

# H.454: An act relating to the Zero Waste Economy Study Committee

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# What is Zero Waste?

“Oakland's 2020 Zero Waste Goal is to cut the City's waste disposal by 90 percent (compared to 2005). Oakland's pursuit of a Zero Waste Goal will be guided by an environmental hierarchy for 'highest and best use' of materials and pollution prevention in all phases of production, use, and disposition of products and materials. Zero Waste goes beyond recycling discarded materials. It considers the vast flow of resources and waste through our society and economy, and moves to eliminate waste.”

-Oakland, California

<https://www.epa.gov/transforming-waste-tool/how-communities-have-defined-zero-waste>

# What is Zero Waste?

“Zero Waste is a goal to re-design resource lifecycles so that materials are reused and waste is minimal. Discarded materials become resources that are recycled back into nature or to the marketplace to be reused again.”

-Asheville, North Carolina

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# What is Zero Waste?

“Though there are many definitions for Zero Waste, it is simply a "no-waste," sustainable approach to managing the production and life cycle of goods. Such an approach is very much in keeping with the Vermont traditions of thrift and conservation.”

-Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District

<https://www.epa.gov/transforming-waste-tool/how-communities-have-defined-zero-waste>

# ELEMENTS OF A ZERO WASTE ECONOMY



## PRODUCT REDESIGN

All products are reusable, recyclable or compostable and include recycled content; business innovation is supported and encouraged



## MANUFACTURING

Conserves natural resources and is safe for people and planet.



## TRANSPORT

Transport of products is minimal and energy efficient.



## EDUCATION

All people view waste as a valuable resource.



## SMART SPENDING

Consumers purchase only necessities and demand recycled, minimally packaged, recoverable products



## NEW RULES

Policies such as extended producer responsibility, recycling mandates and incentives support zero waste



