



Waste Hero - Reduce to Zero Educational Materials

Created by experts and educators together.

Waste Hero: Reduce to Zero is a free global zero waste education program with the aim to educate 1 million people by 2030 on recycling fundamentals, creating zero waste, and how to build a circular economy. Waste Hero consists of 19 free lesson plans and workshops for K-12 and university level students. The lessons are designed to be engaging and fun, but also action oriented for young learners to apply the principals of the circular economy in both the classroom and in their community.

Each lesson plan aligns to the relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and applicable international curriculum standards with clear learning objectives and outcomes. The program is designed to be flexible and responsive to the evolving needs of any classroom and lesson plans are editable and customizable to meet the different individual learning contexts.

The 19 lessons are organized into 6 levels with each containing a beginner, intermediate, and advanced lesson plan designed to be taught sequentially. However, lessons can also be taught independently when appropriate to supplement existing curricula. A PowerPoint version with teacher instructions and a printable PDF lesson and classroom handouts are available for free download. Please reference the Waste Hero table of contents to explore which lesson level and topic is applicable for your classroom.

The education program was created by Yunus Thailand, a not-for-profit foundation co-founded by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus. The content team analyzed educational materials from a wide variety of sources and established an Educational Advisory Group of 23 teachers, academics, educators and zero waste activists from 17 countries to guide the creation process of the educational materials. The content creation team, led by circular economy and educational design experts at Yunus Thailand, worked together with educators throughout the process whilst also receiving professional industry inputs from a leading recycling corporation.

The Waste Hero: Reduce to Zero educational materials have been validated by an independent panel of global education experts who have determined that the materials are fit for purpose. The panel concluded with a high level of assurance that the materials are appropriate for use with learners at different educational levels in diverse contexts globally.

The purpose of the Waste Hero education program is to empower educators at all levels with guidance, resources, insights, and relevant tools to support the development of circular economy teaching and learning capacity. It is not intended to be prescriptive for curriculum design, but rather as a starting point for those looking to introduce and include circular economy, recycling, and zero waste education into any discipline and curriculum.

Whilst this program is primarily for educators developing new curricula, organizations, youth activists and startups who want to know more about the circular economy may also find it helpful. Waste Hero supports circular economy learning across a growing global community of schools, colleges, startups, and civil society organizations.

The transition to a circular economy is dependent on how individuals and organizations learn to innovate and apply what they've learned in the real world. The education sector, from primary school to postgraduate study, plays a vital role in ensuring students of all ages are equipped with the key skills and knowledge to apply circular thinking in their communities.

Waste Hero: Reduce to Zero invites you to explore this new and innovative free education program to motivate and inspire young learners to begin taking action in building our future circular economy.

