

Zero Waste Empowers Communities to Act Local on the Climate Crisis



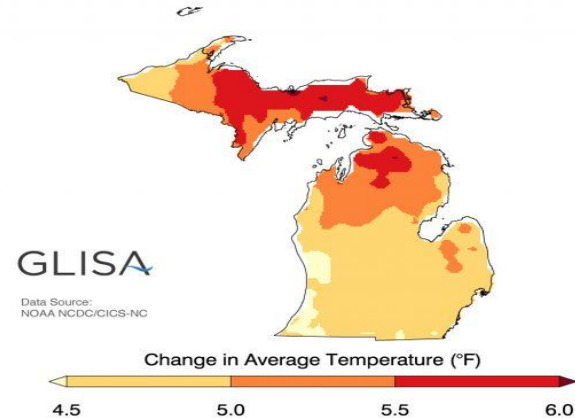
September 2021

Recycling is One of the Best Ways for Cities to Promote a Healthy Planet

Ann Arbor has seen a 41.2 % increase in the strongest storms from 1959-2012 and is already experiencing warmer average temperatures.

Our maple beech and birch forests will be replaced by oak and hickory in less than a century.

Projected Change in Average Temperature
Period: 2041-2070 | Higher Emissions: A2



Building zero waste systems empowers communities to act local on the climate crisis.



How RAA can help: building the zero waste infrastructure

Planning for an Eco-Site to area fill gaps

Building a zero waste MRF

**Advocating for better policies - RRA is a
co-founder of AMBR - Alliance of Mission
Based Recyclers**

Planning for an Eco-Site

RAA will use our newly purchased 17 acre property as an eco-site to **incubate and house key zero waste infrastructure**, which could include refillable, reuse, and recycling businesses, that address waste at the source, not the tailpipe.



Recycling the old MRF into a Zero Waste MRF

MRF REDEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

**NOV
2020**

**Contract
signed
Project
start**

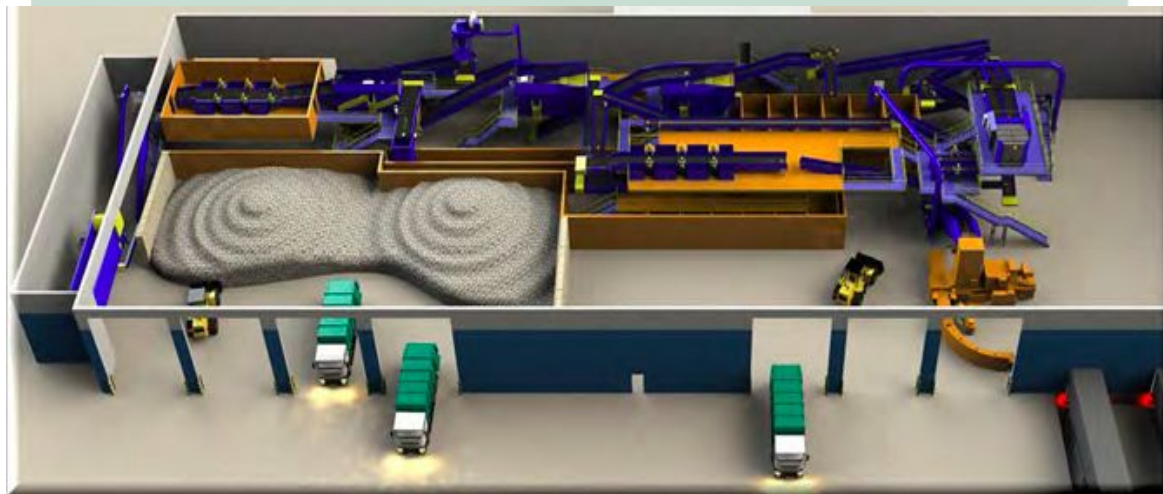
**Construction
Design Phase**

**SEPT
2021**

**Onsite Equipment
Installation &
Refurbishing
Construction
Phase**

**NOV
2021**

**New MRF
operational**



So what is Zero Waste MRF?

- **Principle of Highest Value Best Use**
 - Balance between quality and quantity
 - Zero waste education & outreach critical
 - We source local/regional end markets for materials
- **Transparent Credible Recycling**
 - Recycling isn't broken the linear consumption model is.
 - Targeted zero waste education
 - Watchdogging the industry
- **Upstream & Downstream solutions**
 - We are in a packaging crisis, not a recycling crisis
 - Looking in both directions from the pile of recyclables to raise the recycling standard. Materials coming in need regulation and new equipment/methods of material handling are often needed as well.



What is AMBR?

