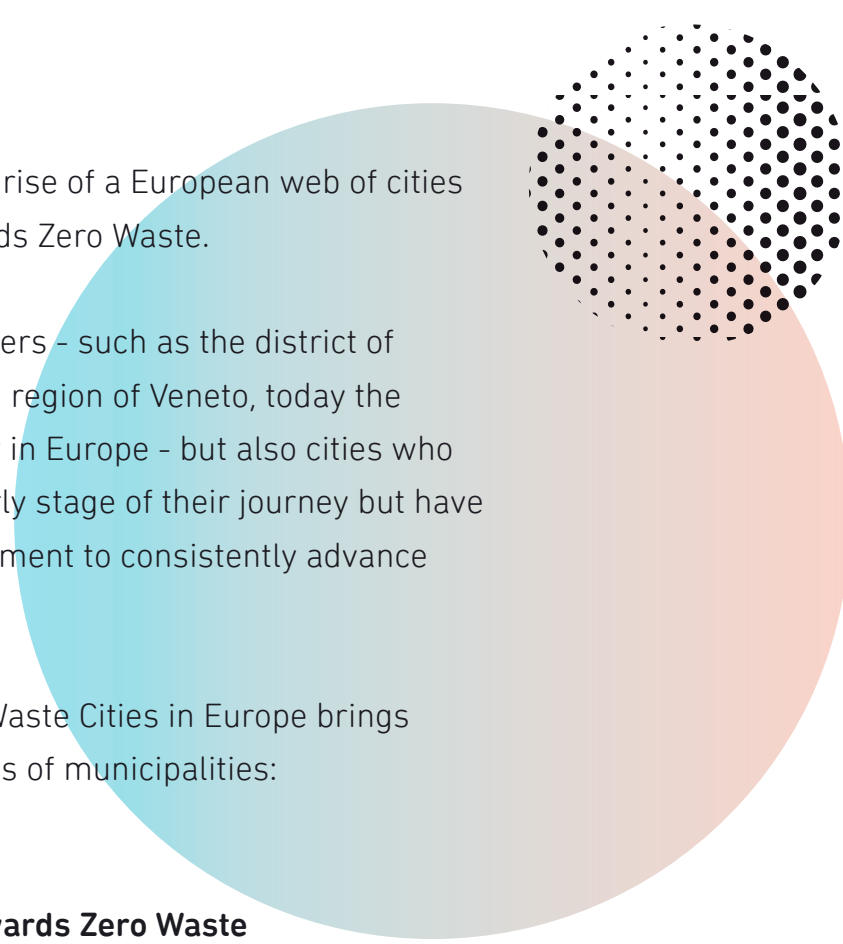


The Zero Waste commitment in practice

What defines a
“Zero Waste Municipality”
is the firm and verifiable
commitment to move
towards Zero Waste
and the results
that it delivers.





We are supporting the rise of a European web of cities that are moving towards Zero Waste.

It comprises frontrunners – such as the district of Contarina in the Italian region of Veneto, today the best-performing entity in Europe – but also cities who are still at the very early stage of their journey but have made the firm commitment to consistently advance towards Zero Waste.

This network of Zero Waste Cities in Europe brings together two categories of municipalities:

1st Category – Cities working towards Zero Waste

The guidelines outlining the conditions that a city has to fulfil in order to qualify as a **Municipality Working Towards Zero Waste**, ensure alignment with those adopted by the Zero Waste International Alliance, and consist of the following:

- ☐ Define quantitative targets for the mid-term (within 10 years) and long-term (within 20 years). These could include a residual waste reduction target (e.g. less than 50 kgs per person by 2020) or reduction by a further amount within 10 years (e.g. reduce by 80% remaining discards), or adoption of “darn close to zero”.
- ☐ Adopt:
 - a commitment to implement residential collection programs for recyclables – and/or incentivised returns schemes such as reverse vending machines and Deposit and Refund schemes,
 - by a set date implement a management programme for organics (including food scraps) based on kerbside collection and/or home/community composting depending on the housing typology.
 - Programmes for recyclables and organics must anyway be aimed at maximising the capture and diversion from disposal.

- Implement local actions for waste prevention/reduction which are in the jurisdictional capacity of the community (e.g. promote home composting; support in possible and appropriate ways local packaging free businesses and shops; promote the use of tap water whenever appropriate; support the use of cloth nappies; define local regulations for sustainable management of Events, etc.)
- Advocate for the redesign of problematic products that are not recyclable or compostable. Consider local actions/campaigns to encourage redesigns.
- Publicly report progress annually towards the Zero Waste Plan milestones to Zero Waste Europe national affiliate or the Zero Waste Europe office so that any citizen can monitor the progress made. Plan for a subsequent Implementation of a pay-as-you-throw rate structure or other financial incentives for residents (if allowed by state/provincial or national regulations) to encourage them to waste less and recycle more percentagewise.
- Establish a Zero Waste Advisory Board (ZWAB) or multi-stakeholder process (involving residents, businesses, staff or elected officials, Zero Waste experts, and non-governmental organisations) to participate in the development, implementation, monitoring and adaptation of a Zero Waste Plan or Strategy. The tasks of the ZWAB may include checking achievements against commitments, assess critical steps, define workarounds or re-tabling of deadlines and development of similar key policy, program and facility implementation decisions.
- Conduct audits of discarded materials at least every 5 years (and preferably more frequently, e.g. yearly or biennially) in order to: analyse the progress of the Zero Waste Plan, assess what is left in the discarded materials and consider strategies and campaigns to achieve further improvements such as providing feedback to manufacturers and working with them to redesign materials, products and packaging that are barely or not reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

- In order to steadily improve the management of resources, increase ambition in material recovery and minimise residual waste; ZW Communities have to commit to move away from rigid residual waste management facilities that do not allow for constant improvement of waste prevention and recycling rates (eg. Incinerators, RDF-producing MBT, pyrolysis and other types of non-conventional thermal treatment). See footnote for clarification about acceptable technologies and strategies to define or renew local plans accordingly. These actions should be included in either a formal Zero Waste resolution and/or a Zero Waste Plan or Strategy signed by the person with jurisdictional authority (Mayor, Manager, Council, District, or otherwise, depending on the local regulatory framework and defined responsibilities for the parties locally).

¹ Zero Waste programmes in the long run only accept residual waste management facilities that

- i) maximise the recovery of recyclables
- ii) may be progressively converted into recycling platforms and
- iii) avoid any thermal treatment, which is considered as “destructive disposal” and a loss of resources.

Therefore, ZW Communities must adopt a commitment not to invest in such technologies, in the case that this is in their jurisdictional capacity; also, depending on their jurisdictional powers, they have to define, or promote, actions and plans for the phasing out/conversion of any such existing facilities (e.g. conversion of MBTs into Material Recovery Biological Treatment sites, MRBTs): depending on contextual conditions, they may act e.g. diverting residuals to other, acceptable treatment sites in next contract with service providers, when acceptable facilities are available, and/or they may explicitly ask for a renewal of local waste plans without unacceptable facilities, as time, conditions, local regulations, waste management infrastructures allow.

2nd - Category - Best practice Cities

In order to qualify as best practice the city will need to generate a maximum of 75kg of residual waste - per person per year- i.e. what is left after efforts for reduction, reuse and separate collection.

The cities committed to Zero Waste are marked with a blue pin and a star on the map of Zero Waste Cities, at www.zerowastecities.eu.

