

Zero Waste Ambassadors Program



knock out waste in Missoula

PLEASE JOIN US! You and your fifth grade class are invited to participate in ZWAP!, our Zero Waste Ambassadors Program, is an award-winning, inquiry-based education program for fifth graders. ZWAP! is designed to motivate young Missoulians to think more critically about materials—where they come from and where they go. Our objective is to empower youth with the knowledge that the choices they make and the actions they take can help create a more sustainable future.



The Goal of ZWAP!

The goal of our Zero Waste Ambassadors Program is for students to take away three key messages:

1. **We have a CHOICE!** Materials aren't waste until they're wasted.
2. **There are a lot of ACTIONS to reduce waste!** Reduce, Reuse, Recycle + Rethink, Request, Redesign, etc.
3. **We can make a DIFFERENCE by reducing waste every day!** Choice + Action = Difference

The Outcomes of ZWAP!

Our Zero Waste Ambassadors Program aims to help students become:

1. **ENGAGED** in problem solving around waste
2. **EMPOWERED** with the skills and knowledge to be Zero Waste Ambassadors
3. **INSPIRED** to knock out waste in Missoula

ZWAP! supports the following **Fifth Grade Educational Standards:**

Code Number or Subject	Fifth Grade Educational Standard
Next Generation Science Standards	
5-PS1-3	Make observations and measurements to identify materials based on their properties
ESS3.C	Human Impacts on Earth Systems: Human activities in agriculture, industry, and everyday life have had major effects on the land, vegetation, streams, ocean, air, and even outer space. But individuals and communities are doing things to help protect Earth's resources and environments (5-ESS3-1)
Montana Common Core Standards	
Mathematics	Reason abstractly and quantitatively
Speaking and Listening	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly

For additional information, please contact: Noelle Herring, Zero Waste Educator
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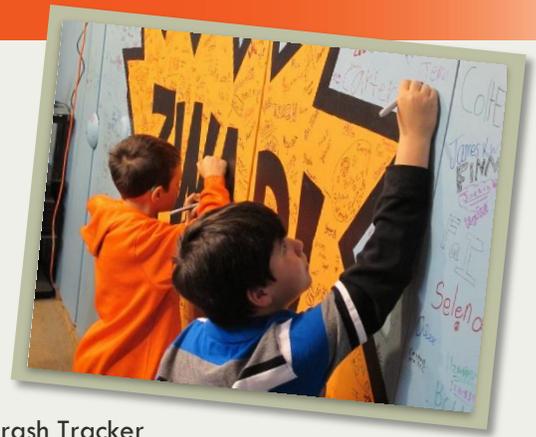
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The Structure of ZWAP!

We offer ZWAP! at no cost to teachers, schools, or students at this time.

ZWAP! is implemented in **two parts**:

1. **A Home ReSource educator visits the class** and facilitates a lively, interactive guided discussion about the Materials Economy and the global impacts associated with it.
2. In the following weeks, **the class takes one field trip to Home ReSource** (Home ReSource will provide transportation) where students review the Materials Economy through an interactive game and engage in several hands-on learning activities.
3. **Bonus Activities!** We have developed several activities including a Trash Tracker waste audit, a Request activity, and a Redesign activity that we encourage your class to engage in during the time between the two sessions.



The Learning Objectives of ZWAP!

1. Increase understanding of waste and how to reduce it
2. Increase ability to evaluate real-world problems and identify sustainable solutions

The ZWAP! Theory of Change

We believe that as students become knowledgeable about waste, increase their understanding of how to reduce it, and feel empowered that their choices and actions can make a positive difference, they will share their knowledge with peers and adults, evaluate where waste happens in their lives, and choose to make changes to move toward a Zero Waste lifestyle. We further believe that if this transformation takes place in a school district that is actively pursuing a Zero Waste goal, the likelihood of lasting behavior change will increase.



Image courtesy of The Story of Stuff Project

Zero Waste & MCPS

Thanks to the leadership of Superintendent Mark Thane, Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS) is working in partnership with Home ReSource to move the district toward the City of Missoula's ZERO by FIFTY goal to reduce solid waste by 90 percent by 2050. Through this partnership, which began in the 2017-18 school year, Home ReSource coordinated a Zero Waste planning effort with the involvement of MCPS administration, staff, faculty, and students. In June of 2018, we presented an MCPS Zero Waste plan to the Board of Trustees. Several trustees expressed support for implementing the recommendations in the plan and Home ReSource plans to offer capacity to assist with implementation as best we can. With the need for education front and center, Home ReSource is working together with MCPS administration, principals, and teachers to bring ZWAP! to every fifth grade class in the school district. Thank you for being a part of this effort!



Home ReSource, a 501c3 corporation, was founded in 2003 by two University of Montana graduates who conceived of a retail operation that reduces construction and demolition waste while contributing to a local, green economy. Today, Home ReSource keeps 900 tons of material out of the landfill each year, provides materials and services to over half of Missoula households, and has strong community partnerships, efficient operations, and a growing suite of community programs. Through waste reduction efforts, education, and the channeling of materials and services to those in need, Home ReSource works to build and inspire a more vibrant, just, and sustainable local economy.

