



ZERO WASTE MONTENEGRO

Narrative Report

2022

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Our story so far

Zero Waste Montenegro was established in 2016 with the objective to dedicate itself to one of the largest environmental issues in Montenegro: waste pollution.

With the vision of passionate volunteers, the organization initiated the first coalition of NGOs working together to raise awareness on littering and single-use plastic pollution in Montenegro: [Cleanupmontenegro.me](https://cleanupmontenegro.me).

Zero Waste Montenegro has grown since and its team of full and part-time employees, volunteers and freelancers, led by a multi-disciplinary Steering Committee, are now working on impactful projects with municipalities, citizen groups, (inter)national organizations, ministries and businesses on their ZW journey.



Our Vision

We envision a future where waste is no longer a burden but a resource. By fostering a culture of responsibility and environmental consciousness, we aim to establish Montenegro as a true ecological leader, setting an example for individuals, institutions, and businesses.

Our Mission

Our mission is to revolutionize waste management in Montenegro through the principles of zero waste and circular economy. Our goals include promoting resource efficiency, amplifying environmental education, and supporting institutions and businesses to implement the best zero-waste practices.

Our vision and mission are part of the global ecological transition, acting under environmental justice and with respect for human rights, especially for the most vulnerable members of society and generations to come.

Accountability

Zero Waste Montenegro is committed to being accountable and transparent to its employees, partners, sponsors and the community, striving to implement its activities most effectively and efficiently. Our [Code of Conduct](#) also includes our Ethical funding policy. Our Code of Conduct and Ethics manifest the values we seek from the actions of all those involved in our organisation including employees, partners and sponsors.

Networks

Zero Waste Montenegro is an official member organisation of [Zero Waste Europe](#), a core member of the global movement [Break Free From Plastic](#) and National [Coalition 27](#). We are also the founders of the national network [Clean up Montenegro](#), dedicated to combating plastic pollution in Montenegro.



Impactful projects 2022



**A quote by
the founder of
Zero Waste
Montenegro,
Alexandra
Aubertin**



Zero waste is a collective mission that requires the active participation of individuals, communities, governments, and businesses. As we strive for a sustainable Montenegro, let us foster a collaborative environment where policymakers enact effective laws, businesses embrace responsible practices, and citizens continue to champion conscious living. Together, we can build a future where waste reduction and environmental stewardship are integral to the fabric of our society.





Montenegro and Albania towards Zero Waste

piloting Zero Waste Cities Program in Montenegro

Gusinje has been selected as the pilot city in Montenegro to implement the European Zero Waste Cities Program dedicated to helping cities and communities transition towards zero waste. This IPA Programme aimed to accelerate the transition towards zero waste at the city level – specifically small and medium-sized municipalities – with the implementation of the latest EU legislation and zero waste strategies based on citizen-centred models, leading to a substantial decrease in waste generation and increase in separate collection and recycling.

For the new system of waste collection and treatment to be successfully implemented, the project involves:

- 1 center for waste processing, separation of packaging and storage of materials was built. The collected material will be transported to recycling centers or sold.
- 2,765 bins for separate waste collection and 55,500 biodegradable bags were distributed to households.
- 150 sets for composting organic waste were distributed to citizens.
- Awareness-raising campaign include, aiming to educate citizens about zero-waste principles and proper waste disposal. It included 2 clean-ups, 15 workshops and brochures, leaflets and posters on the application of zero-waste methodology, for citizens and schools in Gusinje.
- 11 waste assistants, were hired and trained to inform citizens about separating waste in their household.
- Most successful households in waste separation will be awarded prizes.
- An analysis of the amount and type of waste generated was conducted.

1

CENTER FOR WASTE
PROCESSING

150

COMPOSTERS
DISTRIBUTED

2765

BINS FOR SEPARATE
WASTE COLLECTION

15

WORKSHOPS FOR
CITIZENS

International Coastal Clean up and Brand Audit 2022

fostering NGO cooperation and the spirit of volunteering in Montenegro

Every year, since 2017, together with local NGOs, citizen movements, and the public and private sector on International Coastal Clean-up Day, we organize clean-ups in multiple locations throughout Montenegro. This makes the event the largest, annual, volunteer effort tackling the problem of waste in our country. One of the focuses of the event is to raise awareness of single-use plastic production and consumption and prevent littering.



At all clean-up locations, the collected waste is separated and analysed using the [#breakfreefromplastic](#) methodology called Brand Audit. Brand audit is a citizen science initiative that involves counting and documenting the brands found on plastic waste collected at a clean-up to help identify the companies responsible for plastic pollution. To tackle the plastic problem at the source, we are conducting both national and global campaigns by calling on the top polluting companies to stop producing so much unnecessary single-use plastic in the first place.

