

NRC National Zero Waste Conference

News Release

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The fast-approaching [National Zero Waste Conference](#), March 18-19, 2020 in Berkeley, will provide participants with access to conversations with experts on some of the most pressing issues of today. Five **Moderated Discussion Sessions** have been planned to help establish consensus on policy and program priorities which will guide the way to a Zero Waste future.

1. **Zero Waste for Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Facilities**
2. **Reduce and Reuse**
3. **Recycling Market Development and Infrastructure**
4. **Organics and Zero Waste**
5. **Product Policies**

Zero Waste for Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Facilities

TRUE Zero Waste Director Stephanie Barger and GBCI Zero Waste Advisory Council Chair Sue Beets-Atkinson will lead the first discussion on Wednesday, 3/18, with panelists from prominent businesses that are implementing Zero Waste. Recycling right in today's markets, handling hard-to-recycle materials, contracting best practices for recycling vendors, certification for events and construction sites and training and leadership are among the topics to be covered.

Reduce and Reuse

Dynamic leaders of the quickly growing reuse and repair movements are planning a lively moderated discussion panel on Wednesday afternoon, at which Right-to-Repair, measuring reduction and reuse, benefits of reusable shipping containers, employee engagement and emerging research and development into new reuse and repair business opportunities will begin the discussion.

Recycling Market Development and Infrastructure

Also on Wednesday, global and US recycling trail blazers are organizing a panel at which contamination issues, processing developments (e.g. more labor with Living Wages, slower sorting belts and robotics), domestic use of recyclables, container deposit systems that collect cleaner materials, dual vs. single-stream collection and processing and recycling incentives, will provide topical and interesting fodder for discussion.

Organics and Zero Waste

On Thursday, Matt Cotton from the US Composting Council and Will Bakx of the California Resource Recovery Association's (CRRRA) Organics Recycling Council will join other panelists in discussions about how to reduce food waste (e.g., Leanpath), food donation best practices, on-site composters and digesters, community composting, compostable packaging, carbon sequestration at large-scale composting and anaerobic digestion facilities, permitting to comply with air and water regulations and new mandates for haulers and commercial generators.

Product Policies

Ruth Abbe of Zero Waste USA, National Product Stewardship Action Council Director Heidi Sanborn, Upstream Solutions' Miriam Gordon and Scott Cassel of the Product Stewardship Institute are among the illustrious panelists at Thursday's interactive session, which is set to explore bans, fees and deposits, minimum recycled content legislation and Extended Producer Responsibility.

All of the moderated discussion panels are included in basic conference registration, and registration discounts are still available, through February 17th: <https://zwconference.org/registration/> (NRC members get \$100 discount off full registration fees. Discounts of \$55 off NRC registration for attendees who also register first to attend the [Recycling Update](#) organized by the Northern California Recycling Association. [Get more information and register for NCRA's Recycling Update here.](#))

About NRC

The National Recycling Coalition is a non-profit organization focused on promotion and enhancement of recycling in the US. The NRC network includes more than 6,000 members and 23 affiliated recycling organizations which work together to maintain a prosperous and productive recycling system and accelerate sustainable approaches to the management of discarded materials. The NRC and partner organizations are hosting the first National Zero Waste Conference in March 2020 to provide opportunities for industry leaders and citizens to address issues and bring about important changes in the way we use, manage and recycle natural resources to reach Zero Waste.

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