Zero Waste Community Responsibility Team Charge

Red: text specific to your team
Black: charge that is consistent for all AN teams

Part 1: Zero Waste Community Responsibility Team Charge

All Teams must act in accordance with established Sierra Club Policy. This official Charge authorizes the Team to speak on behalf of the Sierra Club within the parameters established by Policy including the One Club Policy. Teams work in a collaborative fashion with other Sierra Club entities (including staff) and hence do not have authority to dictate the practices of other entities all of whom must comply with established policy.

Teams consist of “Core Teams” composed of Sierra Club members which serve as the primary deliberative and decision making entity and a wider circle of volunteers both inside and outside the Club who participate in activities related to the Team’s Outcome Goal(s). Building grassroots capacity is a primary function of Teams alongside their specific issue responsibility. Teams are to cultivate leaders (volunteers who can coordinate Team efforts, recruit and guide other volunteers, and speak for the Team internally and externally) as well as participants. Teams will strive to have their members and participants reflect the demographic composition of the broader population.

A. Outcomes Goal

The Sierra Club establishes the Zero Waste Community Responsibility Team to work toward the goal of these environmental outcomes:

Work toward Zero Waste by engaging citizens and governments at all levels to adopt measures that reflect the Zero Waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle. The Team is specifically authorized to act on behalf of the Sierra Club with regard to: adopting governmental initiatives to support the Zero Waste hierarchy; assessing environmental and health effects of and organizing opposition to the use of waste technologies that the Sierra Club opposes that would destroy resources that could otherwise be reused, recycled or composted; implementing selective disposal bans; implementing land use policies and zoning that encourage development of reuse, repair, recycling and remanufacturing businesses; ensuring adequate local infrastructure for managing organics (food scraps and yard trimmings); providing public education about the beneficial effects of Zero Waste on energy and resource conservation and land and habitat preservation, successful Zero Waste plans, and existing Extended Producer Responsibility services; and ensuring public involvement and transparency.

In accordance with the One Club Policy, the Team must consult with other Sierra Club entities corresponding to the level of government with which they are engaged.

B. Core Team Members

The Activist Network Coordinating Pair appoints Core Team Chairpersons. Core Teams may select their own members, subject to review by the Coordinating Pair.
The Sierra Club empowers the following core team with the responsibilities and authority defined in Sections A, C, and D. The team leader (or chair) is accountable to the Activist Network Coordinating Pair for the success of the team.

The initial Core Team Chair is:

xxx

The initial Core Team Members are:

xxx

C. Team Expectations

To retain its charge to speak and advocate on behalf of the Sierra Club the team is expected to incorporate these items into its work:

1) Engage Activists, Develop Leaders

The team is expected to enlist a wider circle of activists (participant in activities promoted by the team) and develop leaders (someone who can speak for the Team, coordinate Team efforts, and/or mobilize other volunteers).

2) Informational Materials

Develop informational materials for the Sierra Club that are available online to help others understand the team’s issues as well as pros and cons of various proposed solutions.

3) Provide Assistance

Provide assistance and consulting to others within and outside the Club who want to learn more or take specific action toward the goals the team is working for.

4) Current Web Presence

Maintain an active and current web presence, including annual report and periodic updates, as well as opportunities for involvement.

5) Roster and Key Movement-Building Metrics

Maintain an up-to-date team roster, with at least four members and track (annually) the following key movement-building metrics:

- team leaders
- participant activists
- strategic relationships (allied organizations)
- diversity

6) Internal and External Communication

Facilitate regular communication and decision-making within Core Team, as well as an active outreach program to other Club entities, members, and supporters.

7) Written Plan

Develop a written plan that includes goals, targets, strategy, and tactics.
D. Team Authority:

Teams and leaders within the Sierra Club are responsible for following the policy "Jurisdiction Within the Sierra Club" as well as any other relevant Club policies.

Charge to Act on Behalf of the Sierra Club:

As outlined below, this team is specifically authorized to act on behalf of the Sierra Club with regard to: community responsibility, waste reduction, reuse and recycling, including composting; landfill siting and design and especially issues surrounding landfill gas-to-energy. Limit of Authority: The team's authorization in all items below, is specific to community responsibility for Zero Waste.

The Zero Waste Community Responsibility Team will not take positions on Extended Producer Responsibility other than to acknowledge that EPR as defined by the Board is a key component of Zero Waste.

Note: While the two Zero Waste teams are aligned, they each have a different focus. The Community Responsibility Team focuses on programs like recycling, composting and wasteful disposal where governments address waste and recycling. It also focuses on consumer behavior and choices and policies supportive of a Zero Waste lifestyle.

The Extended Producer Responsibility Team focuses on producer responsibility for source-reducing, redesigning, reusing and recycling manufactured products and packaging. The companies that make the products must plan for and pay for managing the discards.

1) Federal Agency Actions
Submit official comments that establish Sierra Club positions regarding proposed federal agency actions. Lobby federal agencies on behalf of Club positions.

Limit of Authority: Authority of team is limited to commenting and lobbying at the federal agency level. Team is not authorized to take positions or lobby on agency actions at the state or local level without consulting with relevant chapters or groups.

2) Federal Legislation
Team is authorized to review proposed federal legislation and submit recommendations to the Vice-President of Conservation, who is charged with establishing Sierra Club positions on federal legislation. Team is authorized to develop lobbying plans, within limitations, for federal legislation that the Sierra Club supports.

Limit of Authority: Lobbying Members of Congress and U.S. Senators can impact the Club beyond the purposes of any individual team. Therefore, team actions to lobby on behalf of federal legislation requires consultation and coordination with relevant staff. Team is not authorized to take positions or lobby on legislation at the state or local level without consulting with relevant chapters or groups.

3) Identify Intersecting Public Policy Impacts
Team is encouraged to identify public policy decisions at the federal, state and local level where
team's outcomes intersect with, and can be impacted positively or negatively by, those that others have been authorized to act on for the Club.

Limit of Authority: Reach out and consult with those who are authorized to take positions and/or comment for the Sierra Club in these arenas.

4) Strategic Thinking
Provide strategic thinking for team's issue, develop projects, and seek funding or other support from the Activist Network Support Team for strategically prioritized work.

Limit of Authority: Resources may not be available for all work prioritized by team.

5) Legal Actions
Initiate new matter forms for approval of legal action relative to team's outcomes.

Limit of Authority: Legal actions pertaining to a specific site within the boundaries of a single chapter must be coordinated with the relevant chapter.

6) Other Organizations
Connect with the leadership of other national organizations similarly working to achieve the team's stated outcomes, and represent Sierra Club's existing policies and positions in meetings and forums with other organizations.

Limit of Authority: Team does not have authority to prepare, or sign-onto, joint materials with other organizations, such as reports, web sites, media ads, press statements, etc. unless the team has consulted in advance with the Coordinating Pair and joint work with another organization has been specifically approved as a project.

7) Media
Team members are authorized to act as Sierra Club spokespersons regarding the team's goals and work. Teams are authorized to develop media plans, within limitations:

Limit of Authority: The Club's national media staff are responsible for implementing media strategies and messaging nationwide. Team must consult and coordinate with national media staff regarding contact with national media and with chapters regarding local media. Teams are expected to work with local activists as spokespersons in local media.