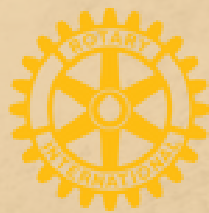


ZERO WASTE PROGRAMS

WHAT IS ZERO WASTE, WHY IT IS IMPORTANT, HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN IMPLEMENT IT

GLOBAL
CLIMATE
Pledge

Rotary



Climate Action
Team Network

Rotary
Rotary Club of
Newport Beach

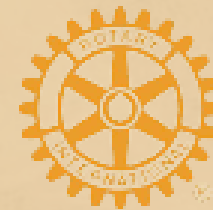


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What is Zero Waste?

- **Zero waste** can be defined in many different ways by different entities:
 - **Solid Waste of North America:** "...all efforts to reduce solid waste to almost nothing by reducing excess consumption and maximizing solid waste recovery through compositng and recycling."
 - **Zero Waste International Alliance:** "...conservation of all resources by means of responsible production , consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharge to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health."
 - **US Conference of Mayors 2015:** "beyond recycling and composting at the end of a product's life cycle..."

Why is Zero Waste Important?

- From the **Toronto Environmental Alliance**:
 - **Who they are:** a non-profit organization campaigning locally in Toronto to find solutions to their urban environmental problems
 - **Why they think zero waste is important:**
 - Reduces climate impact by conserving resources and minimizing pollution
 - Promotes social equity while building community
 - Redistributing goods to those in need
 - Community gardening
 - Protects community by reducing pollution and toxic waste
 - Creates jobs by supporting circular economy



Why is Zero Waste Important?

- From the [Northeast Recycling Council](#):

- **Who they are:** a multi-state non-profit organization whose programs emphasize source reduction, reusing, recycling, composting, environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP), and decreasing the toxicity of the solid waste stream in northeastern US
- **Why they think zero waste is important:**
 - Zero waste is one of the fastest, easiest climate action strategies that we can implement today to *immediately* reduce GHG emissions
 - *Cost effective* (curbside recycling can reduce more emissions per dollar spent than energy efficiency & renewable energy projects!)
 - Don't need any new technology or rare natural resources – we *already have the technology of recycling and composting*



Debunking the Zero Waste Stigma

- **Zero waste** is not about an **extreme goal** BUT **transforming** our behaviors and actions!
 - Zero waste is based on the **journey** towards becoming zero!
- "Zero waste" suggests that we shouldn't be producing any waste at all
 - **This is misleading!**
 - *Zero waste* is a way of examining our lifestyle & reducing waste where it's possible!
- **Living zero waste** does NOT have to be perfect
 - Individual perfection will never be achievable in a *linear economy*
 - We need to come together to make a *collective, systemic impact*
 - Zero waste is **affordable** and will help us **save money** in the long run!



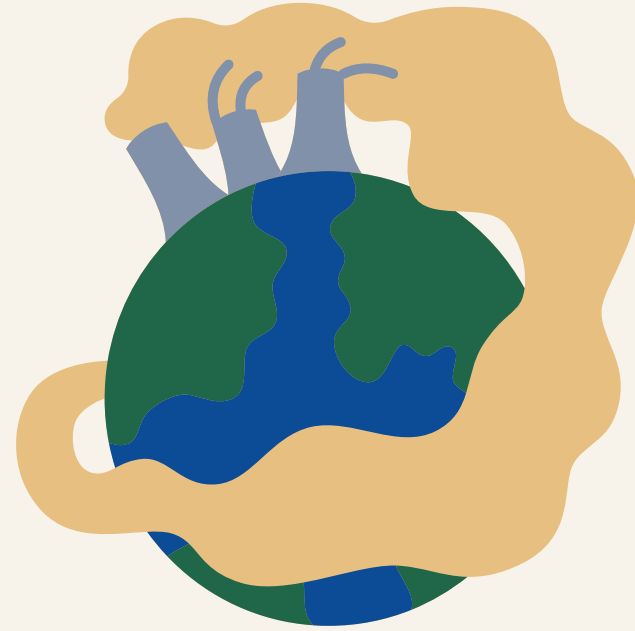
Debunking the Zero Waste Stigma

- Being **zero waste** is NOT about producing *absolutely no waste*
 - Don't hold yourself to ridiculous standards!
- Be more concerned with the **big picture**
- Think about the waste created *upstream* before it reaches your organization
 - There is nothing you can do about that!
- Life is out of your control..
 - ie: Given a gift that has no *zero waste packaging*
- **Don't give up on being zero waste!**
 - Focus on the **bigger picture & advocate for systematic changes!**

