

Title	Discuss key concepts of zero waste theory and practice		
Level	3	Credits	10

Purpose	<p>This unit standard is for people working in the resource recovery and other industries.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to: discuss key concepts of the theory of zero waste, and explain how zero waste concepts are put into practice.</p>
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Classification	Zero Waste > Zero Waste Theory and Practice
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 References relevant to this unit standard include but are not limited to *The New Zealand Waste Strategy: Reducing Harm, Improving Efficiency* 2010 Ministry for the Environment, available at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz>; information provided on government, local authority, academic institution, and industry organisations websites such as: Ministry for the Environment, at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz>; New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development (NZBCSD), at <http://nzbcsc.org.nz/zerowaste>; New Zealand Recycling Symbols, at <http://www.branz.co.nz>; Waste Management Institute of New Zealand (WasteMINZ) at <http://www.wasteminz.org.nz/>; Zero Waste New Zealand, at <http://www.zerowaste.co.nz>.
- 2 Assessment for this unit standard includes the protection of water resources but excludes practices for dealing with wastewater.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Discuss key concepts of the theory of zero waste.

Range examples given to illustrate the theory may be either historical or current.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 The discussion outlines the changing relationship over time between natural resources and their use by humans in terms of sustainability.
- Range use – local, national, global; includes but is not limited to – traditional and contemporary Māori and other cultural perspectives.
- 1.2 The discussion establishes national and local effects of zero waste policy and practice and describes them in terms of their interconnection.
- Range effects – environmental, social, cultural, economic.
- 1.3 The discussion identifies and describes zero waste principles in terms of their short term and long term effects on pollution.
- Range short and long term effects on two sources of pollution.
- 1.4 The discussion defines the term ‘closing the loop’, and describes key pathways for achieving zero waste.
- Range key pathways include but are not limited to – design, production, consumption cycle, waste hierarchy, resource efficiency.
- 1.5 The discussion explains the concept of ‘think global and act local’ in relation to the workplace.

Outcome 2

Explain how zero waste concepts are put into practice.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 The explanation identifies and illustrates governmental and nongovernmental strategies for expanding the application of zero waste principles.
- Range government and nongovernment – local, national, international; strategies include but are not limited to – policy, legislation, regulation, incentives, penalties.
- 2.2 The explanation identifies the main types of organic and inorganic resources and describes strategies for reducing their disposal and/or recovering their components.
- Range three organic, five inorganic.
- 2.3 Current systems for implementing zero waste are identified in relation to the workplace.
- Range two of – kerbside recycling, resource recovery centres, event recycling, education programmes, one other.

- 2.4 The explanation outlines a simple waste audit in relation to a workplace.
- 2.5 The explanation outlines zero waste practices relating to consumer and household choices.
- Range four choices.
- 2.6 The explanation identifies and outlines zero waste practices for travel and tourism.
- Range three choices.
- 2.7 The explanation identifies barriers to implementing zero waste principles in the candidate's environment and suggests feasible solutions for the present and/or future.
- Range two barriers from – financial, social, cultural, educational, legal.

This unit standard is expiring. Assessment against the standard must take place by the last date for assessment set out below.

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	26 January 2007	31 December 2025
Rollover and Revision	2	28 March 2019	31 December 2025
Review	3	27 February 2025	31 December 2025

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference

0014

This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.