



ZERO
WASTE
EUROPE

2016 IN REVIEW

Zero Waste Europe

THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR



Over 2016 the impact of Zero Waste Europe has continued to grow

We have seen new members from around Europe join our association, new staff enrich our secretariat and new areas of work have brought the zero waste work to a larger audience than ever.

Throughout 2016 we were at the cutting edge of the zero waste movement, building on our work of previous years and building new campaigns. Our network of towns has continued to grow reaching almost 400 towns. After a successful conference and annual meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, we welcomed 3 new members to the network, expanding our reach into new regions of Europe.

Together with dozens of global organisations we have launched an ambitious campaign on plastics and we are spearheading the European branch of this new global movement to Break Free From Plastics. The 'Break Free From Plastic' coalition aims to fundamentally change our relationship with plastic and hopes to address the root causes of plastic pollution and waste. As the European coordinators for an alignment process we were responsible for bringing together organisations working on waste from across Europe. This process has continued to grow and will be taking on more form and activities throughout 2017.

**"We have
brought zero
waste work to a
larger audience
than ever"**

JOAN MARC SIMON



On a European level, the Circular Economy Package has continued to act as a focus. With Zero Waste Europe producing position papers on issues such as food waste in the Circular Economy and consistently calling on the European Parliament to demand high targets in the package. Beyond the Circular Economy, we have also engaged with the European Commission's Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive proposals, calling for 4 major instruments to be used including modulated EPR fees, and a stronger effort on prevention.

From an organisational perspective we have continued to grow the team during 2016, hiring Delphine Levi Alvares, working on the products policy and leading the coordination of the alignment process for the European aspect of 'Break Free From Plastic'.

All in all we have managed to consolidate our organisation as the main reference for European-wide NGOs working and waste and resources.

Joan Marc Simon – Director of Zero Waste Europe



**WASTE POLICY & BEST
PRACTICE**



Our movement has continued to build on the successes of 2015, with zero waste policies and ideas gaining traction in policy and cultural spaces across Europe. New projects have continued to spring up in countries across Europe and around the world. We have seen legislative advancements towards zero waste in many regions and policy spheres. There is a real feeling that this movement is growing and will change the way waste management is considered.

We have continued to produce case studies highlighting these zero waste successes. Our first of the year looked at the incredible successes in the city of Parma, Italy. In the city a new government coming in off the back of an anti-incineration movement, implemented ambitious waste-management policies such as Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) and recycling cabins to radically reduce residual waste, create jobs and save the taxpayers money.

The second case study we produced towards the end of 2016 looked at the city of Roubaix, France. In contrast to Parma, Roubaix does not have the necessary powers to directly address waste management systems. However by addressing waste generation directly with citizens they were able to achieve incredible reductions in waste where 25% of households participating in the project were able to reduce their waste generation by over 80% and 70% of participants reduced their waste by 50%.



In the European policy arena, our work on the Circular Economy Package has continued to be at the forefront of the Waste Policy & Best Practice Work. In February, we issued a strong rebuttal to the Commission's Roadmap for the Communication on Waste to Energy highlighting 4 reasons that this appeared to be a step in the wrong direction, which were later on included by the Commission on its final document in early 2017. We joined the call for the European Parliament to get the Circular Economy 'back on track' in May, and directly engaged with MEPs, proposing key amendments to Commission's proposal, most of which were tabled in late 2016 and even approved in early 2017 by the ENVI Committee and the Plenary. Zero Waste Europe also made the case for zero waste solutions and practices at the Council, with regular meetings with most of the Permanent Representations. .

On the city level, we saw many new cities joining the Network of Zero Waste Municipalities. A Zero Waste conference in Croatia in February brought together policy makers, waste management professionals and municipal leaders signing a "Zero Waste 2020" strategy. This saw many new cities joining the network in Croatia.

Additionally, the conferences of Ljubljana (April), Capannori (May) and Brussels (June) on Zero Waste cities organised by Zero Waste Europe under an Europe for Citizens project managed to foster exchange of best practices among city officials and civil society organisations.

In November we organised a study tour in the Basque country for experts and policy members from across Europe. Here they were able to see the fantastic initiatives in taking place towards zero waste in Basque civil society.



For our Products Good Design & Plastics working area, 2016 was particularly momentous year. In April, Delphine Lévi Alvarès joined the team as a policy officer in this area. Coming from a extensive background in policy work at Zero Waste France, she brought a lot of experience and enthusiasm to the team.

The launch of the People's Design Lab project in July, saw hundreds of products being suggested as examples of 'bad design'. With different categories for different types of product, including excessive packaging and short product-life. The 'winning' products in each category were then promoted as the centre piece of 'Redesign Workshops' in Barcelona, Copenhagen and Paris. These workshops brought together young designers and engineers to work on zero waste solutions to these badly designed products.

