

## GROUP ACTIVITY:

# HOW TO CREATE A ZERO WASTE MUNICIPALITY PROGRAMME SESSION PROPOSAL

First task:

- Assign a specific role within the community to each participant.
- Provide participants with the brief of the community to work from
- Encourage participants to use this brief to inform their work in the group, acting from the perspective of their specific role:
  - Waste manager, local municipality.
  - Head of local waste management company
  - Local business owner.
  - Civil society activist.
  - Potential fifth (if needed) would be Headmaster of local school.

## DESIRED OUTCOME OF TASK

**That participants draft the key elements and actions of a zero waste plan for their municipality in order to reduce waste generation by 50% within 10 years.**

## PROPOSED FORMAT

1. 30 minute presentation on what is zero waste and what this exercise will be, with 20 mins for a Q&A with participants
2. One hour to explain the task and for each group to draft the key points of their municipality's "zero waste plan"
  - This needs to include their proposals to reduce waste generation.
  - What actions they can take to achieve this, depending on their profiles.
  - Identify how they will interact effectively with other community stakeholders
3. 40 mins for groups to feedback their plans and for wider discussion on each group's zero waste plan
4. 20 mins for overall discussion, feedback and next steps with the whole group

## OBJECTIVES

1. To increase participants understanding of the concept of zero waste at the municipality level and the benefits this has over traditional waste management practices.
2. To explain the key structural components of a zero waste municipality programme.
3. To provide participants with the opportunity to practically learn and experiment with the challenges and opportunities of implementing a zero waste programme.
4. To challenge existing assumptions on what zero waste is and whether it is realistic/applicable within the local context

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- The current facts on the municipality's waste management and the stakeholders profiles that will guide each participant's role in the exercise. provided in a document by facilitator)
- The guiding questions to help structure each group's plan (provided on PPT template)
- The template on how to present the outcome of their discussions, which is included in the presentation and then should be written on flipchart paper.

**DOWNLOAD THE GROUP ACTIVITY FACTSHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS**

**Guiding questions for the group:**

1. What actions can you take to reduce the total waste generated?  
Think further up the waste hierarchy E.G reuse & repair
2. What actions can you take to increase separate collection rates?
3. What actions can you take to reduce the overall annual costs of waste management for the municipality?
4. What actions are you taking to ensure you meet the EU's targets of a minimum of 50% recycling by 2020 and 55% by 2025?
5. Can the municipality implement local ordinances to help accelerate progress towards zero waste? E.G. ending the use of single-use plastic items.
6. What economic incentives can be provided for citizens and businesses to generate less waste?
7. What actions are you going to take to begin implementing the Single-Use Plastics Directive?

**Event announcements that are announced by the facilitator throughout the task:**

*These are designed to keep groups progressing up the waste Hierarchy, making them adjust their plans and think holistically about what the role each stakeholder has in helping a community achieve zero waste. Groups can either incorporate their responses to these events as part of their overall zero waste plan, or as additional annexes.*

- With the increased collection of organics, you have noted that a lot of waste is being left or spilled onto the street pavements. What can you do to tackle this issue? (Announced after 15 minutes)

- A large music festival has been planned for your town, what actions can all stakeholders take together to ensure this takes a zero waste approach? (announced half way through after 25 minutes).
- Announcement of new EU funding for local regions to help with implementation of the Circular Economy Strategy, requires collaborative approach of community and ambitious upstream plans. The large pot of funding (500,000 EUR per municipality) would transform the capabilities and impact of the municipality's zero waste programme (to be announced with 10-15 minutes remaining) - question is what would participants do with this funding?

Visit the websites of the authors to find out more information about zero waste and how to implement successful waste prevention & reduction policies at the local level.



**Zero Waste Cities**