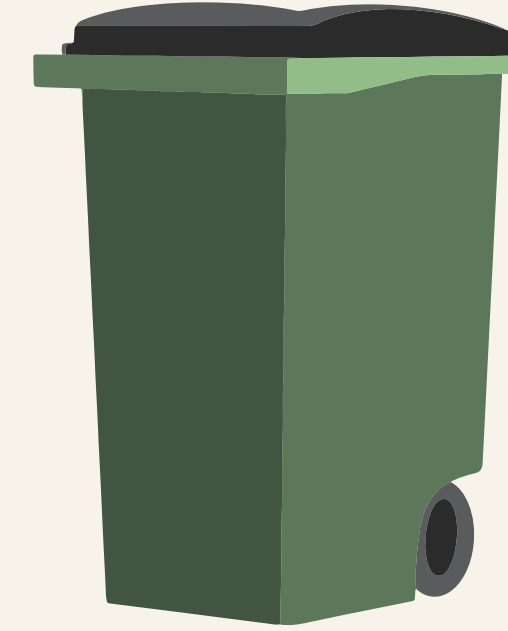
Going from a Linear to Circular Economy

- **Linear economy** = Traditional model where raw materials are collected & transformed into products that consumers use until discarding them as waste
 - Prioritizes *profit over sustainability*
- **Circular economy** = Production that has as little impact as possible on the environment
 - Prioritizes *sustainability over profit*
- In a circular economy, **waste is the new raw material!**
 - ie: Sharing more products that are not often used or stand still
- **Consumer behavior change is needed for a circular economy!**

From the US EPA...



**Landfills are the
3rd biggest
source of human
related methane
emissions**

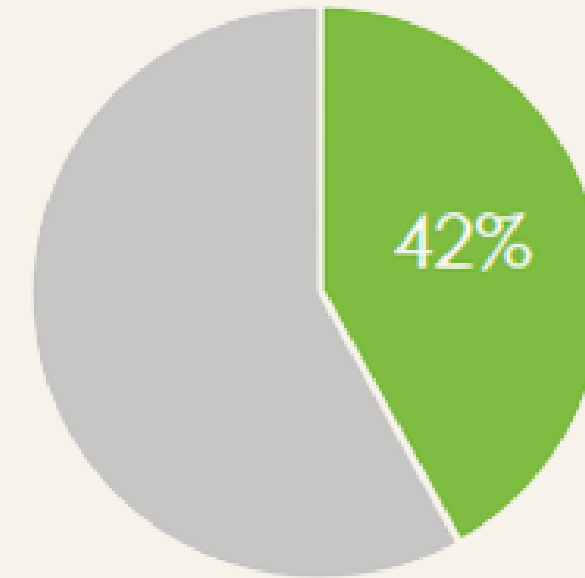


**US municipal
waste accounts
for
approximately
14% of human
caused methane
emissions**

From the US EPA...



The Average American produces 4.4lb of trash per day...even if it's biodegradable, it will still emit GHGs, which contribute directly to climate change!



42% of all GHG emissions are from production & use of goods (including food, products, packaging)

From the Northeast Recycling Council...



80% of discarded consumer goods in municipal solid waste ends up burned or landfilled because of *poor design, failure to include recyclable materials & lack of end-of-life solutions*

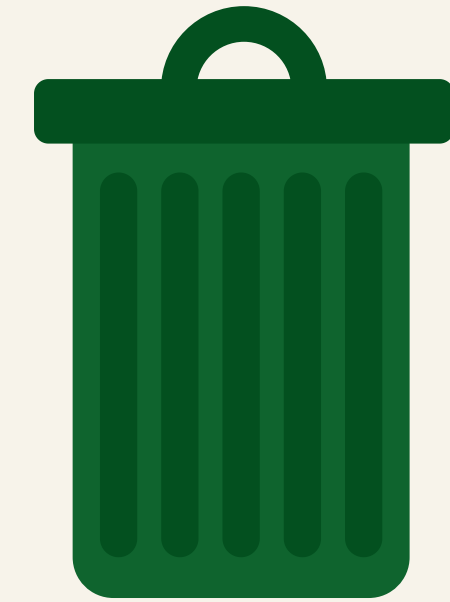


It takes 1.5 years to regenerate the natural resources we consume in a year

From the Northeast Recycling Council...



**Implementing
zero waste could
help save
materials worth
up to \$700B/year**



**20% of the municipal
budget is spent on
waste
management...with
less waste, money
could be diverted to
other essential
needs/projects/etc.**

From the UN Environment Program...



