

2025

Day 2

8:15 AM

Oct 23

KEYNOTE 1

The State of Zero Waste Municipalities in the US

NATIONAL
ZERO WASTE
CONFERENCE

Speaker: Ruth Abbe



The State of Zero Waste Municipalities in the US



National Zero Waste Conference

October 23, 2025

Ruth Abbe, President Zero Waste USA





LINE
OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS

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COVANTA
ENERGY
for a cleaner world

S
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Levels of Action



COLEMAN A. YOUNG
MUNICIPAL CENTER

TWO
WOODWARD
AVENUE

BREATHE
FREE
DETROIT

CLEAN
ENERGY

CLEAN
ENERGY

BREATHE FREE
DETROIT

SHUT DOWN
THE
INCINERATOR

CLEAN AIR
CLEAN ENERGY



BREATHE
FREE
DETROIT



East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice Long Beach, California







I.P.
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

I.P.
Valley Improvement Projects

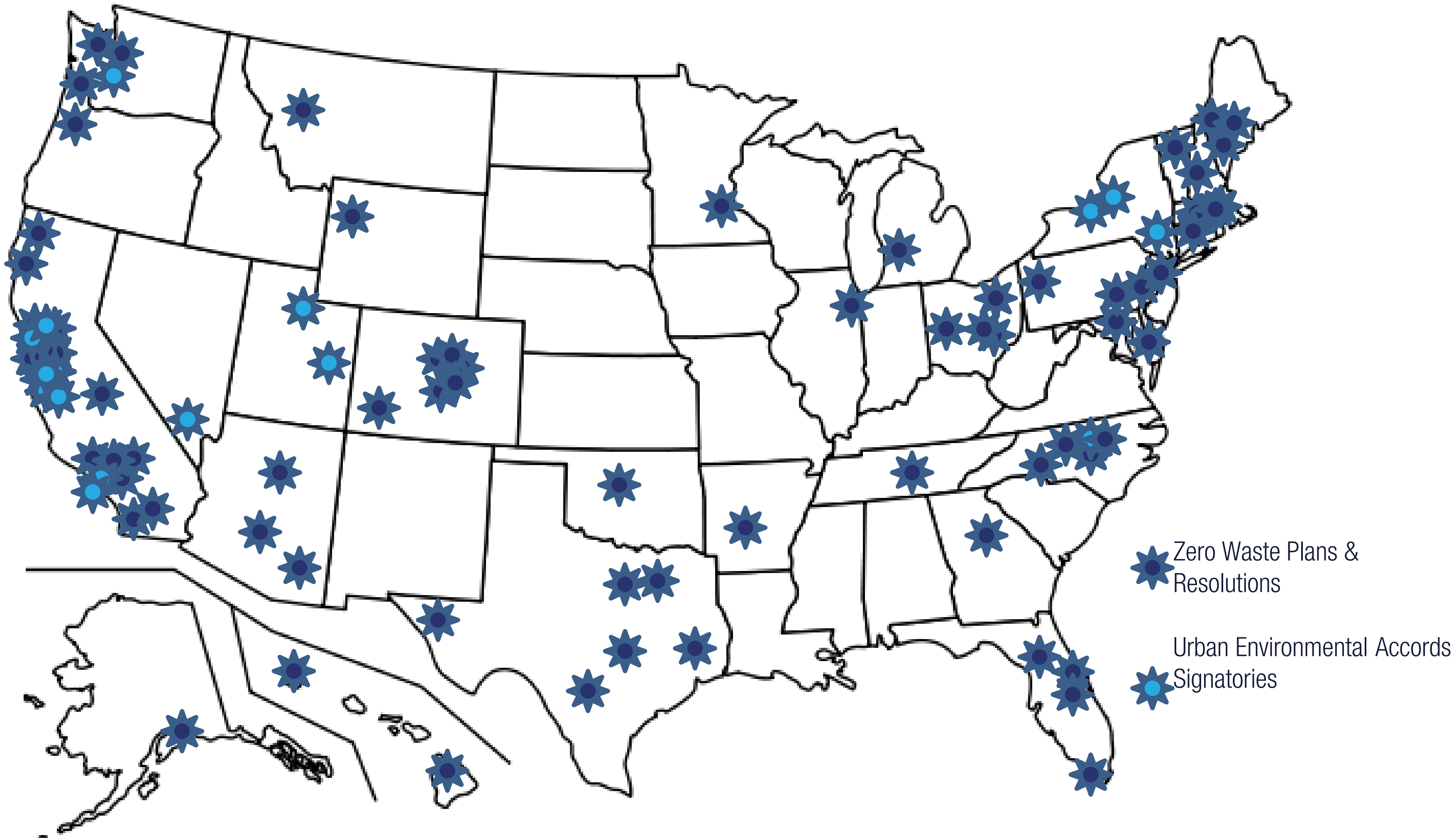
I.P.
Valley Improvement Projects

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Valley Improvement Projects

Zero Waste Communities in the U.S.

