

# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## Setting Up a Home Zero Waste System - Start Small and Build Sustainable Habits

With the rising popularity of Zero Waste, we all want to know how we can join the party. It turns out it's easier than we thought, and we can do our part right here at home.

The greatest contributions to the Zero Waste movement are the ones we can sustain – day in and day out – and the ones that don't cost us anything. So, before you run out and buy the latest gadgets and greenwashed doodads, **you're already reducing waste by starting with what you have at home.**



1. Be scrappy – your food scraps are more than just a single-use item. Bones, vegetable peels, and other inedible parts of food can be used as a soup starter or bone broth. **Keep a small container or bag in your freezer, and put scraps in after every meal.** When it gets full, make vegetable broth. Don't let those good nutrients go to waste! After you make broth, the scraps can be further processed in a backyard compost pile, leaving the nutrients in circulation for the continued benefit of your environment.
2. Be water-wise – for many, modern life means an abundance of fresh, clean, potable water. Unfortunately, this can cause us to take this precious resource for granted. Start by turning on the water only while you're using it – no more letting the water run down the drain while you brush your teeth. For the next level, consider the benefits a greywater system might bring.
3. Box it up – collect your recyclables in a small box on the kitchen counter, under the sink, or near the trash can. Setting up a space for your recyclables indoors – one you'll actually see – increases the chance of recycling more of our precious resources, like metal, glass, and paper.

Home is where the heart is, and it's also where the best Zero Waste changes can take place. Make at [gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWaste](https://gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWaste) your home away from home, and follow @ZeroWasteGNV on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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