

Who we are

Zero Waste Ithaca is a grassroots, volunteer-powered community organization. We reduce waste and toxic pollution through **reuse, public education, policy advocacy**, and community action.

Rooted here in Ithaca and the Finger Lakes — building **local resilience, reuse, and neighborly care** for the long haul. We also stand shoulder to shoulder with environmental justice communities worldwide, as part of global movements:

GAIA: Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (no-burn.org ↗)

Break Free From Plastic (breakfreefromplastic.org ↗)



Get involved

- **Volunteer with us**
Tabling, cleanups, community building, research — there's a place for you.
- **Bring your own**
Carry a container or cup. Look for our sticker.
- **Subscribe & follow**
Instagram, Substack, Facebook & Twitter — linktr.ee/zerowasteithaca ↗

SIGN THE BYO PETITION

DONATE



Sign the
BYO
petition



Scan to
donate



zerowasteithaca.org

info@zerowasteithaca.org

Rooted in Ithaca, NY • local resilience,
global solidarity

Updated June 2026



GRASSROOTS · VOLUNTEER-POWERED

Let's make Ithaca a Zero Waste City

Refuse. Reuse. Rethink. Together.



zerowasteithaca.org

Why zero waste?

Waste isn't just personal — it's shaped by systems, policy, and infrastructure.

- Climate & environment**
 Lower landfill methane and plastic-lifecycle emissions.
- Public health**
 Cut microplastic and PFAS exposure in our air, water, and bodies.
- Justice**
 Work to end toxic burdens on frontline communities, here and worldwide.
- Dollars & sense**
 Reuse and refill save businesses and taxpayers money.



"We do not need a greener version of throwaway culture. We need systems that make waste unnecessary." - A ZWI Member

Reuse in practice

Our **Local Reuse Partner Sticker Program** makes reuse visible — we give partner businesses & orgs a window sticker to show their commitment to reuse. Nearly **100** local businesses and organizations take part.



NEW STICKER DESIGNS, JUNE 2026



BYO — bring your own bags, utensils, cups & containers.

Skip the Stuff — utensils & extras only on request.

Circular Economy — thrift & reuse-friendly shops & orgs.



Find a partner map & list



Businesses: join the program

Campaigns & community

POLICY & ADVOCACY

OUR FLAGSHIP CAMPAIGN

Right to BYO

New York law still blocks bring-your-own at many counters. We're pushing for **clear statewide BYO rights** — add your name

Plastic turf & PFAS

Accountability for toxic synthetic turf.

A public NYS Zero Waste Department

(emerging idea)

Exploring a publicly governed Department of Public Resource Stewardship — reuse as a right, not a brand.

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Trash pickups, kayak cleanups, dumpster studies, repair socials & a film festival.



Connect with us
zerowasteithaca.org