Alliance of Mission-Based Recyclers - founded by Eureka Recycling, Eco-Cycle, Ecology Center of Berkeley, and Recycle Ann Arbor

AMBR Goals

- **Rebuild credible, transparent, just recycling systems**
- **Strengthen State and National policy**
- **Reduce plastic consumption and improve plastics recycling**
- **Raise standards for recycling operations**



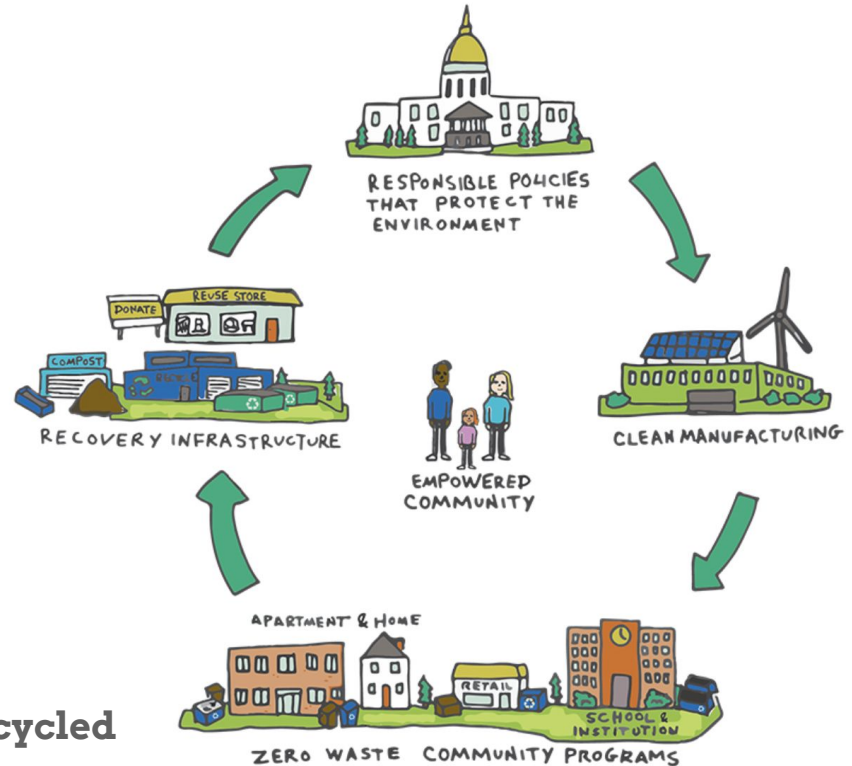
ambr

Alliance of Mission-Based Recyclers

ambr-recyclers.org

Emerging Zero Waste Legislation

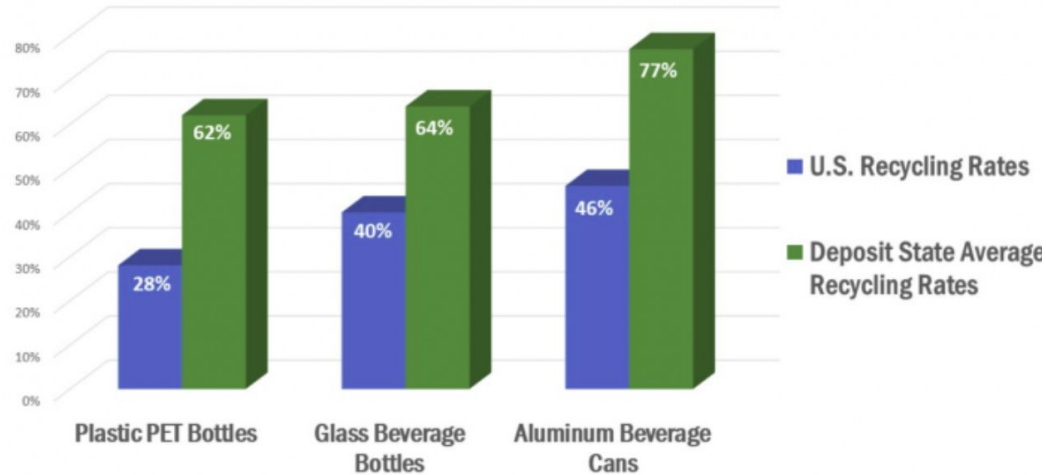
- **Maine - Extended Producer Responsibility Bill**
 - First in the nation to hold packaging manufacturing responsible for the waste they produce
- **California - Truth in Recycling Labeling Bill**
 - Tackles the misleading chasing arrow plastic numbering system that confuses consumers and does not correlate with what can be recycled



Emerging Zero Waste Legislation

- **Michigan - Bottle Bill Expansion**
 - Michigan is one of only 10 bottle bill states.
 - Bottle Bill amendments to expand bill to include all non-carbonated beverages (except milk)

Figure 1: National Recycling Rates vs. Deposit State Average Recycling Rates



Michigan needs strong zero waste policy

You can support this movement in 3 ways:

- **Be a community zero waste champion -- stay informed & engaged**
- **Support local projects and community wide zero waste goals**
- **Most importantly -- We need ongoing investment in zero waste education and infrastructure.**

Ann Arbor could lead on local zero waste policy



THANK YOU

more info about zero waste:
recycleannarbor.org