

ZeroWaste!foundation — Action plan

The ZeroWaste!foundation is committed to promoting sustainability and circularity. The foundation focuses mainly on students and, at times, companies and organisations in sectors with limited resources. We support them in developing and implementing knowledge and skills in the field of sustainability and circularity. The foundation plays an active role in the transition to a circular economy through collaboration, knowledge sharing and the introduction of Zero Waste management, with the aim of minimising waste.

THIS POLICY PLAN DESCRIBES THE KEY INITIATIVES THAT THE ZEROWASTE!FOUNDATION IS UNDERTAKING TO SUPPORT AND ACCELERATE THIS TRANSITION.

Mission and objectives

Statutory objective:

****The objective of the foundation is: to promote a sustainable, circular economy and society, with a focus on reuse and the prevention of waste of valuable materials and resources (“zero waste”), by means of activities aimed at awareness, knowledge development and behaviour change, as well as all that is directly or indirectly related or beneficial to the foregoing, all in the broadest sense of the word.***

****The foundation seeks to achieve its objective, among other things, by:***

1. Carrying out research and consultancy projects;
2. Organising a network of knowledge institutions, companies, governments and other social organisations and joint activities in this context;
3. Involving students and their startups in the projects and activities of the foundation;
4. Developing new concepts, methods and techniques;
5. Organising and participating in symposia, workshops, excursions and other activities;
6. Exchanging and developing knowledge by means of, among other things, brochures, its own website and social media.

****The foundation does not aim to make a profit from its activities of general public benefit. If the foundation makes a profit from a commercial activity in addition to its activities of general public benefit, this profit will be allocated to the public benefit.***

Target groups and accessibility

The ZeroWaste!foundation is driven by the conviction that everyone has a role to play in the transition to a more sustainable and circular world. Our initiatives, described below, provide both students and the rest of society with access to expert knowledge and decades of professional experience. For example, we connect students with key industrial players, we support students and others with limited resources, and we actively contribute to the circular economy.

Our focus is on optimising resources, sharing knowledge and creating opportunities for everyone, regardless of their background. Our mission is to create a world in which sustainability is accessible to all, and in which no individual or organisation is left behind in the transition to a circular economy. We are confident that the power of collaboration and knowledge sharing is the key to a sustainable future.

Main initiatives

1. Access to expert knowledge

The ZeroWaste!foundation offers innovative startups, often founded by students, organisations in sectors with limited resources, and companies affordable and feasible access to experts in sustainability, sustainable mobility, waste management and energy efficiency. By putting them in contact with professionals, we support them in improving their operations, reducing environmental impact and implementing sustainable and cost-effective solutions. This initiative enables the new generation to reduce waste and energy consumption, combat spillage, and at the same time increase their contribution to a more sustainable, more circular future.

2. Connecting with industry experts

The ZeroWaste!foundation creates links between students from different educational institutions and companies that are leading in sustainability and circularity. We offer students access to knowledge, resources and mentorship that help them develop the necessary skills and prepare for a career in sustainable environments. This initiative creates opportunities for internships, collaborations and employment, so that students can enter the labour market with a strong foundation.

3. Support for startups and scale-ups

The ZeroWaste!foundation is dedicated to supporting students who do not have access to the resources needed to fully develop themselves. Through our network, we provide these students with the support they need, whether in the form of mentorship, access to educational materials or direct funding. We strive to create opportunities for all students, regardless of their financial situation, so that they can develop and contribute to sustainability goals.

4. **Promoting the transition to a circular economy**

The ZeroWaste!foundation plays an active role in promoting a circular economy by optimising the use of resources, encouraging waste reduction and combating spillage. This initiative focuses on strengthening the principles of sustainability and circularity, with an emphasis on closing the loop in production and consumption processes. We strive for a sustainable future without a profit motive and focus on creating long-term societal benefits. Our network brings together both the know-how and the right connections and provides access to national and international processing industries.

For a current report of the activities carried out, including the number of activities and the financial results, we refer to the 2024 annual report (published in March 2025).

The financial results show/ will show:

- Where the ZeroWaste!foundation obtains its resources;
- The income and costs/ expenditures per project per source.

Mr Cor Gerritsen
ZWF Chair