



Sustainable Fairfield Task Force
FOOD and WASTE subcommittee meeting

Minutes: March 1, 2024

1. Recycling and Waste Actions:

- a. Glass Recycling and Food waste Recycling expansion - There was discussion of having a volunteer- manned weekly 1 to 2 hour drop off location for both Glass and Food waste at participating churches and possibly the Fairfield Woods library. This would allow residents from Northern Fairfield to more easily participate. Dan is also doing a Coffee hour talk at St Anthony's on April 7th.
- b. OOPS stickers and Clean the Stream - Becky requested that Ron bring up the idea of getting additional resources, possibly through a grant, to extent the frequency of the OOPS audits and having Lisa try to fit this into her already busy schedule does not appear to be a viable solution if we want to see results.
- c. Increased tip fees of +20% expected with New Wheelabrator contract. Ron updated the group that at this point, the town is not exploring options to minimize costs for residents and just plans to pass along the +20% increase to Haulers with increased TS tip fees which will be passed along to residents in their hauler fees. Mary noted that Westport went out to bid separately and got a \$85 tip fee (which appears to be lower than what Fairfield will be paying.) It was noted that there will be several times for us all to engage the town as the Budget season progresses and to request that the town explore options to reduce costs to residents. BOS meeting next week, BOF meeting on the DPW on 3/14 and the public meetings at the end of March. Becky to work to organize a letter writing effort and suggest people attend these meetings to speak to the issue.
- d. Options to reduce Tip fees – several options were discussed as a way to minimize this fee increase, the most obvious one being to do PAYT. There was a suggestion to do a pilot program on PAYT with one hauler and track the reduction in waste. This could be combined with Food waste pick up which is projected to reduce MSW by 24%. Ron requested that SFTF engage a group to measure and Weigh their waste, recycling and food waste.
- e. School recycling initiatives / Green team - The green teams will be honored at the March 26 BOE meeting for their great work. All eleven elementary schools are now composting food waste and the Middle schools will be getting mini fridges for sharing. To date the schools have diverted over 196,000 lbs. or almost 100 tons. The next phase is to start engaging the 6th graders in middle school and work up the grades each year,
- f. Mattress Recycling - The May Mattress recycling event will be May 4th at Veterans park.
- g. Beach litter - Was not discussed but this will be a topic for the Library Childrens advocacy day in March.



- h. Take it or leave it and /or upcycle program – Not discussed.

2. Food Actions: Not discussed on today's call.

- a. SNAP at farmers market.
- b. Flash Food - Stop and Shop
- c. Refill program.
- d. Meatless meals