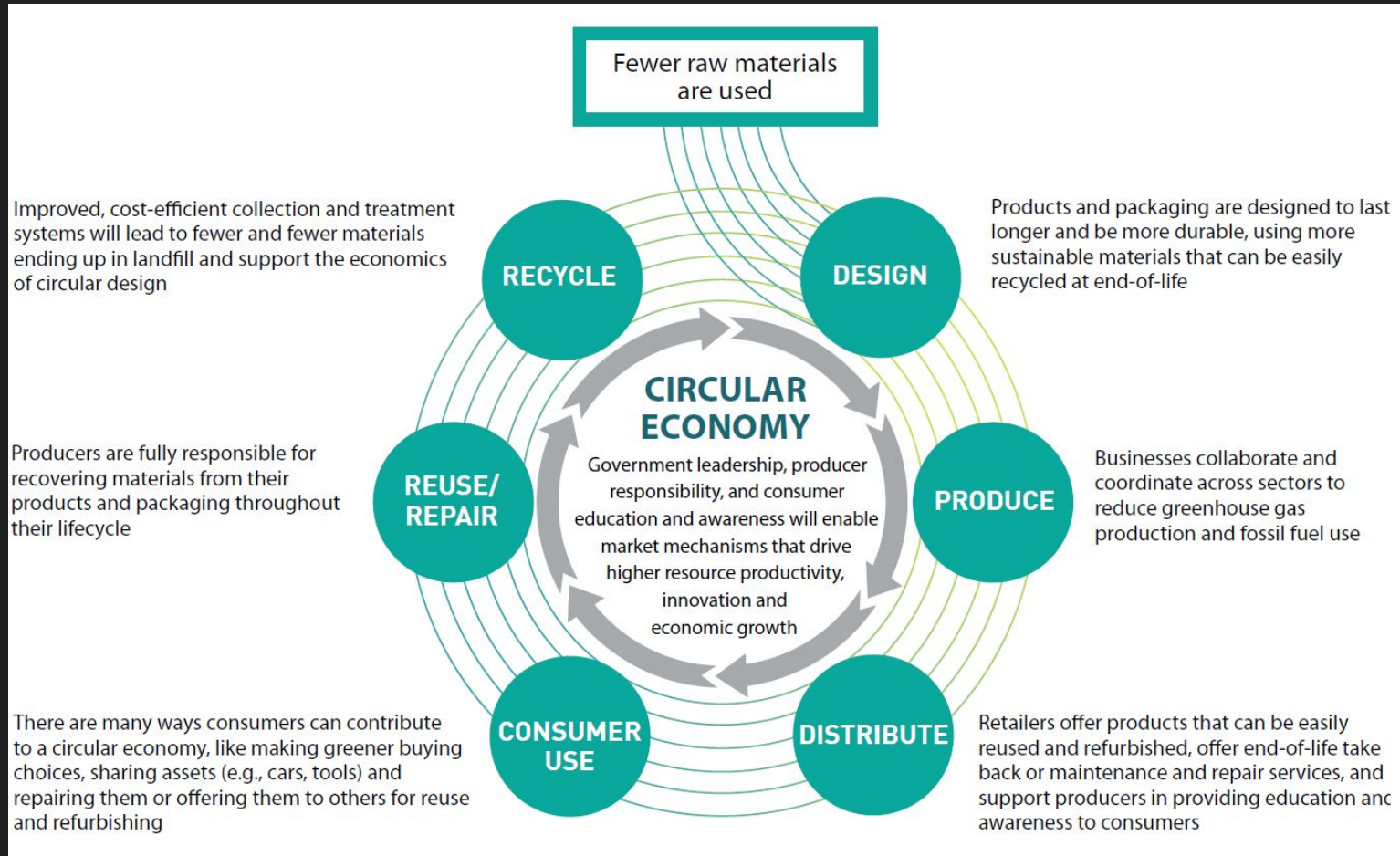
## RESOURCE RECOVERY

Retailers take back products and all people have access to recycling, reuse and compost facilities.

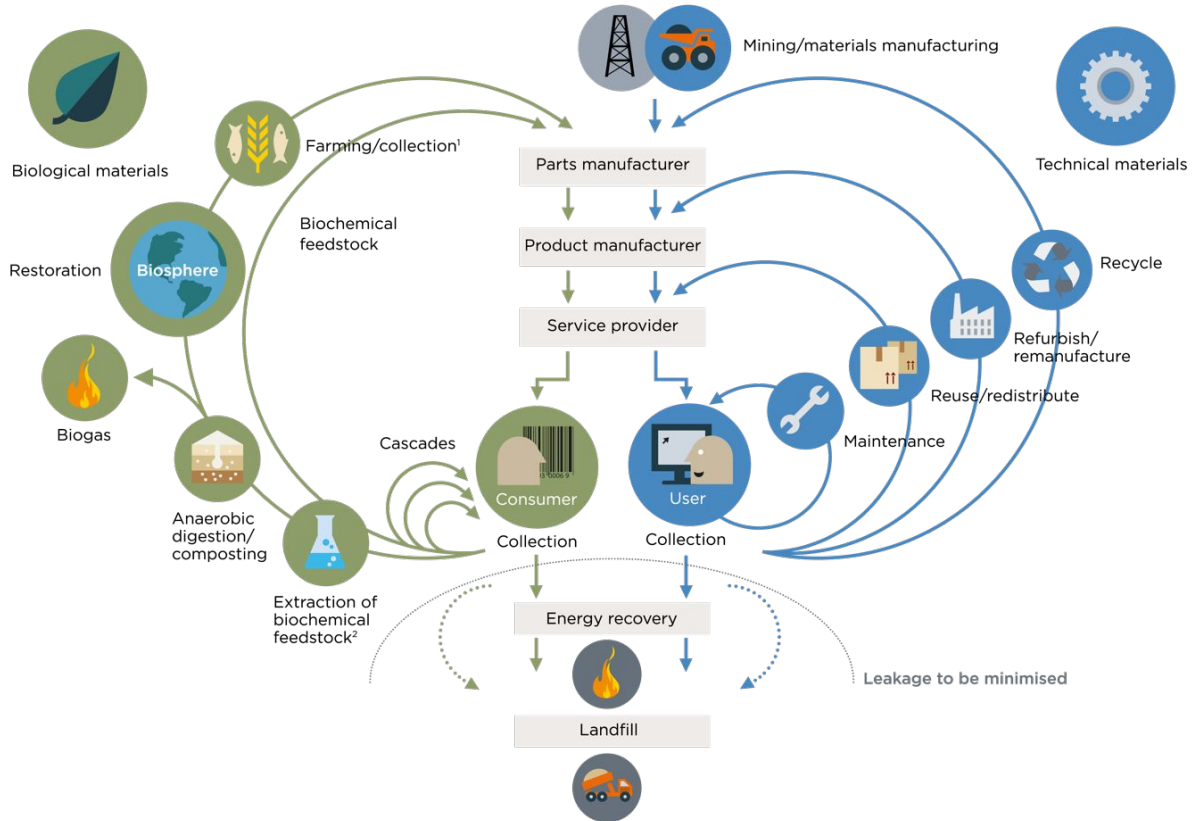


## JOB

Resource recovery and product redesign create jobs.



