



Sustainable Fairfield Task Force
FOOD and WASTE subcommittee meeting
Minutes February 2, 2024

1. Recycling and Waste Actions:

- a. Discussion with First Selectman Gerber – As part of a SFTF 2024 goals update with the First Selectman, several possible improvements to the town’s waste and recycling programs were recommended. Tipping fees will be going up significantly as key contracts are being renegotiated this year. This means that residents will likely pay over \$10 Million to haulers, an increase of roughly 20%. SFTF recommended the town consider secondary locations for glass and food waste (to start as pilots if the town has contamination concerns) and longer term consider composting food waste in town to save hauling fees. Recommendations were made for permanent mattress recycling, pilots for pay as you throw programs, pilots for upcycling furniture and or take it or leave it programs.
- b. Glass Recycling pilot - No updates
- c. Food waste Recycling – No updates
- d. OOPS stickers and Clean the Stream - SFTF has recommended the town explore grants to secure temp staff who can run an effective oops program.
- e. School recycling initiatives / Green team - 9 elementary schools are currently composting food waste and the final 2 are set to start in the coming weeks. EV bus grant applications are being explored.
- f. Mattress Recycling - Bob updated the group on Park City green.
- g. Beach litter - Discussions around how to mitigate beach litter washing into our waterways with these large college events centered around more tickets and police presence, making the University take responsibility for student actions, working with lantern point to impose fines.
- h. Take it or leave it and /or upcycle program – in 2024, we plan to explore the option to have the volunteer woodworkers at the senior center help to restore gently used furniture.

2. Food Actions:

- a. SNAP at farmers market – no update.
- b. Flash Food - Stop and Shop - continue to promote.
- c. Refill program - in 2024, we will work to kick off this program to minimize the use of single-use coffee cups.
- d. Meatless meals - continue to promote.