



ZERO WASTE CERTIFICATION

ZERO WASTE CERTIFICATION status acknowledges that a facility has achieved the minimum requirements for Zero Waste of Zero Waste Canada and the Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA). By meeting the certification criteria and receiving formal acknowledgement on behalf of Zero Waste Canada, facilities are legitimized in claiming the adoption of internationally accepted Zero Waste policies and practices on-site.

Each level of certification has been designed as a stepping stone to the subsequent level, edging facilities further in the direction of Zero Waste. The achievement of any level of certification does not indicate that a facility has achieved Zero Waste in absolute terms, as opportunities for further improvement in the direction of Zero Waste always remain. Zero Waste is not a fixed set of practices. It is a philosophy to follow and adapt as circumstances change. A living concept. A journey.



A **SILVER LEVEL** performance represents the base level of certification, certifying that a facility has successfully enacted Zero Waste policies internally, at every organizational level within their facility.



A **GOLD LEVEL** performance certifies that a facility has maintained and gone beyond the base level requirements of SILVER LEVEL ZERO WASTE CERTIFICATION, by expanding the reach of its internal Zero Waste policies within its wider operational reach (this may involve other organizational branches, partners, service providers, suppliers, patrons or other entities interacting directly with the facility and its operations, but who remain external to the facility itself).



A **PLATINUM LEVEL** performance certifies that a facility has maintained and gone beyond both the base level requirements of SILVER LEVEL ZERO WASTE CERTIFICATION, and the wider implications of GOLD LEVEL ZERO WASTE CERTIFICATION, by further expanding the reach of its Zero Waste policies beyond the facility itself and its direct operational influence, by directly engaging the wider community in which it operates. A PLATINUM LEVEL performance certifies a genuine commitment towards Zero Waste from a larger societal perspective, where the facility actively advocates for wider systemic change towards Zero Waste, and in so doing, offering a living example of how Zero Waste is ultimately about much more than waste.

ZERO WASTE CERTIFICATION (SILVER, GOLD and PLATINUM) is valid for 12 months, after which facilities need to demonstrate having maintained their current level of performance, or alternatively, their having met the criteria for the subsequent level of certification.