

FIRST NATIONS

ZERO WASTE

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



First Nations Zero Waste Ambassador Program

The First Nations Zero Waste Ambassador Program empowers individuals and communities to live regeneratively through practical tools and meaningful zero waste actions. It offers K-12 environmental curriculum resources that blend art, science, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge to inspire creativity and systems thinking. Grounded in the understanding that the idea of “waste” is a modern concept — one absent from nature and traditional Indigenous ways of living — the program promotes upcycling, circular economies, and community-led practices that strengthen food sovereignty and sustainability for future generations.



Waste Audit

Conduct a waste audit, create a baseline and plan an effective waste diversion program.



Upcycling

Learn unique painting and upcycling art techniques. Create an upcycled art project with recycled materials. Learn about different types of waste, landfills and their environmental impacts. Experience the relevance of implementing the 7 Rs.



Vermicomposting

Create a vermicompost system using organic waste such as food scraps. Observe earthworms' anatomy, and behavior. Learn about the microbiology of the soil.



Gardening

Learn about different gardening techniques to grow vegetables. Apply regenerative practices. Make soil amendments, and extracts from earthworms poop (castings), and compost.



Comparative Waste Audit

Conduct a waste audit to compare it with the baseline and to calculate waste diversion rate achieved.



Elizabeth is an environmental educator, and impact entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience leading social enterprises and developing environmental education programs in Canada and Mexico. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology, a Master's in

Sustainable Energy Development from the University of Calgary, and certifications in soil biology, permaculture, and ecosystem restoration. She co-developed the First Nations Zero Waste Ambassador Program, created in collaboration with Elders and teachers of culture and language, to prevent and divert waste while strengthening food sovereignty through Traditional Ecological Knowledge and community values.

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