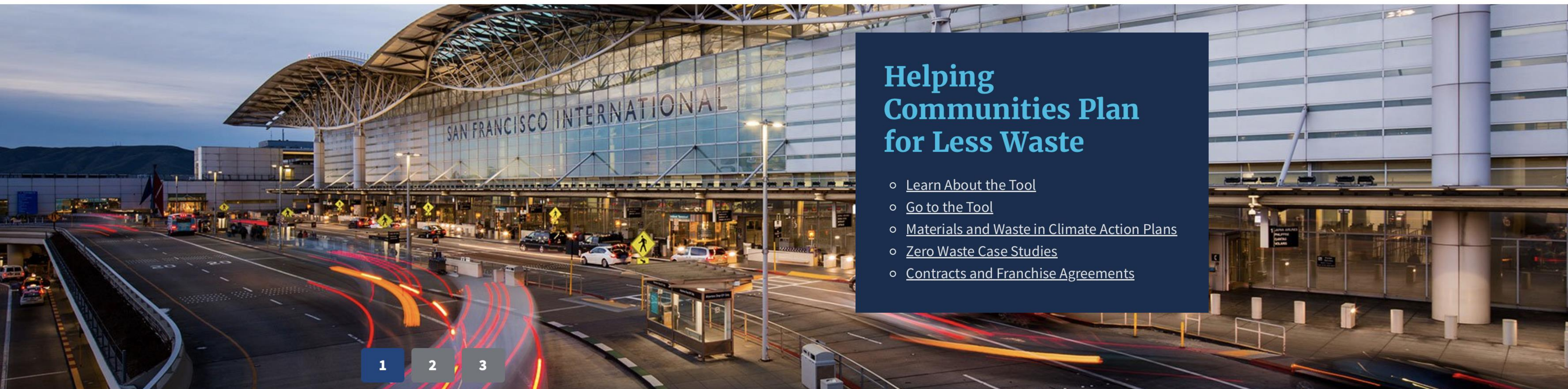


Zero Waste Plans and Resolutions

Alachua County, FL	Charlotte, NC	Houston, TX	Oakland, CA	San Francisco, CA
Alameda, CA	Chicago, IL	Irvine, CA	Oberlin, OH	San Jose, CA
Arcata, CA	Chula Vista, CA	Kaua' i, HI	Oceanside, CA	San Luis Obispo County, CA
Anchorage, AK	Claremont, CA	Kent County, MI	Oklahoma City, OK	San Rafael, CA
Arkadelphia, AR	Culver City, CA	Key West, FL	Olympia, WA	San Ramon, CA
Arlington County, VA	Dallas, TX	King County, WA	Orange County, FL	Santa Cruz County, CA
Atlanta, GA	Davis, CA	Lexington, MA	Orange County, NC	Santa Monica, CA
Austin, TX	Del Norte County, CA	Logan County, OH	Orlando, FL	Seattle, WA
Baltimore, MD	Delaware County, PA	Longmont, CO	Palo Alto, CA	Sebastopol, CA
Berkeley, CA	Denver, CO	Los Angeles, CA	Pasadena, CA	Sedona, AZ
Bexley, OH	El Cajon, CA	Marin County, CA	Philadelphia, PA	Sonoma County, CA
Boone, NC	El Paso, TX	Mecklenburg County, NC	Phoenix, AZ	South Portland, ME
Boston, MA	Fairfax, CA	Miami-Dade County, FL	Pittsburgh, PA	Summit County, CO
Boulder, CO	Fort Collins, CO	Middletown, CT	Portland, OR	Sunnyvale, CA
Boulder County, CO	Fort Worth, TX	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	Telluride, CO
Brookline, MA	Fresno, CA	Missoula, MT	Richmond, CA	Teton County, WY
Broomfield, CO	Gainesville, FL	Mountain View, CA	Saco, ME	Tucson, AZ
Burbank, CA	Glendale, CA	Nashville, TN	Sacramento, CA	Washington, DC
Cambridge, MA	Hastings, NE	New Palz, NY	Salt Lake City, UT	Westerville, OH
Carrboro, NC	Hawai' i, HI	New York, NY	San Antonio, TX	Worcester, MA
Castro Valley, CA	Hennepin County, MN	Northampton, MA	San Diego, CA	
Central Vermont Waste Management District	Hoboken, NJ	Novato, CA	San Juan, Capistrano, CA	

Zero Waste is one of the fastest, most efficient, and lowest cost ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Managing and Transforming Waste Streams: A Tool for Communities



Helping Communities Plan for Less Waste

- [Learn About the Tool](#)
- [Go to the Tool](#)
- [Materials and Waste in Climate Action Plans](#)
- [Zero Waste Case Studies](#)
- [Contracts and Franchise Agreements](#)

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2

3

Zero Waste

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE
working towards a world without waste



