

In February of 2023, I started in my role as the Executive Director of Toward Zero Waste (TZW). Reviewing all our accomplishments this year, confirms that our strong volunteer team is working together to reach our goal of promoting waste-conscious living through education, inspiration, and action.

The TZW team continued the mission of education to community members by organizing a tour of the Multi-Material Recycling Facility, used by the City of Raleigh and run by the Sonoco company. The event was attended by 25 people who learned about proper recycling from the City of Raleigh Sustainable Outreach Coordinator. Another educational event arranged by TZW was a night with *Perfectly Good Food* cookbook authors Mei Li and Irene Li. The Cary business Mindful Merchant provided their storefront for the event, and everyone learned delicious recipes to make with food scraps.

In hopes of inspiring individuals to be a part of the waste diversion process, TZW facilitated the public-private collaboration between Kane Realty's Events Department and the Wake County Environmental Services Department to provide a compost drop-off site at the Midtown Farmers' Summer Market at North Hills shopping center in Raleigh. The program kicked off in April and continued until the first weekend of November. Toward Zero Waste volunteers provided compost program education to the market customers by working at a table frequently during market hours.

To fulfill the action part of our mission, I had the opportunity to work with North Carolina Representative Julie Von Haefen to write House Bill 679 titled Skip the Stuff. The bill was filed at NC General Assembly April 18th, 2023 where it immediately was referred to the Rules Committee. Unfortunately, it remained with that committee until the end of the session.

The year of 2023 was full of growth and development for Toward Zero Waste. I am confident that the organization will continue to work together to further our mission in the new year.



Sincerely,

Kathleen Liebowitz

Kathleen Liebowitz
Executive Director,
Toward Zero Waste

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Composting initiatives through the Town of Cary and Midtown Farmers Market.

Pounds of Food Scraps Collected

111,260

Estimated Pounds of Compost Received by Community Partners

11,113



REUSABLE BAGS MADE

Number of reusable bags sewn and distributed by the TZW Makers group:

341



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

- Zero Waste 101 at Mindful Merchant
- Zero Waste 101 at The Dartmouth Apartments
- Cary Women's Club
- League of Women Voters-Wake County Timely Topics

ORGANIZATIONS WE HAVE PARTNERED WITH

- Capital Area Food Network
- NC Conservation Network
- NC Plastic Waste Reduction Coalition
- League of Women Voters - Wake County
- Citizen Climate Lobby
- Wake Green Schools Partnership
- Town of Cary
- Wake County Government
- Great Raleigh Cleanup

EVENTS TABLED AT

- Cary Arbor Day Festival
- Raleigh Arbor Day Festival
- NCSU Earth Fair
- Morrisville Earthday
- Cary Herbfest
- TigerFest Day
- Community Hub at Coastal Carolina Music Park
- Cary Harvest Fest
- Cary Fall Farmers Market

