

Summer 2015

Topics

- Zero Waste Principle
- Zero Waste in Action
- Summer Zero Waste: Summer Entertaining
- Zero Waste Links

Zero Waste Tips for Summer Entertaining

- Use cloth napkins
- Use cloth to protect food from bugs
- Use real silverware
- Drink from mason jars not styrofoam cups
- Compost food scraps for your garden

Helpful Links!

Tech Savvy Recycling: Apps and websites to help you divert your waste from the landfill

- [iRecycle app](#)
- [Recycle Bank](#)
- [1800Recycling](#)

Contact Us

Michelle Gibson

Solid Waste Specialist

815.748.2408

mgibson@dekalbcounty.org

<http://dekalbcounty.org/Health/>

Zero Waste Principle:

Zero waste is a philosophy that encourages the redesign of a resource's life cycles so that all products are reused. No trash is sent to landfills or incinerators. The process is similar to the way that resources are reused in nature. The Zero Waste Newsletter is focused on highlighting people and projects that are leading the transformation to Zero Waste in our community. In the Newsletter you will see tips on how to incorporate the Zero Waste Principle into your daily lives, work, and technology. Your stories, tips and suggestions are always welcomed.

Zero Waste in Action: Cindy Graves RN, MSHA



Before Cindy Graves joined the DeKalb County Health Department she worked for Kish Health Systems as the Director of Emergency Services. When Kish built their new hospital she was there. During construction, she witnessed the Zero Waste Principle in action. Contractors took concrete they removed from the old hospital and grinded it up to pave the new Bethany Road entrance. Much of the demolition debris was reused to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill.

At the same time Cindy had gone on a mission trip to Tanzania. While there, she visited the Selian Lutheran Hospital and found that they had equipment that dated back to the 1970s. Cindy was able to meet with the nurse administrator during her trip. She felt an immediate kinship with her African counterpart, who had the same staffing and management problems she experienced here in the United States.

Once back in the States, Cindy approached KHS administration to talk about donating any remaining equipment and linens to the Tanzania hospital. After equipment had been sold or donated locally many items still remained. The remaining items filled a 53' semi-trailer with linens, ER carts, incubators, Orthopedic equipment, surgical instruments and lights. KHS' donation would not have been possible without the help of an organization called Global Health Group. GHG managed transportation and delivery of all the equipment to Tanzania. This project was Zero Waste in action.