International Peer-Reviewed Definition of Zero Waste

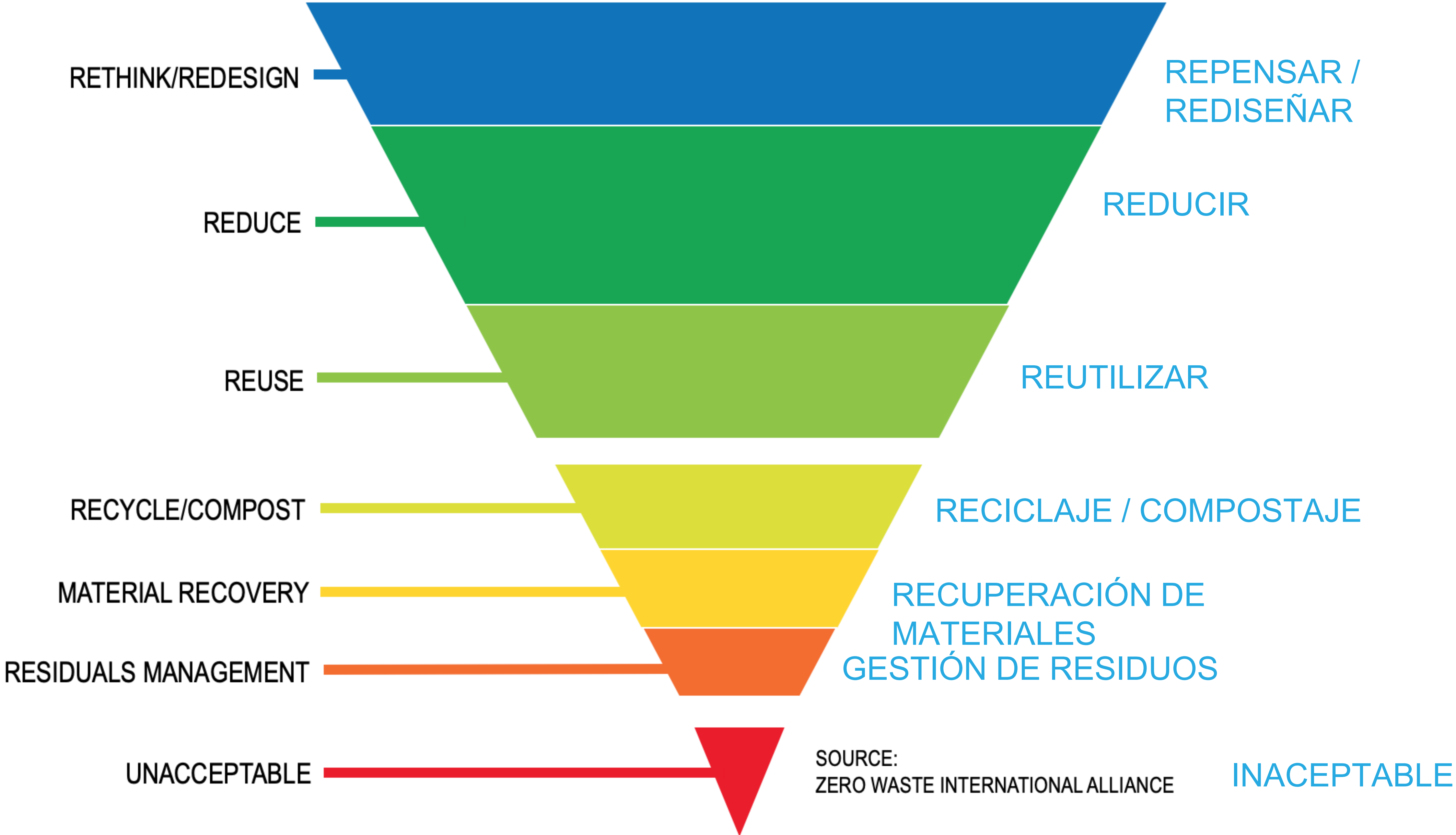
Zero Waste: The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.



Source: zwia.org

ZERO WASTE HIERARCHY OF HIGHEST AND BEST USE

For detailed version visit www.zwia.org/zwh



Zero Waste Declaration

1. Center Equity
2. Redesign
3. Ban Wasteful Products
4. Make Producers Responsible for Problem Products
5. Separate at the Source
6. Rescue Food and Compost Organics
7. Support and Expand Repair and Reuse
8. Building Zero Waste Infrastructure
9. End Welfare for Wasting
10. Advocate and Adapt as Needed



The logo for ZERO WASTE USA is displayed in a dark blue rectangular box with a white border. The word "ZERO" is in white, with the letter "O" being a solid blue circle. The words "WASTE USA" are in white. The entire logo is set against a background of blue, green, and brown geometric shapes.

ZERO WASTE USA

INSPIRING COMMUNITIES TO EMBRACE AND ACHIEVE ZERO WASTE

Recognition and Certification
Campaigns
Grassroots Support
Education and Training
Affiliates and Networking

Zero Waste USA Affiliates



Source: [Zero Waste USA Affiliates](#)

The State of Zero Waste in the U.S. is Strong

A sunset scene over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange glow. Silhouetted hills and trees are visible in the foreground and middle ground.

If you're not for Zero Waste,
how much waste are you for?

Zero Waste USA
zerowasteusa.org

Thank You

Ruth Abbe

Ruth.Abbe@zerowasteusa.org

