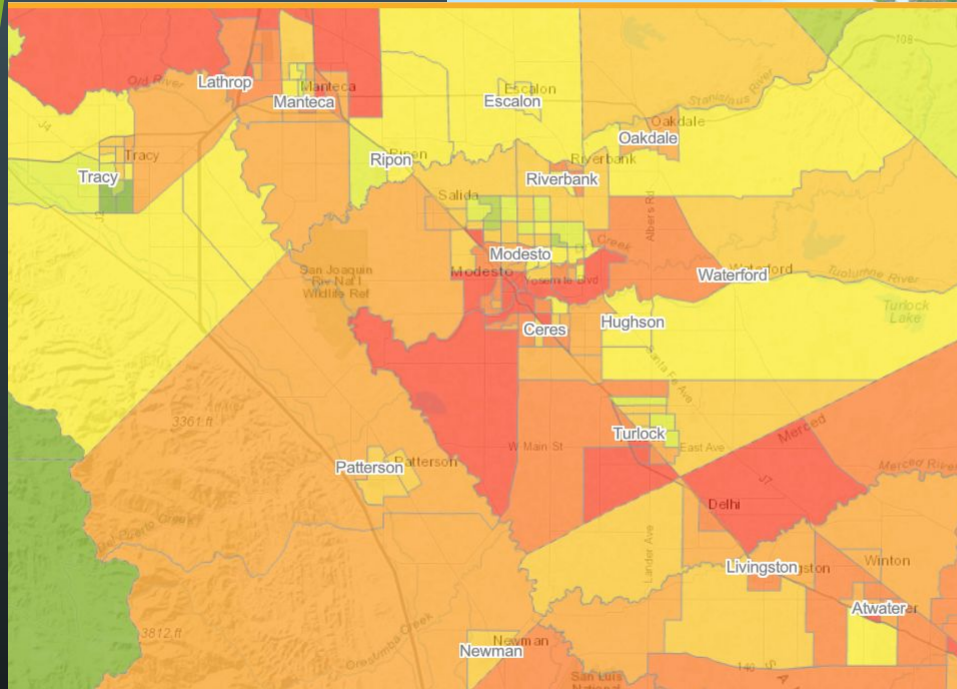
[Environmental Topics](#)

[About](#)

[Proposition 65](#)

[News and Events](#)

[Library](#)



About V.I.P.

- Founded in 2012 in Stanislaus County
- 2014-2024 went from an all-volunteer organization to having 5 full-time and 3 part-time staff members
- Mission Statement: *To improve the quality of life of underrepresented and marginalized residents of California's Northern San Joaquin Valley by advocating for social and environmental justice*

Our Projects



PESTICIDE
SAFETY AND
AWARENESS



ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE
REPORTING
SYSTEM & TASK
FORCE



STANISLAUS
COMMUNITY AIR
MONITORING/
EMISSION
REDUCTION
PROJECTS
(SCAMP/ SCERP)



ZERO WASTE
PLAN



YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT

Condados más contaminados en los Estados Unidos

Most Polluted Counties in the United States

Rango anual de partículas

Annual Particles U.S. Rank

2. Kern
3. Kings
3. Tulare
7. Fresno
8. Stanislaus
11. San Joaquin
13. Madera
15. Merced

Rango Días de partículas

Particle Days U.S. Rank

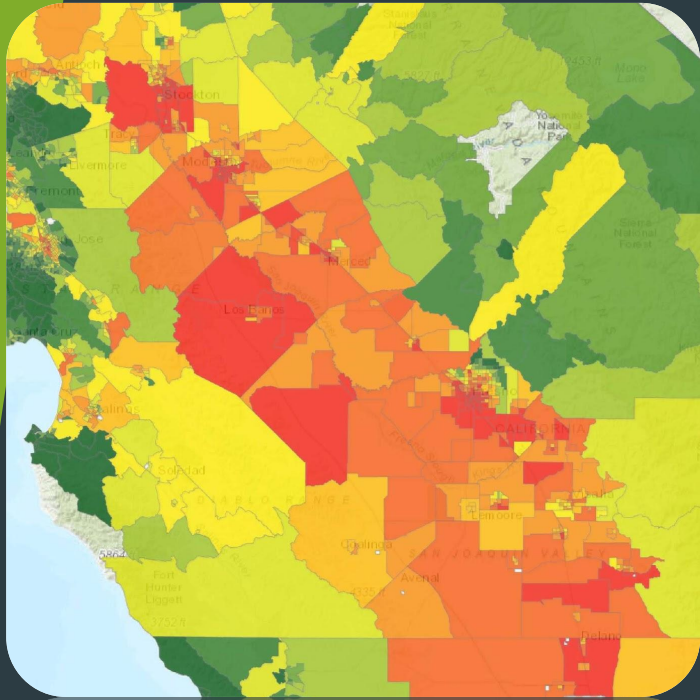
1. Fresno
3. Kern
4. Kings
- Stanislaus
10. San Joaquin
12. Madera
17. Merced
30. Tulare

