

Module 1 – Zero Waste – Activity Description

Rethink, Redesign, and Eliminate

Activity Design: [1-2-4-all](#)

Length: 45 minutes

Description

The goal of this activity is for attendees to identify opportunities to reduce or eliminate waste by taking a material, product, or process through the Zero Waste hierarchy. Attendees will use a worksheet with five questions to answer and supporting information to use during the activity. At the end of the activity, attendees will have the tools to look at other materials, products, or processes they use or encounter to think through how to manage – and potentially eliminate – them using the Zero Waste hierarchy.

Process

Following the [1-2-4-all](#) activity design, attendees will begin alone and then break into groups of 2 then 4. We will invite attendees to report back to the group on their discoveries or new ways of thinking about materials, products, or processes, as time allows.

The activity will be preceded by an explanation of the Zero Waste hierarchy and a demonstration of the steps of the activity using elements of Zero Waste planning including:

1. Define Scope
 - a. Determine **where** using the 9 points of generation as defined by TRUE (Warehousing & Distribution, Offices, Food Services, Grounds, Construction, Manufacturing, Vehicular Maintenance, Retail, Housing & Hospitality)
 - b. Decide **what** material, product, or process
2. Understand Existing System – Determine what is the **current practice**
3. Engage People – Identify **who** to engage (e.g. staff, suppliers)
4. Develop Options – Brainstorm as many **options** as possible for each step up the ladder from current practice

This will be presented to the attendees as five questions to answer:

1. Where is the point of generation?
2. What is the material, product, or process?
3. What is the current practice?
4. Who are the people that should be involved in implementing new practices?
5. What are the options at each stage of the hierarchy above current practice?
 - a. Compost/Recycle
 - b. Reuse
 - c. Reduce
 - d. Rethink/redesign

Attendees will be asked to do steps 1-5 above alone. After 8 min, attendees will pair up based on the count-off done prior to beginning the activity, share their thought process, get feedback from the other person, and edit their worksheet based on the feedback/discussion. They will switch roles after 4 min. Two pairs will group up and do the same process. Each person will have 4 minutes. Report back in full group for 5 minutes.

Introduction Comments

- This activity is about identifying opportunities to reduce or eliminate waste by taking a material, product, or process through the Zero Waste hierarchy
- Will work alone, in pairs, in 4s, and will finish with the full group
- Pass out handout
- Introduce and explain Zero Waste hierarchy (slide & handout)
- Walk through Pre-Activity Demonstration hypothetical example (slides)
 - Includes 9 Points of Generation slide
 - Point out there may not be an option at every level of the hierarchy depending on the material, product, process type
 - Give other category examples (slide)
 - Could use your materials from the first activity
 - Others could include:
 - Paper, Food scraps, Batteries
- Explain process and timing of activity
 - Count-off for pairs
 - Possibly group in 4s for specific topics

Pre-Activity Demonstration (hypothetical example):

1. Where: Outdoor spaces managed by tribe
2. What: Lawn care (process) & grass clippings (material)
3. Current practice: Cut and bag clippings and dispose in landfill
4. Who: Grounds Maintenance staff
5. Options:
 - a. Compost/Recycle – Cut and bag clippings and divert to compost
 - b. Reuse – Leave clippings in place aka “grasscycling;” has nutritional benefits to turf that could reduce or eliminate need for fertilizer application
 - State of Mississippi - “it can provide up to 50% of the fertilizer needs of a typical lawn.”
 - c. Reduce – Allow some areas to grow
 - d. Rethink/redesign – Replace lawns with drought-tolerant plants that require little to no irrigation aka “xeriscaping”

Timeline

Introduction – 8 min (4 min w/out checklist; then handout checklist for add'l ideas)

Alone – 8 min

Pair – 8 min

Groups of 4 – 16 min

All (report back) – 5 min