

# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## Waste Stream Investigators: Following Up

So your home or business performed a waste audit – a careful analysis of the trash you produce. What did you find?

Probably a lot of packaging and likely a surprising amount of organic material – a good reminder **it's never too late to start that compost pile or worm bin.**



Now, what would you find if you looked through your own recycle bin? While recycling is great as a last ditch effort to keep certain materials out of the landfill, let's look for ways to rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse, refill, and repurpose.

**Here are three small Zero Waste tweaks you can try implementing by looking in your own recycle bin:**

1. **Ditch the carton** – cartons are no longer considered recyclable, but you can make your own plant milks, fruit juices, chicken broths, and just about anything else you *used to* get in cartons. You'll save money, enjoy fresher, better tasting food, and be a zero waste hero.
2. **Try a filter or just the tap** – Got a bunch of water bottles cracking and crunching around in your blue bin? It's great you're recycling, but have you ever considered using a water filter? Maybe skip the cheaper filters that will break after a year and invest in something more durable.
3. **Make your own soda** – Love soda? So do we! That's why we invested in an at-home soda machine. **There are many available secondhand, and the tanks of gas are refillable at local stores.** Love beer or wine? Consider homebrewing or buying from local bottlers that will work on a container deposit system (just like the milkman in the old days). You'll end up saving money and enjoying a higher quality libation.

For more ways to improve how you consume and dispose of things in your daily life, follow ZeroWasteGNV on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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