

## What is ZeroWaste ?

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.

### City of Dubuque Food Scrap Recycling

#### Acceptable Items:

Baked goods	Dairy products
Tea bags	Eggshells
Fruits & vegetables	Flour
Sauces & dressings	Grains
Meat & bones	Pasta
Plate scrapings & leftovers	
Cut flowers	
Houseplants (soil ok but no pots)	
Greasy pizza boxes	
Microwave popcorn bags	
Paper napkins, plates, & cups	
Take-out trays & cartons	
Coffee filters & grounds	

**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.**

### 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



For more information call 563-588-7933 or visit our web site at [www.dmaswa.org](http://www.dmaswa.org)



## Zero Waste (or Darn Close) Event Planner



**Solid Waste Education Office**  
**563-588-7933**

## How to plan a Zero Waste Event?

1. Find out what types of discarded materials this event could produce (food, cans, bottles, paper products, etc).
2. Explore local recycling programs to see what items can be recycled or composted from this event.
3. When picking a site for your event find out what recycling is currently available.
4. If sites do not offer recycling programs, be a leader and offer to set one up for your event.
5. Talk to site managers or facility managers about what can be done with your event to make it Zero Waste. Contact your local solid waste agency for ideas for zero waste events (Event Recycling Containers, Food Scrap Program, Etc).
6. While planning an event, pick products that are eco-friendly (reusable, recyclable, or compostable). For example, use washable plates rather than disposable plates.
7. Make posters and flyers for the event so that everyone knows you are trying to make it a Zero Waste event.
8. If people are bringing items to the event, ask them to bring them in reusable containers (metal serving platter, glass pan, etc).
9. Clearly mark all discard receptacles (food, plastic, glass, cans, trash, etc). This will reduce confusion and contamination during the event.
10. Place recycling and trash receptacles next to each other. This will help to eliminate confusion and contamination and maximize your results.
11. Talk to volunteers about what it means to have a Zero Waste event. They are your eyes and ears during the event. Have them check receptacles for contamination and being over-filled. Take care of this quickly!
12. Thank everyone for taking part and remind participants that this was a Zero Waste event and to tell others.
13. Thank all volunteers and people who helped with the event with a thank you email or note.



## Programs offered in the Dubuque and Delaware County Area:

### Food Scrap Collection in the City of Dubuque

This program allows residents and facility managers to compost food scraps and other compostable items. For a full list of compostable items, please visit the City of Dubuque website at [www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org) or call (563) 589-4250.



**Compost**—you may compost in your backyard or take to DMASWA Facility located at the Dubuque Landfill.



**Event Recycling Units**—Available on a loan program from the DMASWA ,to help recover recyclable materials at events. For reservation and other information contact Chuck Goddard at (563) 589-4250.

Keep these programs in mind when planning an event.

For more information, contact the Solid Waste Education office at (563) 588-7933.