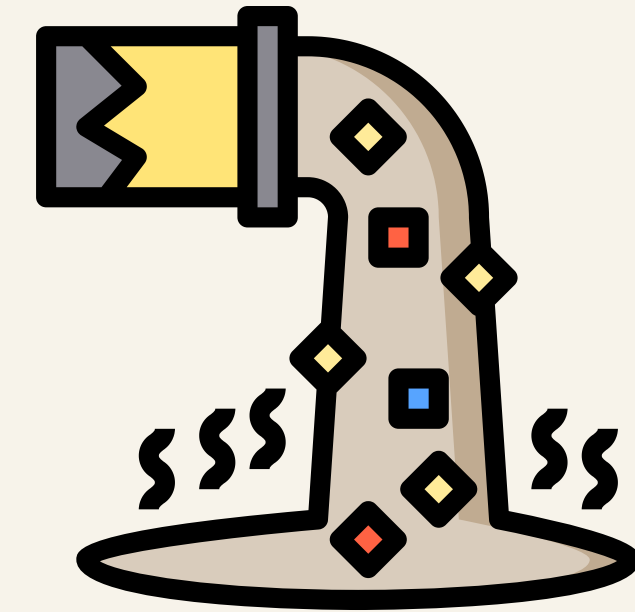
Around 1/3 of the 2.24B tons of municipal solid waste produced globally in 2020 was not managed in a sustainable manner

Plastics account for 12% of global waste, equivalent to the weight of 3.4M adult blue whales

From the UN Environment Program...



The global recycling rate is under 16%



If current trends continue, the amount of waste will reach 3.38B tons per year by 2050

How to Implement Zero Waste?: The 5Rs

Refuse →

Reduce →

Reuse →

Repair →

Recycle

Do this first!

This is your last resort!



How to Implement Zero Waste?

- **The 5Rs:**

- **Refuse...**what you don't actually need
 - ie: Buying timeless pieces for your closet instead of trendy clothing items
- **Reduce...**what you use
 - ie: Only buying what you need from the grocery store
- **Reuse...**until it no longer works
 - ie: Switch to disposable items for reusable & permanent alternatives
- **Repair...**what we can
 - ie: For an electronic device, such as a laptop, try to fix it before buying a new device
- **Recycle...**only when all options have been exhausted!

