Introduction

According to the Zero Waste International Association (zwia.org), Zero Waste is the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning, and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.

Choosing stainless steels for an application ensures that it will be produced in a responsible way, with an extremely low life-cycle inventory, have low, or close to zero, maintenance costs during its long life, and that it will be reused indefinitely because it is easy to recycle without any loss of quality nor material integrity.

More information on stainless steel and sustainability
More information on the recycling of stainless steel
More information on the applications of stainless steel
Take your drink in a stainless steel bottle or drink it from a stainless steel cup! Stainless steel does not influence the flavour of your beverage, it is hygienic and very safe to use (more information on the food safety of stainless steel). Another benefit is that it can keep your beverages hot or cold longer. Stainless steel is environmentally friendly, you can use it time and time again and at the end of its long life, it can be recycled without a loss of quality nor material integrity.
Go the ecological way and bring your lunch or snack to work in an attractive stainless steel box. The stainless steel will not influence the flavour of your food, is hygienic and safe to use (more information on the food safety of stainless steel). Stainless steel is environmentally friendly. You can use it time and time again and at the end of its long life, it can be recycled without the loss of quality nor material integrity.
Refilling your bottles with bulk soap, shampoo or conditioner means fewer bottles end up in landfill. Stainless steels are the ideal choice for this type of bottle: the bottles will not break and they will last a long time. Stainless steels are environmentally friendly, since you can use them time and time again and at the end of their long life, they can be recycled without the loss of quality nor material integrity.
When you learn to love tap water, you will need a hygienic and easy non-breakable cup for drinking it... a stainless steel cup offers the perfect resilient solution. Stainless steel does not influence the flavour of the water and it is very safe to use (more information on the food safety of stainless steel). Stainless steel is also environmentally friendly, you can use it time and time again and at the end of its long life, it can be recycled without the loss of quality nor material integrity.
You like sipping your drink with a straw? Think about investing in stainless steel ones as an addition to your cutlery set. Stainless steel straws are environmentally friendly, reusable, dishwasher safe, easy to clean, safe to use and easy to take along.

More information on the use of stainless steel applications
Stainless steel zero waste razors are double edged safety razors with a timeless design, save you money over time and make it easy to ditch plastics in your shaving routine.
The stainless steel ice pack is perfect for sore backs, headaches, bruises, bumps, you name it! It is also perfect for keeping your lunch fresh. It freezes solid in about 2 hours, and will keep your lunch cool for 4-6 hours, depending on your containers and your lunch bag.

Pictures courtesy of the Package Free Shop
Stainless steel containers are very hygienic because they are easy to clean thoroughly and are not an environment that supports the growth of bacteria. They do not transfer stench, which is a common complaint about plastic containers. Stainless steel products are unbreakable and have been tested for harmful substances. In addition, they can be dissolved in scrap at the time of disposal, so it has excellent advantages for environmental protection.

Pictures and text courtesy of POSCO
Stainless steel ice trays are easy to use, sturdy and freeze quicker than plastic ones. The tray will not crack, bend or break. As an added extra they are 100% recyclable and reusable!
Stainless steel food trays are great to use for camping and small children as they do not break, are easy washable and hygienic.
For brewing fine loose-leaf teas a tea strainer is essential. Stainless steel ones are easy to use, sturdy and do not leave any taste so your tea leaves impart their full flavour.
Stainless steels: the sustainable option

Widely used in doctor’s offices stainless steel ear swabs are a practical and easy way to remove excess ear wax. It is a safe and hygienic tool to use and can be reused endlessly, just clean and reuse.
Stainless steel chopsticks are hygienic, chic, easy to clean, durable, reusable and recyclable. They should be part of everyone’s regular cutlery set!
Stainless steel cubes can be used to chill alcoholic and alcohol-free beverages. The cubes can make drinks colder without diluting them and bring an air of sophistication to impress your guests. Since they are stainless steel, they will have no impact on the taste of your drink whatsoever. After an hour or two in the freezer they will be completely frozen and ready to use.
Using stainless steel skewers for your barbecue meat does not only mean you have less waste, it also a safer option from a food safety perspective.

First and foremost when the meat is stored prior to and after the barbecue, bacteria multiplication on the stainless steel skewers is significantly lower than all alternative material options. But above all, the risk of carcinogenic substances (PAHs) forming on stainless steel skewers is zero, even for types of meat that require a longer cooking time! An additional benefit that will please the chef is that on a stainless steel skewer the meat heats up more evenly from the inside out.

Source: The safe added value of stainless steel skewers