

# Alaska Zero Waste Action Council

The first annual recycling summit was integrated into the Alaska Forum on the Environment. Two 90-minute sessions were held on Tuesday, February 8 and Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. A field trip was available to participants on Thursday, February 10, followed by a full day meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Participants could attend as many of these sessions as schedules allowed.

## Action Plan

The group developed a list of priorities for the future. We used 2010 as the planning timeline. The priorities were:

### 2010 Highest Priorities (see complete brainstormed list further in this document)

- Information/measure success
- Resource recovery plants
- Funding mechanism
- Education/everyone thinks reuse/recycle is what to do

### 2010 Other Priorities

- zero waste management curriculum
- junk car recycling/reuse
- tribes support zero waste
- school recycling
- Alaska beverages are aluminum

**To implement the priorities we agreed to take the next steps:**

**We formed an Organizing Committee of the following people:**

Roland Shanks, ([rshanks@rcac.org](mailto:rshanks@rcac.org), phone number is 279-1126)

Arlene Charles (Koyuk),

Mollie Boyer (MatSu Community Recycling Center),

Sean Skaling (Green Star),

Violet (Anvik),

Gary Webber (Fort Yukon),

Diane Ervin (Tanana Chiefs region),

Jerry Sam(TCC),

Roy Hiraesaka (BB),

Steve Sumida (AI-TC),

Rosalie Kalistook (AVCP),

Ray Paddock (SWAN),

Lanie Hughes (Kenai Peninsula)

**The committee agreed to undertake the following Major Tasks:**

Create a work plan

Seek 501(c) 3

Identify interim fiscal sponsor

Seek funding for committee to meet

Plan next year's recycling summit

Could seek an existing nonprofit to house it as an intermediate relationship until fledged.

Could it become a chapter of a national organization?

During the last few months the organizing committee has held several teleconferences to talk about founding the organization. They have developed a mission and a vision for the organization.

The mission of the new organization is **"To work together statewide to achieve zero waste by enhancing and promoting resource reduction and recovery programs."**

While the mission drives the actions of the organization. The committee thought there should be a more global vision for the organization, so they developed a vision for the organization. The vision is, **"All Alaskans actively engaged and living in zero waste communities."**

The group has also talked about organizational issues like, should the organization have paid staff, will there be members, if so how will they join and what does that mean. There has also been some talk about a Board for the organization and how board members should be recruited and put on the board.

The Group investigated the steps involved in getting a 501© 3 status from the IRS. The first official step is filing Articles of Incorporation with the state of Alaska. Our mission and vision are vital ingredients for this paperwork. The next step after that would be creating By Laws. The By Laws will step up the organizations structure from board members to the possibilities of a general membership, advisory council, standing committees and what the make up of these would look like. An example of what this would include would be the establishing the make up of representation both regional and state wide. The importance of ensuring wide spread inclusive participation was an ongoing concern of the organizing group. With Articles of Incorporation and By Laws AZWAC would be able to apply for their 501© 3 status.

The last thing the committee did was to pick a name for the group that they felt reflected the mission and vision of the organization. That name was **The Alaska Zero Waste Action Council, AZWAC.**