Días de Ozono

Ozone Days U.S. Rank

4. Kern
5. Tulare
6. Fresno
11. Kings
17. Madera
- Stanislaus
25. Merced
95. San Joaquin





Compared to the national average, children in the San Joaquin Valley are **twice as likely** to be diagnosed with asthma before the age of 18.

Polluting Stationary Sources

Fuentes de contaminación

- 1. Turlock Irrigation District (TID)
Walnut Energy Center**
- 2. Covanta Stanislaus (Incinerator)**
- 3. Gallo Glass Company**
- 4. Turlock Irrigation District (TID), Almond
Power Plant**
- 5. Aemetis Advanced Fuels Keyes, Inc.**
- 6. Modesto Irrigation District (MID)
Woodland Generation Station**

Covanta Stanislaus



- Built in mid-1980s
- Emits Particulate Matter, NOx, Dioxin, and other pollutants
- 70-80% of nearby population is Latinx
- Modesto went from having one of the first curbside recycling programs to having no “blue bin” for 40 years

1984: Cerrell Associates Report

(Trash incinerators in CA)

LEAST LIKELY TO RESIST

Southern, Midwestern communities
Rural communities
Open to promises of economic benefits
Conservative, Republican, Free-Market
Above Middle Age
High school or less education
Low income
Catholics
Not involved in social issues
Old-time residents (20 years+)
"Nature exploitive occupations"
(farming, ranching, mining)

MOST LIKELY TO RESIST

Northeastern, western, California
Urban communities
Don't care or benefits are minor
Liberal, Democrat, "Welfare State"
Young and middle-aged
College-educated
Middle and upper income
Other
Activist
Residents for 5-26 years
Professional ("YUPPIES" & "housewives")

www.ejnet.org/ej/cerrell.pdf



Anti-Incineration/ Zero-waste



“Burning Injustice” film


LET'S TALK TRASH



BEST PRACTICES, SOLUTION BASED, ZERO WASTE, POLICY, ADVOCACY JUST TRANSITION + MORE

6PM **EVERY 2ND THURSDAY**

1224 K ST., MODESTO CA

Zero Waste



for a just transition to a more sustainable future

Be a part of this journey!
Sea parte de esta jornada



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES AGAINST PLASTICS

EJCAP facilitates a collaborative space for environmental justice (EJ) community groups to tackle the life cycle of plastics pollution and its impacts to human and environmental health.



