

**Summary:** When mobilizing your team to start a Zero-Waste project, it is important that everyone involved understands the key Zero-Waste principles and agrees on the main project steps and activities. This will ensure transparency over the process and lay a solid foundation for the project to run smoothly.

### Description

The Zero-Waste approach is based on the following principles:

1. Waste hierarchy, where the focus is on preventing waste generation in the school compound to reduce the amount of waste generated;
2. Circular economy, where the aim is to close the loops of material and resources as close as possible to the source of waste generation so that more material and resources can be recycled inside and/or outside the school;
3. Behavior change and learning by doing, where the aim is that the whole school community can experience sustainable practices and that students are encouraged to adopt such practices in their daily lives;
4. Participatory strategic planning, where the aim is to involve a broad variety of school stakeholders to come up with an Action Plan towards Zero-Waste tailored to the school context, and which follows a structured approach allowing to take data-driven decisions.

Presenting these key principles to the school audience (being the Zero-Waste Committee or the school officials) is key to ensure that everyone understand and agrees on these principles.

Furthermore, the key project steps and activities should be presented and adapted according to the needs so that the key stakeholders can agree on them. A pre-defined presentation can be found in Tool 1.B1. General information about solid waste management and related impacts mentioned in the technical resources can be added to the presentation when needed.

### Resources

Tool 1.B1 Zero-Waste principles & overview of planning process

#### Additional resources:

##### **Waste hierarchy:**

 *Wilson, D.C., 2015. Global Waste Management Outlook [5]*


##### **Circular Economy:**

 *Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2013) [3]*


 Youtube video – [Explaining Circular Economy and How Society Can Re-Think Progress](#) (Ellen MacArthur Foundation)

 [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#)

##### **Behavior change and learning by doing**

 *UNESCO, 2014. Shaping the Future We Want [1]*

 *UNESCO, 2018. Issues and trends in Education for Sustainable Development [10]*

 *Mosler Contzen, 2016. Systematic behavior change in water, sanitation and hygiene. A practical guide using the RANAS approach [13]*

 *Cavin, 2017. Behavior Change Manual [15]*

 MOOC module – [Triggering Community Participation with the RANAS approach](#) (Eawag/Sandec)

 [Ranamosler.com](#)

##### **Strategic planning:**

 *Lüthi et al., 2011. Community-Led Urban Environmental Sanitation Planning: CLUES [11]*

 *Wilson et al., 2001. Strategic Planning Guide for Municipal Solid Waste Management [12]*

 Online course – [From Data to Tangible Impact: Achieving Waste SDGs by 2030](#) (UN-Habitat)