



Zero Waste Day

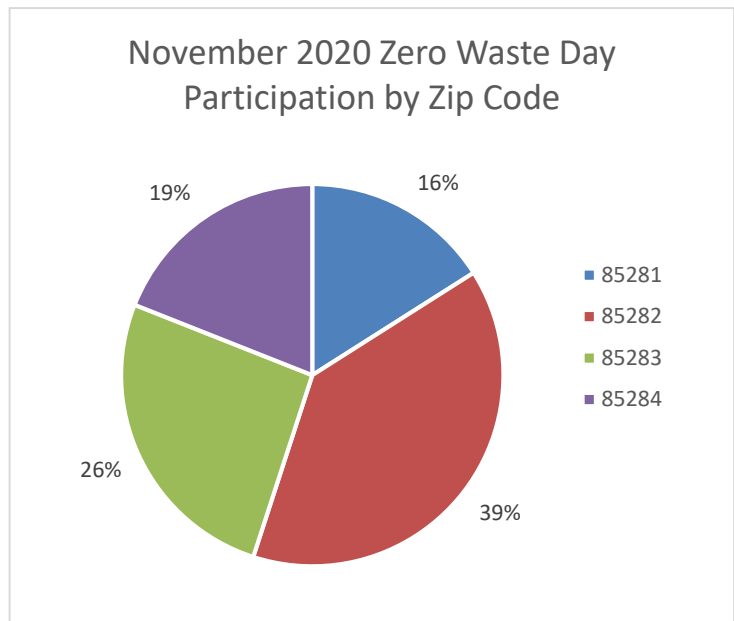
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Tempe’s Municipal Utilities Department (MUD) hosted the 38th Zero Waste Day on November 21, 2020. This event provided residents a means by which to donate usable items to local organizations for reuse, recycle items that are not accepted in the blue bin for reuse or repurposing and properly dispose of household hazardous wastes. The event provides an opportunity for residents to clear unwanted household items without sending them to the landfill.

MUD’s Environmental Health and Safety and Solid Waste Sections organized the event, which welcomed 559 residents from Tempe and Guadalupe, displayed by zip code in the graph to the right.

Through collaboration with numerous local partners, MUD was able to provide alternative disposal methods for a number of items that would have otherwise been sent to the landfill. Items collected include:

- **Paper for shredding:** Residents have the opportunity to bring office paper, mail, magazines and paper documents with personal information to be securely shredded.
- **Building materials:** Building materials that are in good condition, such as kitchen cabinets, doors and windows and working appliances can be donated, salvaged and resold through one of the City’s local partner organizations.
- **Tires:** Automobile tires are collected and recycled into various items including crumb rubber (used in asphalt).



- **Clothing and household items:** Books, cooking accessories, housewares, musical instruments, sports equipment, clothing, purses, towels and similar items in good condition are collected and donated or sold through the City's partner Goodwill of Central Arizona.
- **Household hazardous waste:** Various chemicals, cleaners, paint, automotive fluids and other household wastes are repurposed and redistributed as useable products back to Tempe residents. Wastes that cannot be recycled are disposed of properly and safely.
- **Electronics and computer equipment:** Working and non-working computers, cell phones, stereos, TVs, electrical cords and related items are collected by one of the City's local partners for recycling.
- **Scrap metal:** Copper wire and tubing, steel, aluminum brass, wire scrap and related items are collected by one of the City's local partners for recycling.
- **Recycle-a-Bicycle:** Secondhand or new bikes, repair stands or parts can be donated to benefit Gililand Middle School through a partnership between a number of City departments and the school. In addition to bike repair and maintenance, students learn about bike safety, biking as a form of sustainable transportation and the corresponding health benefits.

The next Zero Waste Day event is scheduled for January 30, 2021, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Tempe Fire Training Center, located at 1340 E. University Drive, north of the Household Products Collection Center. Visit tempe.gov/hhw for more information, including the items that will be accepted at the January event.