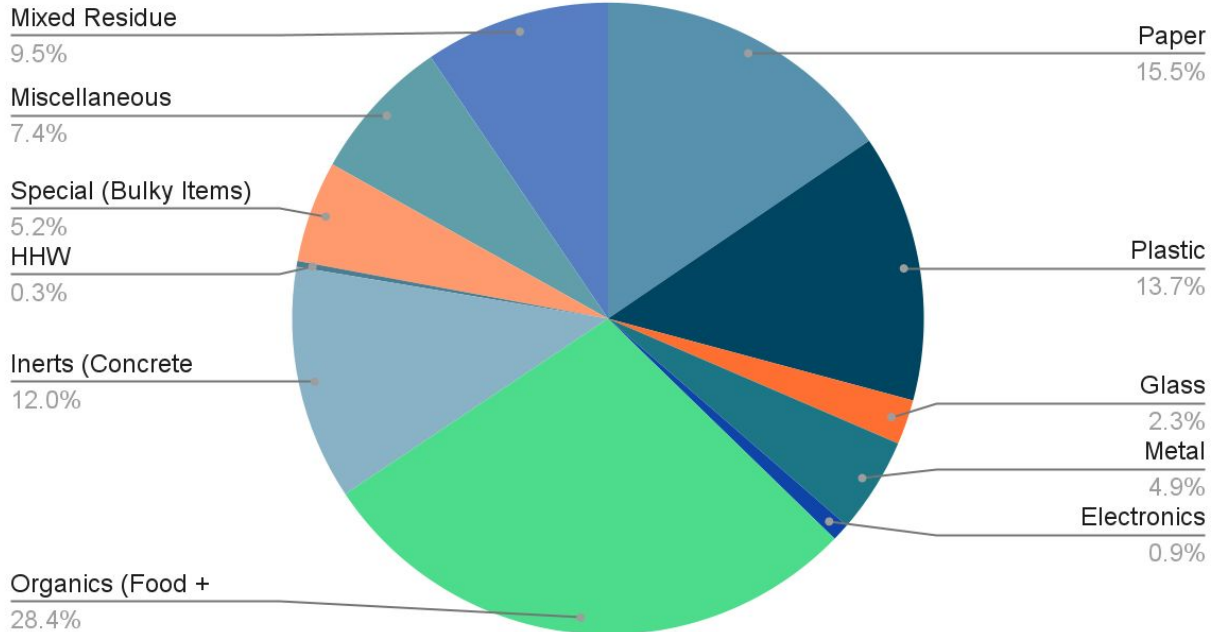
Anti-Incineration Celebration!

Saturday, July 20th, 11 am - 1 pm



What is in the Trash?

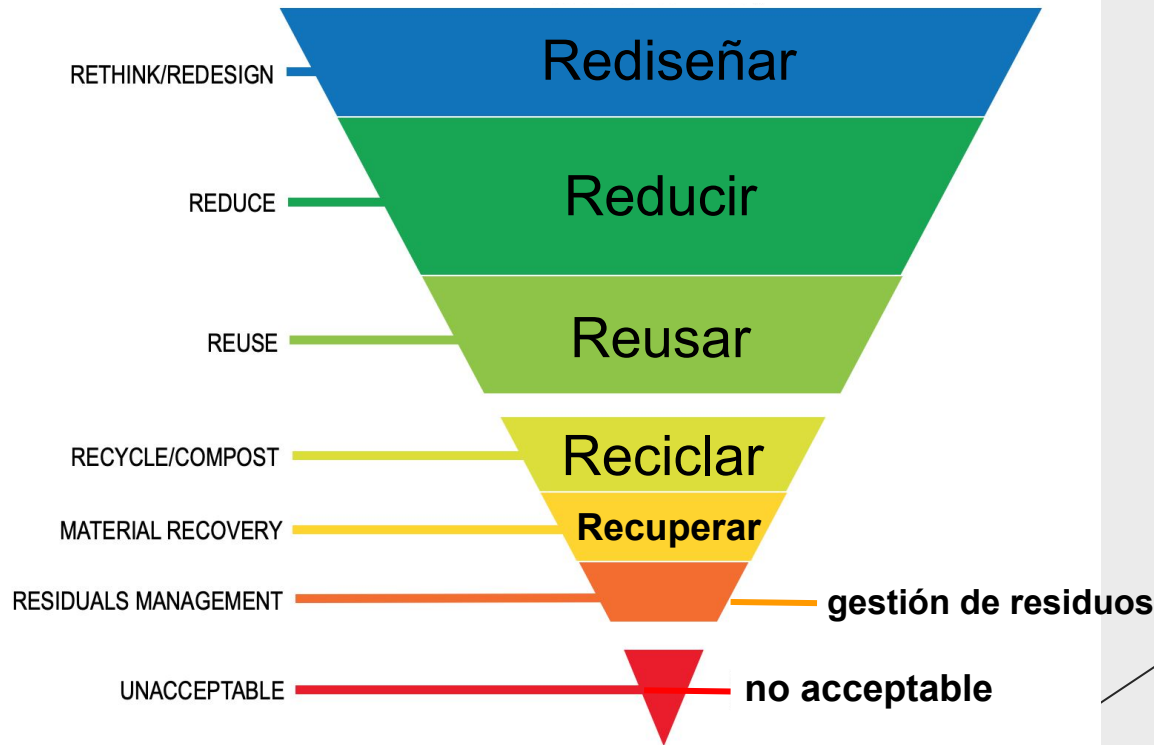
Statewide Disposal Characterization 2021



Source: CalRecycle Disposal-Based Facility Characterization, November 2022

What Is Zero Waste?

