

ZERO WASTE PROGRAM INFORMATION



Climate Smart Glacier Country (CSGC) has a track record of promoting zero waste best practices. This includes responsible production, consumption, reuse and recovery of products, packaging, and materials. Zero waste practices conserve resources, reduce carbon emissions, and reduce pollutants in the environment. CSGC initiatives and partnerships to increase public awareness and support zero waste efforts include:

2018

- Refill Not Landfill. Sponsored initiative to identify and promote availability of free water refills. Produced educational flyers to reduce the use of single use plastic and initiated a voluntary effort for individuals to take the "Plastic Pledge" to reduce use of plastic.

2019

- Organized all day symposium "The State of Plastic in the Flathead". Over 300 people attended to hear multiple panels from state agencies, local non-profits, businesses and other experts.

2020

- Partnered with the Heart of Whitefish Downtown Farmer's Market to undertake a pilot project to make the Farmer's Market a zero waste event. Required food vendors to use only compostable serving materials. Dirt Rich collected waste for composting.

2021

- Six-part webinar series titled, "Beyond Recycling: Making Zero Waste Work". Featured local and national speakers on topics such as "Composting", "Zero Waste Communities", "Businesses and Zero Waste Practices", "Innovators", and the "Circular Economy".

2022

- Purchased Zero Waste Tent and donated to Lands to Hands to provide a central collection point at local events. Tent used at Whitefish Farmer's Market, Whitefish Legacy Partners Hootenany, Octoberfest, Great Fish Run and Whitefish Arts Festival.

2023

- Created Zero Waste events guide that can be downloaded from CSGC website

2024

- Partnered with Climate Lobby to make Earth Day a zero waste event. Commitment to make all CSGC events zero waste.

Zero-Waste Facts

- Over four years, the Whitefish Farmers Market has purposefully and diligently diverted over 27,000 gallons of waste from the landfill, a number that continues to grow as the market and tourism industry expands.
- 35% of residential waste is food waste. EPA estimates that food waste comprises 25% of landfilled materials.
- Composting is an example of the circular economy with all aspects of the process occurring locally. Food waste is collected, processed and resold as nutrient rich soil for farming all within Flathead County.
- According to DEQ, only 17% of materials in Montana are recycled compared to a national recycling rate of 25.1%.
- According to the EPA and other studies, zero-waste strategies can significantly reduce carbon footprints by over 20% by preventing waste and increasing recycling. This is the equivalent to taking millions of cars off the road annually; with food waste reduction alone potentially cutting emissions by 6-8% globally.



BEYOND RECYCLING:

Six sessions on
Making Zero Waste Work

Session #3: May 26
Zero Waste for Business

featuring/moderated by:
XANTERRA - GNP Concession Management
FLATHEAD LAKE BREWING CO. - Big Fork

Noon-1:15pm. Free. Register here:
bit.ly/beyondrecycle3

CLIMATE SMART
GLACIER COUNTRY

Xanterra
TRAVEL COLLECTION

XANTERRA
Glacier National Park
concession management co.

FLATHEAD LAKE BREWING CO.
Big Fork

Resources

Climate Smart Glacier Country – Zero Waste Event Guide

www.climatesmartglaciercountry.org

Flathead County Waste Not Project, “Recycling Guide for Flathead County”

Wastenotproject.org

Flathead County Solid Waste – flathead.mt.gov/department-directory/waste

Montana Department of Environmental Quality – deq.mt.gov/twr/Programs/recycling

Recycle Montana – www.recyclemontana.org

Dirt Rich – www.dirtrichcompost.com

Whitefish Farmers Market – Zero Waste Market & Resources

Whitefishfarmersmarket.org