



Garbage, reuse and recycling system symposium panelist bios

The symposium event includes a panel discussion with innovators from New Zealand, Sweden, British Columbia and Colorado who will share their experiences and perspectives for designing systems to reduce waste.



Julie Dickinson

Principal Advisor for Auckland Council's Waste Solutions department, where she has worked for the past 12 years. She started at an exciting time for Auckland local government, shortly after the amalgamation of the eight former district, city and regional councils into one unitary council serving 1.7 million residents. She was involved in developing Auckland's first and second waste plans which guided the integration and standardization of the former council services, as well as the introduction of new initiatives to drive the zero waste by 2040 vision.

Julie provides strategic oversight of policies and programs and has played a key role in establishing the Resource Recovery Network, a regional network of locally-operated facilities that enable reuse, repair, recycling and education, while creating local jobs and training opportunities in the process. The project draws on Julie's previous experience working in environmental and community development organizations, and her role in New Zealand's early zero waste movement.

Why I am willing to travel to Portland to share my knowledge?

Portland has always been a leader and is showing leadership again in taking this unique consultative approach to planning its future. I am fascinated to see how the process works and am keen to contribute in whatever way I can. I am sure that whatever I bring will be more than matched by what I take home.



Anna Bergström

An ecopreneur (= eco entrepreneur) who played an important role in co-founding ReTuna Återbruksgalleria in Eskilstuna, Sweden. Her passion for sustainability and circular economy led her to create this innovative concept, where discarded items are given a new lease on life. With her determination and leadership, Anna successfully turned ReTuna into a thriving hub for recycling, upcycling and conscious consumption. Her contributions have not only

made a positive impact on the local community but also inspired others globally to embrace eco-friendly practices.

Why are you willing to travel to Portland to share your knowledge?

I've seen the impact ReTuna has made over the years, both locally and internationally, yet ReTuna is still quite unique in its size and design. Given the great potential to increase reuse and reduce waste on a larger scale, I am excited by the opportunity to share my experiences and hope to inspire and instill confidence in the benefits of sustainability and the circular economy.



Andrew Doi

An Environmental Planner at Metro Vancouver, who specializes in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs and policy. Andrew holds a Master's degree in Resource and Environmental Management from Simon Fraser University and is a Registered Professional Planner. Andrew began working at Metro Vancouver in 2001, and he has been focusing on EPR programs for over 15 years.

Why are you willing to travel to Portland to share your knowledge?

Although waste policy and management is often tailored to the needs and interests of individual communities, sharing best practices for approaches like extended producer responsibility, where producers are made responsible for the cost and management of their products, can create conditions where producers have sufficient incentive to redesign products to reduce waste and improve recycling.



Suzanne “Zan” Jones

Has over 30 years of experience and expertise in environmental and climate policy in the non-profit and government sectors. She is in her tenth year as Executive Director of Eco-Cycle, one of the nation’s oldest and largest non-profit recyclers located in Boulder County, Colorado. Suzanne served eight years on the Boulder City Council from 2011 to 2019, the last four as Boulder’s Mayor. Previously, Suzanne worked 16 years for The Wilderness Society, where she served

as the Central Rockies Regional Director leading coalition efforts to protect our nation’s public lands. Suzanne also worked in Washington, D.C. for the National Wildlife Federation and as congressional staff for the Fisheries & Wildlife Subcommittee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Suzanne has a M.S. in Resource Policy and Management from the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and a B.S. in Natural Resources from Cornell University.

Why are you willing to travel to Portland to share your knowledge?

Eco-Cycle’s theory of change is to innovate Zero Waste approaches, implement and refine on-the-ground pilots locally, and then package these approaches into models to be exported to other communities and/or advocated as broader policy changes. I am a strong believer in learning from other communities’ successes and sharing our own knowledge and models as broadly as possible. In this era of climate and resource challenges, we need to collectively move forward as fast and as strategically as we can by collaborating and inspiring each other.

A fundamental driver of our work is the fact that Zero Waste solutions are some of the fastest, most cost-effective means by which communities can create immediate and lasting effects against climate change, resource depletion, social injustices related to resource scarcity, and health impacts caused by pollution. We believe that “reduce, reuse, and redesign” are the foundations of creating a more equitable and regenerative future, followed by recycling, composting, and other Zero Waste solutions as necessary components in building a truly sustainable, circular economy.