¿Que es Cero Residuos?



Guiding Principles/ Principios Rectores

Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity:

- Promote language justice and inclusion of frontline and historically disadvantaged communities.
- Foster a sense of collective responsibility and positive reinforcement.
- Protect the health and well-being of current and future generations.

Empowerment:

- Engage and promote zero waste education to help residents adopt new habits.
- Recover surplus food through food sovereignty in community gardens, agriculture, restaurants, grocery stores, and at home.
- Build coalitions and partnerships with schools, environmental groups, and community leaders.
- Create local ZW jobs and a just transition for waste incinerator employees.

Guiding Principles/ Principios Rectores

Sustainability:

- Create a culture of waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting
- Implement waste prevention strategies, bans, and extended producer responsibility of single-use plastics, Styrofoam, and hard-to-recycle materials.
- Support local zero-waste efforts and invest in a regional circular economy, without incineration.

Transparency & Accountability:

- Ensure accountable and transparent environmental practices and policies through community engagement opportunities at the city, county, and business institutions.

Potential Policies, Program & Infrastructure

1. Zero Waste Goal
2. Single use plastic ban
3. Rate structure incentives
4. Deconstruction requirements
5. Uniform Countywide Outreach & Education
6. Monthly Repair Fairs and Fix It Clinics
7. Green Teams at Schools, Businesses and Neighborhoods
8. Community-based social marketing
9. Door-to-door outreach (recycling ambassadors)
10. Zero Waste program at public events
11. Reuse Collection (household goods, furniture, textiles)
12. Recycling Collection (bulky items)
13. Battery Recycling
14. Carpet Recovery
15. Source-separated recycling (Hughson, Oakdale, Riverbank, Waterford)
16. Expand materials for drop-off at landfill and transfer stations
17. Increase separation, salvage and recycling of all-self haul loads, including construction & demolition
18. Reuse Exchange
19. Education Center
20. Center for Hard to Recycle Materials

Where are we going?

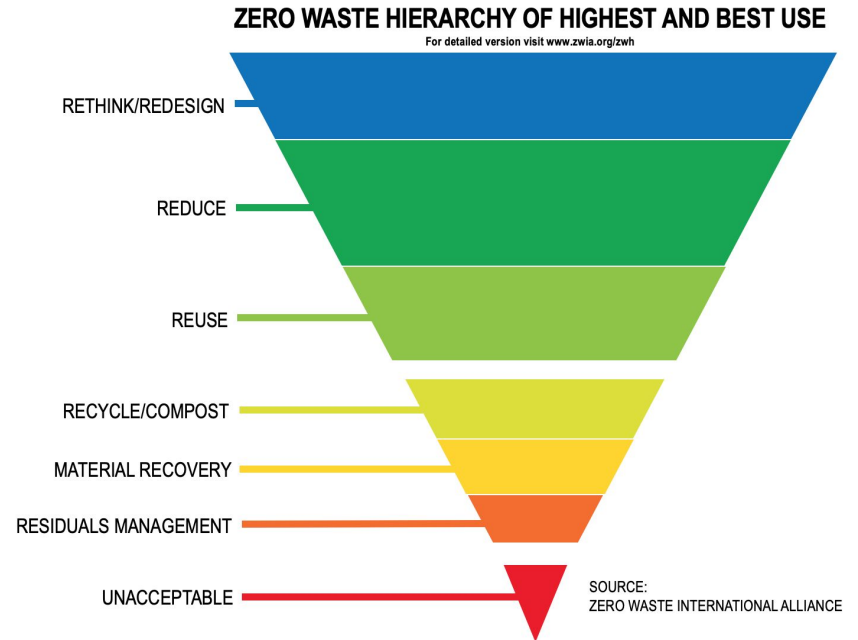
¿A donde vamos?

