

**From:** [Cory](#)  
**To:** [Sur, Peter](#)  
**Subject:** comments on V 2 for July 26  
**Date:** Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:52:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [Zero Waste Hierarchy 2023 7-26.docx](#)

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COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM V 2: DRAFT RECYCLING ORDINANCE

For Environmental Management Commission, 9 AM Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Aloha Commissioners,

Please consider this Energy Justice Network version of the Zero Waste Hierarchy. I've worked a bit with Mike Ewall of EJN and his knowledge and dedication are impressive.

Cory

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zero waste is **defined** as "the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health." It's not a utopic idea, but a set of policies and practices intended to eliminate incineration and reduce waste as much as possible, ultimately achieving at least 90% reduction of waste going to disposal.

## THE ZERO WASTE HIERARCHY

**RETHINK/REDESIGN**

**REDUCE**

**REUSE**

**RECYCLE/COMPOST**

**MATERIAL RECOVERY**

**RESIDUALS MANAGEMENT**  
(Biological treatment and stabilized landfilling)

**UNACCEPTABLE**  
(Waste deregulation, incineration, and "waste-to-energy")

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We are **mapping** all of the existing, proposed, closed and defeated dirty energy and waste facilities in the US. We are building a network of community groups to fight the facilities and the corporations behind them.

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## Zero Waste Hierarchy:

Redesign

Reduce

Source Separate: (reusables, recycling, composting and trash)

- **Reuse / Repair**
- **Recycle (multi-stream)** ⇒ Material Recovery Facility (MRF)
- **Compost** ⇒ aerobically compost clean organic materials like food scraps and yard waste to return to soils
- **Waste:**
  - **Waste Composition Research** (examine trash to see how the system can be improved upstream)
  - **Material Recovery** (mechanically remove additional recyclables that people failed to separate)
  - **Biological Treatment** (aerobic composting -- or, better yet, anaerobic digestion followed by aerobic composting -- of organic residuals to stabilize them)
  - **Stabilized Landfilling** (biological treatment reduces volume and avoids gas and odor problems)