Addressing the issue of toxic chemicals in products and recycling, we worked with partners to release a statement against the use of toxic flame retardants in furniture. It is clear for the zero waste movement we also need an economy that is free from toxic chemicals and products.



#breakfreefromplastic

The Global Movement to Stop Plastic Pollution for Good - In Europe

Building on our 2015 report on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), on the European level we challenged the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive proposal, calling for a more ambitious approach using legislative instruments such as modulated EPR fees and prevention targets to drive change in producers across Europe.

A groundbreaking new coalition of organisations came together in Tagaytay, Philippines to mark the launch of a new global campaign on plastic pollution. The subsequent #BreakFreeFromPlastic movement and the Tagaytay Statement now has hundreds of signatories from around the world. Zero Waste Europe launched the #BreakFreeFromPlastic movement in Europe and dozens of European NGOs started to align to encourage the EU to rise to the challenge.



**CLIMATE, ENERGY & AIR
POLLUTION**

2016 began shortly after the COP21 UNFCCC climate conference of December 2015. It was with this energy and momentum that Zero Waste Europe co-organised a conference in January with Zero Waste France, and ACR+ to present the report "Potential Contribution of Waste Management to a Low Carbon" bringing together experts and practitioners of zero waste strategies together to focus on the climate impacts of circular economy strategies.

In the first quarter of the year, Zero Waste Europe focused on building a member-led response to the EU's consultation on the post-2020 sustainable bioenergy policy. Our position paper and press release stressed the importance of phasing out harmful renewable energy subsidies for waste incineration and the need to follow the organic waste hierarchy for dealing with organic waste, where prevention, reuse and composting are at the top and so-called waste-to-energy incineration is near the bottom. Throughout the year, we draw attention to key waste incineration facilities around Europe such as the Cardiff Viridor Incinerator (UK), which despite numerous financial and environmental issues continues to receive funding from the European Investment Bank, in part due to promoting the myth of "renewable" energy from waste incineration. In October, we mobilised 6 MEPs to call for the end of harmful subsidies to waste incineration and align climate and waste policy.



We issued a response to the news that the long-running negotiations on the National Emissions Ceiling Directive (which sets emissions levels at a national level) had concluded with strong disagreement and no apparent result. Our statement called for leaders to take on high ambition and highlighted the role that incinerators play in P.M 2.5 emissions (fine particulate matter in air pollution).

In the lead up to the COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco, we shared stories by the YOUNGO Zero Waste Working Group, a youth group who had been participating in the negotiations and advocating for zero waste solutions. This was followed up by the co-organisation and participation at the COP22 supporting grassroots recyclers and informal sector waste-pickers in partnership with Cities Alliance, WIEGO, Alliance of Indian Waste Pickers and UNEP, presenting their recycling activities as a real climate solution to waste.

Towards the end of the year we were present at the Seventh Gathering of Spanish Network of Platforms Against Waste Incineration in Cement Kilns in Alcala de Guadaira, Spain. This event saw over 100 participants from 50 municipalities organising to oppose the hugely pollution practice of waste incineration in cement kilns. The event culminated in a statement from 55 civil society organisations calling for an immediate end to the practice.

Going into 2017, we have prepared for the development of the Effort Sharing Regulation, and are working to ensure that waste is fully included as a potential climate solution, when managed properly.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

2

New Case Studies

3

Webinars Hosted

6

New Members

3,131

Twitter Followers in
January 2016

6,061

Twitter Followers in
December 2016

22

Total Members

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS # 2

4,762

Facebook Followers in
January 2016

7,391

Facebook Fans December
2016

2

Study Tours

36

Conferences Spoken at

3,885

Publication Downloads

OUR RESOURCES INCOME & FUNDS RAISED

63.4%

€340,631

EU Grants

30.3%

€162,056

Foundation Grants

5.9%

€31,763

Donations & Membership
Fees

100%

€534,450

Total Income

OUR RESOURCES COSTS & SPENDING

57.1%

€303,325

Personnel

15.2%

€80,556

Travel & Subsistence

0.45%

€2,390

Equipment & Depreciation

3.8%

€20,033

Rental

17.3%

€91,680

Total Income

6.3%

€33,432

Other Direct Costs

100%

€531,416

Total Expenditure

For more detailed financial information about Zero Waste Europe please see our entry in the EU Transparency Register: <http://bit.ly/1qvTwKZ4>

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OUR NETWORK



- Amigos de la Tierra (Spain)
- Both Ends (Netherlands)
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- Humusz Zero Waste Hungary
- Retorna (Spain)
- Residuo Cero Madrid
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THANK YOU!

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