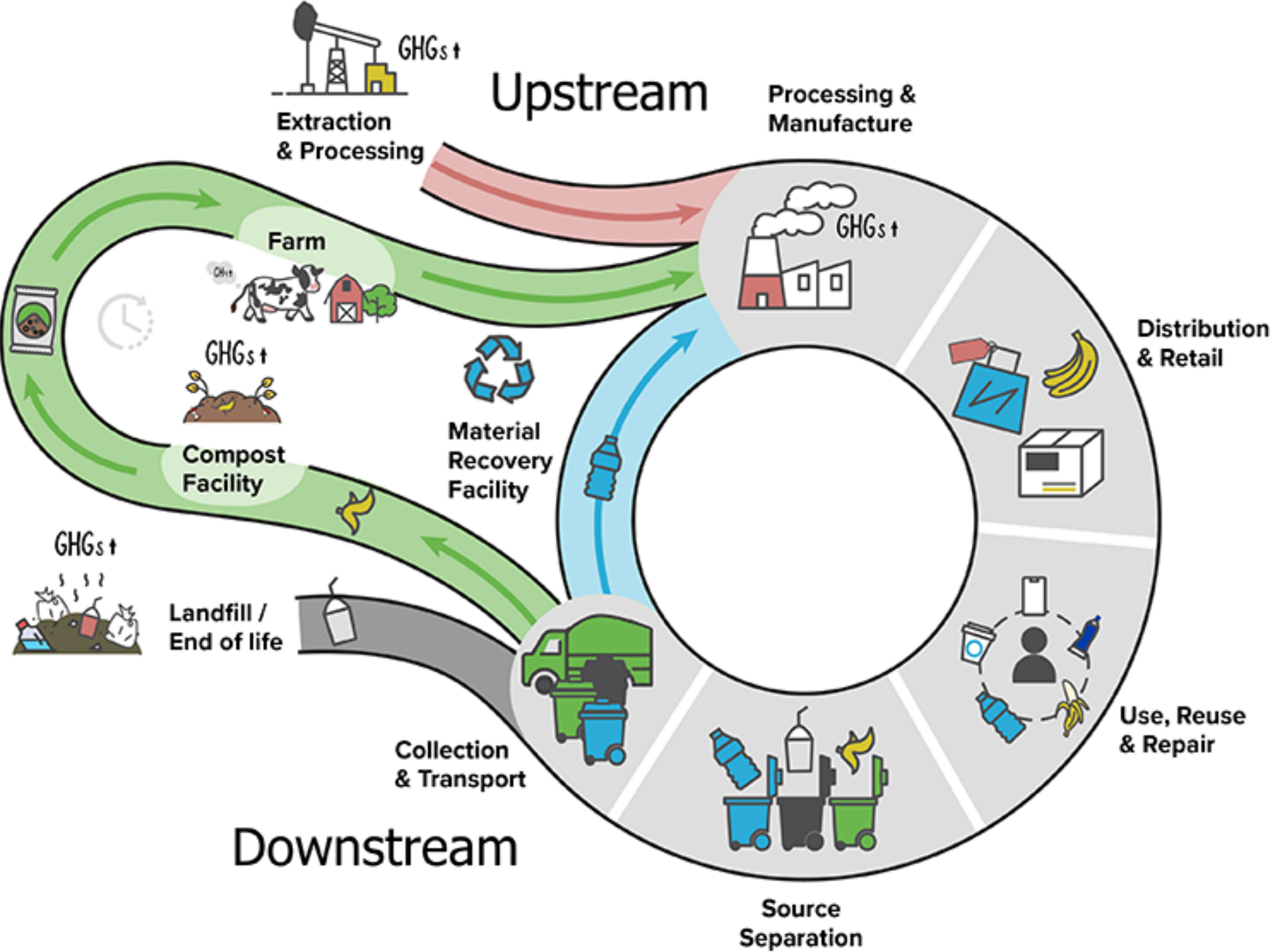


How to Implement Zero Waste?

- Zero waste should include redesigning our one-way industrial system into a **circular system**
 - ie: Creating products with no packaging (or durable packing that can be reused)
 - ie: Buying goods from bulk bins
- **Upstream and Downstream:**
 - **Upstream** redesign strategies - reduce volume and toxicity of discarded materials & products
 - Improve **downstream** recycling of end-of-life products and materials



Upstream and Downstream Production



Rotary Clubs in Action

- The **Rotary Club of Rurka Kalan Eco** has proposed a project for *solid waste management* in the Rurka Kalan Village in Punjab.
 - There is a need for a system that collects and processes waste in a sustainable manner.
 - As of now, there is no system present for the disposal of garbage, with large dumps emitting methane gases.
- This proposed project is designed to be self sufficient in approximately one year.
- Currently, they are looking for a Club partner and are asking for grant money.
- Check out the project [here!](#)



Rotary Clubs in Action

- In the Rotary year 2021-2022, the **Rotary Club of Perambra** initiated a *waste management project* with the objective of collecting all segregated waste from various houses and shops and store it temporarily in a *material collecting facility*.
 - Waste awareness classes are also proposed to be conducted and cloth bags for storing waste will be distributed to all houses.
- This project has been **Fully Pledged**, and they hope to complete the projects within six months.
- Check out the project [here!](#)



Rotary Clubs in Action

- In the Rotary Year 2018–2019, the **Rotary Club of Ilha Solteira** proposed a *waste management project* focused on modernizing and expanding the capacity of Ilha Solteira's *recycling cooperative*.
 - The project will help reduce the volume discarded in landfills by 30%, educate Rotarians about waste management and hygiene, and improve the city's income.
- This project was **Approved**.
- Check out the project [here](#)!



Rotary Clubs in Action

- In the Rotary Year 2021-2022, the **Rotary Club of Ciudad Sandino** collaborated with the **Nicaraguan Agrarian University** for a *waste management project that will help to solve the needs for nutritious food and work.*
 - Tilapia fish tanks will be installed, from which waste water is fed into grow beds where plants, such as celery and mint, can thrive.
 - The roots of these plants clean the waste water that is then pumped back into the fish tank.
 - Training will be provided with expert follow-up with participants for six months.
 - The project is projected to provide 57 families with an aquaponics system.
- The project status is **Paid**.
- Check out the project [here!](#)



What Else Can You Do?

- **Go paperless!**

- You can download various apps such as e-signature, to do list app, note-taking apps, etc.
- Buy tablets for the office!
 - This does not have to be expensive as there are affordable options such as reMarkable, rocket notebook, homestec, etc.

- **Share supplies!**

- ie: One stapler for everyone (Think of items you only need one of!)

- **Buy "green" products**

- 100% recycled paper, non-toxic cleaners. etc



Take the Pledge!

Sign the Pledge at
<https://www.globalclimatepledge.com>

Share the Pledge!

- Encourage your coworkers, family members, loved ones, etc. to move from *awareness to action!*
- Spread the pledge through social media!

GLOBAL CLIMATE Pledge

Individual Pledge QR Code:



Organization Pledge QR Code:



Rotary Climate Action Team Network

GLOBAL CLIMATE *Pledge*

Use this QR code or go to <https://rcatnow.com> to join RCAT's 3-Step Climate Challenge and learn more about getting involved in the Global Climate Pledge!



Contact Us!

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CA 92075

<https://usgreenchamber.com>

<https://www.globalclimatepledge.com>



@GlobalPledge



@GlobalClimatePledge

Sources

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