The circular economy—an industrial system that is restorative by design



<sup>1</sup> Hunting and fishing  
<sup>2</sup> Can take both post-harvest and post-consumer waste as an input  
 SOURCE: Ellen MacArthur Foundation - Adapted from the Cradle to Cradle Design Protocol by Braungart & McDonough

# Act 148: Universal Recycling Law

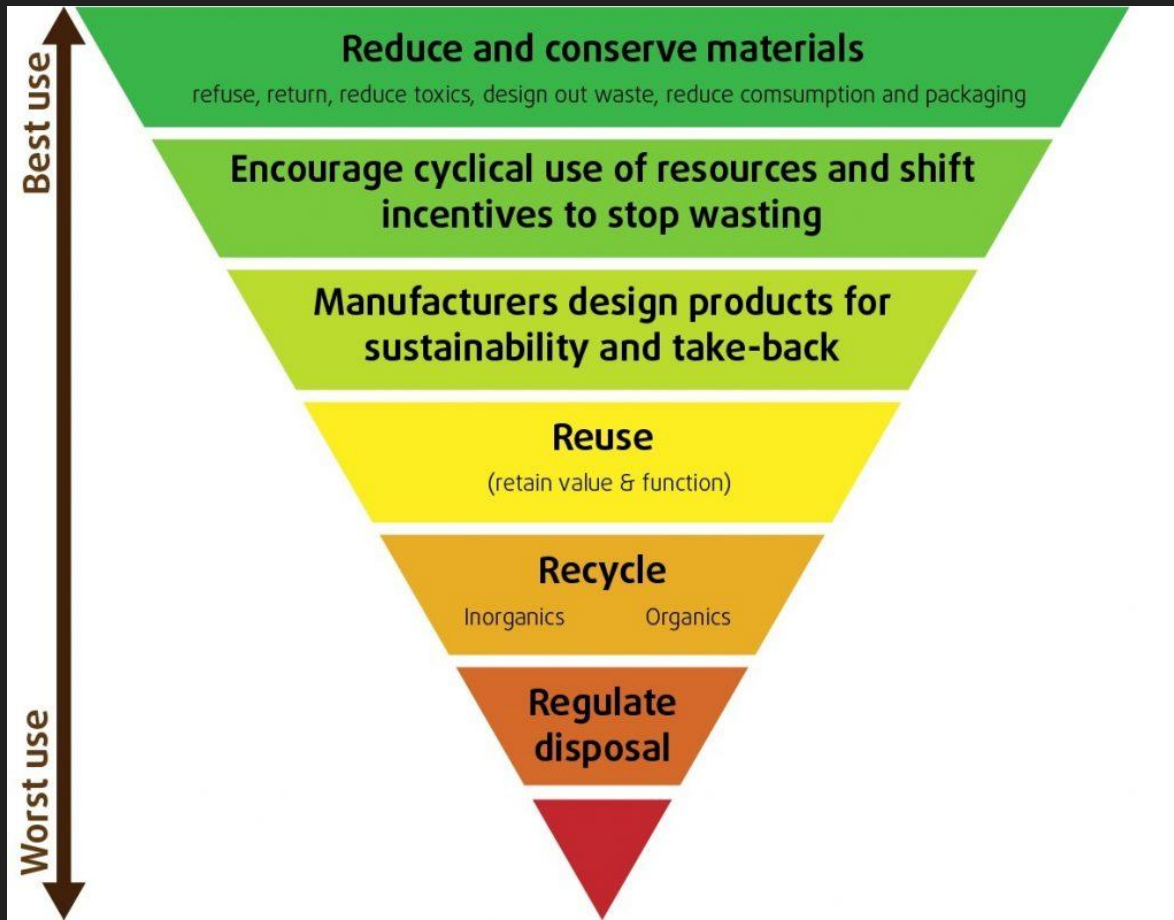
“What does the Universal Recycling law do?”

This law will provide convenience and choices to Vermont residents and businesses, and it will lead to more consistent statewide solid waste services such as recycling and composting. By requiring separation and diversion of materials it creates an incentive for investment into materials management strategies. It also allows for time to establish collection and facilities for managing recyclables and food, leaf, and yard materials.”

-Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

[http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/SolidWaste/Documents/Universal-Recycling/UR\\_SummarySheet\\_CURRENT.pdf](http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/SolidWaste/Documents/Universal-Recycling/UR_SummarySheet_CURRENT.pdf)





# Zero Waste Economy Study Committee

1. Provide incentives for the colocation of businesses and manufacturers in designated areas to share resources, reduce waste, and allow more productive use of waste and by-products;
2. Increase the productivity of natural resources used in the manufacturing process;
3. Encourage the adoption of biologically inspired production processes and materials.

# Benefits of a Zero Waste Economy

- Improve water quality
- Reduce carbon emissions and other air pollutants
- Minimize toxics in the environment
- Decrease plastic pollution
- Increase energy efficiency
- Encourage recovery of ecosystems
- Attract businesses
- Create jobs
- Revitalize towns across Vermont

# Zero Waste Communities

- Seattle, Washington
- King County, Washington
- Austin, Texas
- Fort Collins, Colorado
- Asheville, North Carolina
- State of California
- State of Connecticut
- Guam
- Kamikatsu, Tokushima (Japan)
- Capannori, Italy
- Canada
- U.S. Conference of Mayors (2015 Resolution- adopts a definition of Zero Waste, and set of Zero Waste principles, that recognizes a Hierarchy of Material Management)

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