Implementation

Stanislaus County and the municipalities are resource constrained and do not have the capacity to add significant new costs or staff efforts to implement this plan. A new effort is needed within the county to achieve the vision within this plan.

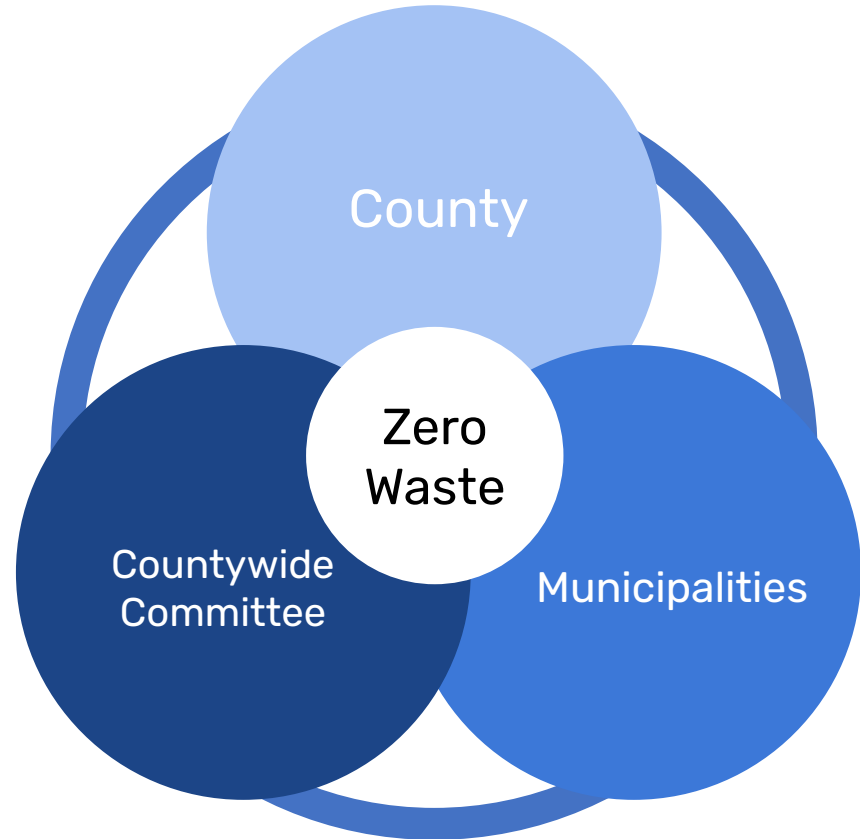
Implementation

The collection and processing infrastructure in the county to reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost materials currently exist, but not everyone knows how to use them effectively.



Implementation – RETHINK

Community Partnerships –
A Countywide Committee would be key to amplify outreach and education, as well as track Zero Waste policies and programs in the county as outlined in this community plan.



Implementation Steps

- Encourage County and municipal collaboration to achieve Zero Waste strategies through unified policies and programs.
- Grow community power through public engagement, accountability & a sense of accomplishment.
- Create a culture of Zero Waste through reducing consumption & maximizing reuse, recycling & composting
- Build a Zero Waste community – organize repair fairs, host zero waste events, community documentary screenings, community composting.
- Engage local businesses and community members in environmental education.



Potential Roles + Responsibilities

Community	Municipalities	County
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Uniform Countywide Outreach & Education● Monthly Repair Fairs and Fixit Clinics● Green Teams at Schools, Businesses and Neighborhoods● Community-Based Social Marketing● Door-to-Door Outreach (Recycling Ambassadors)● Waste Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Zero Waste Goal● Single-Use Plastics Ban● Rate-structure Incentives● Deconstruction Requirements● Zero Waste Events● Reuse Collection (household goods, furniture, textiles)● Recycling Collection (bulky items)● Battery Recycling● Carpet Recovery● Source-separated recycling (Hughson, Oakdale, Riverbank, Waterford)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Expand materials for drop-off at landfill● Increase separation, salvage and recycling of all self-haul loads, including construction & demolition● Reuse Exchange● Education Center● Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials



THANK YOU!