

[Introduce self; give CV if needed; Who is DEACS; Ask audience if any are ZWTL or on path]



[Go over slide; give a few examples of each layer]

Simply put, nothing goes to the landfill, but the devil is in the details. Here is a waste management hierarchy from the EPA that provides a basic outline of categories for destination of solid waste.



[Go over slide, read basic definitions]

Ultimately it is up for your organization to define. Some food for thought: do you include hazardous waste and construction waste? What about product returns or kitchen and office waste? Do you only look at production waste, or do you count everything and anything that is within your controllable footprint? Will you use waste to energy? Unless you are using guidance from a trade group or a certification you and your staff will have to define the end goal.



[Comments below are in order as shown]

There are many levels of direct and indirect cost savings when focusing on ZWTL. Any material not captured within a product is lost value, even if it is recycled. Organizations have reported cost savings from reduced waste pick up services, reduced disposal costs, and even possibly reduced procurement costs.

The adoption of a sustainability program/goal/plan is becoming more mainstream in today's economy. Regardless of the source of this inspiration, be it from external or internal forces, ZWTL could be the cornerstone for these activities. Solid waste is very tangible and visible, potentially creating quicker employee buy-in for future sustainability goals.

LEAN is a practice that instills an on-going consideration of waste and how to eliminate it. Waste is considered in all activities and includes expended time, labor, space, and the inefficient use of materials.

Some companies, such as Wal-Mart, Kroger and Daimler, are promoting waste reduction by requiring suppliers to provide sustainability assessments. If a multibillion dollar company tells you to fill out a survey or they won't carry your product...what are you going to do? Landfill disposal bans and universal waste management programs are examples of regulations passed to prevent certain materials from entering landfills and potentially impacting groundwater resources. These regulations are covering more materials every year.

Reaching a zero waste to landfill goal is a difficult accomplishment that shows drive and dedication at all levels of an organization.



[This slide gives an overview of the next slides]



It is important for any company goal to be embraced by all levels of an organization, but support from the top is necessary. Senior management support for a zero wasteto-landfill goal is no exception. The goal should be formally adopted, and all employees and managers should be included in the responsibility of achieving the goal.



Since the successful implementation of facility wide waste reduction to zero waste requires cooperation on all levels of a facility, the formation of a "green team" and the establishment of a corporate ZWTL mission is recommended. By including representatives from cross functional areas, the green team promotes cooperation throughout the company. This program of inclusive representation helps ensure that all employees are stakeholders in the process. Ideally members should represent different aspects of waste generation (i.e. procurement, stockroom, production, packaging, shipping, etc)

A function of the green team will also be to develop briefing materials for contractors and other site visitors on the facility's recycling program and zero waste to landfill objective. Also, the green team will monitor the facility's metrics and work collectively to find effective solutions to problems identified along the way.



With your team created start to formalize a calendar or sequence of events. Keep in mind who will assist or lead a dumpster dive, training, data collection and reporting to upper management. This might be the whole team or just a single individual. Are you ready to manage sub-committees? Will HR, maintenance or purchasing need to be involved?



From the data collected on waste creation, a current state or baseline can be created. Recent waste reduction efforts should be analyzed to form a long term stretch goal, as well as milestone goals to realistically guide future reduction efforts. In addition to recording the number of waste pick-ups or "pulls", as well as waste volumes, consider tracking the cost of waste as part of the baseline. This will allow for cost savings, or at least cost avoidance to be reported.



Whether you call them dumpster dives, waste sorts or audits, or resource assessments, the goal is to collect, sort and analyze a volume of waste from your organization. The volume and duration of collection depend on your operational constraints. Including your waste or recycling haulers in the planning process is an excellent key for a successful event.



As mentioned earlier, unless your organization decides to follow a third party model, a 90% or greater waste diversion is an acceptable goal to declare zero waste to landfill. There are many factors to consider such as exclusions, limitations due to regulations, supply chain demands, and traceability.



Now that your path and destination are in plain view, it is time to lift the curtain and collaborate with your fellow employees. Get them involved in the movement. Let everyone know why this effort is being done and how it will affect their job. Most importantly, listen to the feedback for improvements. New training or equipment might be needed to accomplish the next milestone.



On the journey to a ZWTL operation, the adage "You can't manage what you don't measure" rings soundly. Milestone accomplishments gained through new projects, programs or equipment should be validated by data.



Senior management should be updated on progress and challenges toward the organization's goal. It is vital at this stage to communicate to the stakeholders the progress of the project.



Once the celebration of the current milestone or even the goal itself is complete, reevaluate the baseline and work with senior management on the next milestone, or develop a new goal. Are your teams working effectively? Do you need more training? Are you collecting too much or too little data? What is your next challenge?



A company's existing recyclers or even waste haulers may be able to play a role in the goal of zero waste-to-landfill. Approach the companies that you already have a relationship with first. However, keep in mind that there are now a number of waste service companies who help facilities find markets for materials and find waste-to-energy services for materials without markets. They can provide a comprehensive resource management service rather than an average recycling service provider.



Whether your organization is new to the state or established, there are services and staff members within DEACS and DENR that can provide varying levels of assistance to help you on your path to ZWTL.



Contact information slide