



Race to Zero Waste

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing the 2026 Zero Waste Forum Keynote Speakers

organized by Race to Zero Waste

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Join [Race to Zero Waste](https://www.racetozero.org) and partners for the 3rd annual [Zero Waste Forum](https://www.racetozero.org/zero-waste-forum), in Park City, Utah from April 21-23, 2026, taking place at the [Jim Santy Auditorium](https://www.jimsanty.com).

The 2026 Zero Waste Forum is Race to Zero Waste's annual flagship event. This year, it will take place on Earth Day, a nod to the importance of reducing waste in protecting the planet.

Race to Zero Waste is proud to announce the 2026 Zero Waste Forum keynote speakers, who will be speaking to this year's theme, "Circular Strategies for Local Impact." Each of the keynote speakers has extensive experience in making zero waste principles relevant to their local communities. Their talks will highlight how global circular strategies become most powerful when rooted in local leadership and collaboration.

The 2026 Zero Waste Forum will host eight keynote speakers who will deliver impactful 20-minute talks on topics such as river restoration, lifestyle changes, nature's rights, community action, and food recovery, among others. They each shed light on one of the most urgent challenges of our time: eliminating waste and building regenerative systems.

April 22nd, 2026 Keynote Highlights:

With expertise in water quality, usage, and restoration, **Bradley Parry**, Natural Resource Program Manager of [The Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation](#), will start off the day with a welcome and presentation on the full ecological restoration of the Bear River Massacre Site: An indigenous tribe using its own water, resources, and history to bring a change in attitudes about climate change and the drought of the Great Salt Lake.

Britt Gondolfi of Bioneers will deliver the next keynote address of the morning on honoring the rights of nature through zero waste. She draws on her experience with the Bioneers Rights of Nature initiative where she works to bring together tribal organizers, youth, and allies to advocate for the Rights of Nature in Indian Country.

Following that, **Samuel McMullen** from [ZeroWaste.org](#) will share his experience in successfully creating behavior change and buy-in from businesses, residents, and policy makers. His talk, Choosing a Life Without Trash, will journey from personal conviction to community challenge, to sustained change.

In the afternoon, we will hear from keynote speaker **Pål Mårtensson**, whose enthusiasm for zero waste principles is known across the globe. Through his work with [World Cleanup Day](#), he has picked up trash alongside communities in 30 different countries. For his talk, he will focus on his founding of the first EcoPark in Sweden, which has served as a model for material recovery and reuse around the world.

April 23rd, 2026 Keynote Highlights:

Taking time away from his advocacy efforts in Nigeria, **Ahmed Tiamiyu** brings an international perspective to the Zero Waste Forum, from his work with formal policy making to motivating communities at the local level through [Community Action Against Plastic Waste](#). His presentation will showcase an emerging grassroots reuse initiative in Ondo State, Nigeria, including deposit return systems, BYO campaigns, and reuse market days that are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to local economic realities.

Bringing a wealth of international experience in sustainability at the municipal level, **Vijay Jagannathan** with WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities will give the keynote: 'UN Resources to Achieve Zero Waste: Diving into Global Zero Waste Strategies,' where he will share his knowledge as a member of a Panel of Eminent Persons advising the UN Secretary General on how to implement zero waste strategies.

David Ly from ReFED will kick off the afternoon section on food waste with a specific talk on the US Food Waste Pact, a national voluntary agreement to help food businesses achieve their waste reduction targets. ReFED leads the Pact in conjunction with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to create momentum for change across the country.

Keynote Speakers:

- Bradley Parry from [The Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation](#)
- Samuel McMullen from [ZeroWaste.org](#)
- Linda Christopher, Race to Zero Waste Board Chair
- Pal Martensson from [World Cleanup Day](#)
- Ahmed Tihamiyu from [Community Action Against Plastic Waste](#)
- David Ly from [ReFED](#)
- Vijay Jagannathan from the [World Resources Institute](#) Ross Center for Sustainable Cities
- Britt Gondolfi from [Bioneers](#)

The Zero Waste Forum brings together expert keynotes, driven practitioners, enthusiasts, and interested citizens for three motivational days of knowledge-sharing and community-building. In addition to these keynote addresses, the Zero Waste Forum will feature a Zero Waste Expo, 21 speaker sessions, 4 panel discussions, and 4 Zero Waste Labs, where a hands-on approach will have attendees develop a skill or practice a task that can be used to advance zero waste beyond the Forum.

Registration is now open! We look forward to seeing you there. For more event details, speaker information, and to register, please visit: www.ZeroWasteForum.org.

Sponsor the Forum

Race to Zero Waste is committed to providing scholarships and sliding-scale pricing to improve access to the 2026 Forum, especially for local attendees. Sponsorships help ensure participation of community groups that are interested in supporting zero waste programs in the Salt Lake region and beyond. Send your interest in becoming a sponsor through the Forum website: [Sponsor the Forum](#).

“Our vision of a zero waste future is one that is accessible and convenient for everyone, so providing scholarships [to the Forum] is part of that commitment,” said Teresa Bradley, Chief Executive Officer at Race to Zero Waste.

Editors: For more information, contact Hayden Sloan, Director of Communications, Race to Zero Waste: hayden@racetozerowaste.org or visit <https://zerowasteforum.org>.

About Race to Zero Waste

Race to Zero Waste is a woman-founded and -run 501(c)(3) environmental conservation nonprofit dedicated to advancing a circular economy. Their mission is to empower individuals, businesses, and governments to reduce waste, implement reuse, and promote sustainable practices through education, outreach, and policy advocacy. By fostering community empowerment, leadership, and job creation, they aim to build a just and equitable future rooted in zero waste principles.



About GreenEducation.US

GreenEducation.US makes it easy to learn about zero waste and sustainability. With so many changes happening in legislation, processes, and technology, they created a better way to connect professionals and provide training. GreenEducation.US is the perfect solution for those who are new to the field as well as seasoned professionals looking to grow into new areas.



About National Recycling Coalition

NRC serves its members by developing and sharing best practices and policies that support sustainable materials management and the transformation to a circular economy. NRC's vision is a society where everyone has access to, consistently participates in, and benefits from high-performing, environmentally responsible, and equitable waste prevention, redesign, reuse, recycling, and composting programs supported by the policies and infrastructure needed to maintain a prosperous and productive circular materials economy throughout North America.



About Park City, Utah

Nestled in the Wasatch Mountains, Park City is a place where people live, work, and gather year-round. Park City Municipal is here to serve both residents and visitors by keeping the city safe, connected, and vibrant. From maintaining roads and trails to providing clean water, public safety, recreation, arts, and cultural opportunities, they work to support the quality of life that makes Park City unique.