18

CLEAN UP
LOCATIONS

19

PARTICIPATING
ORGANISATIONS

445

VOLUNTEERS

12.4

TONS WASTE
COLLECTED

Draft Law on Waste Management Amendment Comments and Proposals

Advocacy for change

In this project, we conducted a thorough analysis of the draft of the Law on Waste Management and presented our specific proposals and comments to the Waste Management directorate in order to embed further EPR and Circular Economy in the upcoming law.

The majority of our recommendations were accepted and the mechanisms for their implementation were further discussed with the Ministry representatives and waste management experts.

14

RECOMMENDATIONS
MADE



The Ecological State Day

A joint environmental action of all citizens on the occasion of marking the day of the declaration of Montenegro as an ecological state



This massive clean-up event was organized by Environmental Protection Agency, Ecopatriotism and Zero Waste Montenegro to clean up the road route Danilovgrad–Nikšić–Šavnik–Žabljak.

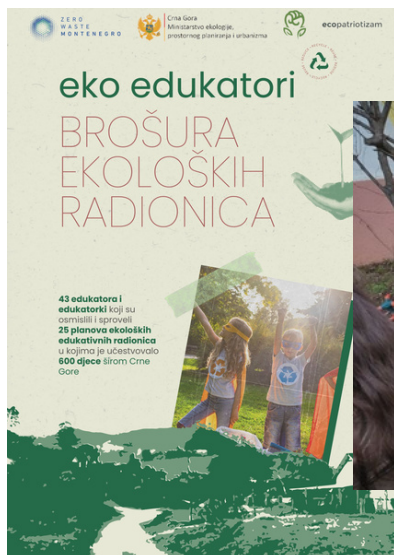
The action gathered hundreds of volunteers from the municipalities of Nikšić, Danilovgrad, Šavnik and Žabljak, as well as the Army of Montenegro, ministries, youth and sports clubs, foreign embassies, environmental movements, schools, organizations, institutional, NGOs, activists and many others.

The waste collected has been sorted and deposited in the recycling yard, and the funds have been donated for the reforestation of the state, which is coordinated by journalist and activist Vuk Vujisic.



Eco Educators

Shaping the way future generations will perceive waste



Under this project, ZWMNE organized a competition for educators in creating a program of ecological educational workshops for children of the age of primary and secondary school. On the basis of the given guidelines, educators designed and implemented lesson plans. These lesson plans included activities on ecological culture and proper waste disposal following the zero waste hierarchy (5R – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot). Educators also organized initiatives and clean-up actions outside the classroom with the active involvement of their students.

Prizes were awarded to the winners: 3 vouchers for purchasing books for the school library. The social enterprise Znuggle provided prizes to all participants who met the criteria: the book Tara and the Magic Tree, the first ecological zero waste story in Montenegro by the writer Žarko Vučinić, who has already received three literature prizes, as well as a ZWMNE reusable eco bag.

43

EDUCATORS
APPLIED

25

LESSON PLANS

600

CHILDREN
EDUCATED



2022 Photo Collage

A year towards Zero Waste



58

businesses,
organizations and
institutions involved

1500

citizens took part in activities

Our 2023–2025 goals



1

Build Community Engagement

Actively engage and educate local communities about zero-waste principles and practices by organising workshops, educational programs, and community events to raise awareness, provide guidance on waste reduction, and encourage active participation in sustainable waste management initiatives. By fostering community engagement, we will empower individuals and communities to embrace waste reduction efforts.

2

Uplift Corporate Accountability

Promote and advocate for extended producer responsibility (EPR) policies aiming to hold manufacturers and polluters to take their share of responsibility for waste pollution and for the entire lifecycle of their products, including proper disposal or recycling. We will continue our work with national and local governments and businesses towards promoting the best EPR programs to incentivize businesses to design, produce, use and dispose of products with environmental considerations in mind.

3

Advocate for Policy Change

Advocating for policy changes that support sustainable waste management practices at the local, regional, and national levels collaborating with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to influence policy development, promoting the adoption of zero waste strategies, and advocating for the implementation of effective waste management regulations. By influencing policy, we aim to create an enabling environment for sustainable waste management practices.

4

Promote Circular Economy Initiatives

Instigate, actively promote and/or facilitate innovative Circular Economy initiatives in Montenegro. By bringing together local communities and businesses, schools, and institutions, we aim to initiate and support positive changes with significant impact on material use and re-use.

Acknowledgements

Thank you for supporting our mission!



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