



Sustainable Fairfield Task Force
FOOD and WASTE subcommittee meeting

Minutes: April 5, 2024

Action items:

1. **Becky** to draft note to Bill G and Lisa to try to get in Friday newsletter about recycling eclipse glasses.
2. **Becky** to Send Dan Flyer for 20% off Food waste Recycling bins for the St Anthony's talk.
3. **Mary** to ask Ron to provide monthly glass recycling and Food waste drop off stats from the SWR committee meetings and she will post on the Town website.
4. **Becky** to send SFTF suggested Waste and recycling initiatives to SWR commission.
5. **Meghan** to encourage green teams to attend April 8 upcoming SWR meeting.
6. **Mary** to work with Mill River and other Local organizations (Surfrider, Save the sound) for regular riverine and coastal clean ups.
7. **Bob** to get flyer for Mattress recycling event
8. **Mary** to Create list of what other towns are recycling - item, cost and where to send the recycling.
9. **Mary** to work with Amanda to pick the next zero waste event.
10. **Meghann** to create and send out Sign up Genius for Summer farmer's market.
11. **Becky** to get list of Stores for refill program.

Recycling and Waste Actions:

- a. Solar eclipse glasses – The schools will be purchasing Solar eclipse glasses for all students and having boxes to recycle in the schools. Becky to draft a note to the First selectman office to see if they would be willing to have a box at town hall and accept recycling as well as put in the newsletter.
- b. Glass Recycling and Food waste Recycling expansion – Dan will be giving a talk this coming Sunday at St Anthony's and can promote the Food waste recycling program. Possibly St Anthony's might be willing to have a manned one hour a week collection with volunteers dropping off food waste and glass once a week . Mary to ask Ron to provide monthly glass recycling and Food waste drop off stats from the SWR committee meetings and she will post on the Town website.
- c. OOPS stickers and Clean the Stream - A suggestion was made to encourage the town to use High school seniors who are looking for community service hours to help monito the OPPS program.
- d. Options for more efficient Waste and recycling efforts – Becky to draft a note to the commission outlining SFTF suggestions for more efficient SWR programs including a pilot of PAYT to send to the SWR commission in advance of the April 8 meeting. Meghan to encourage green teams to attend meeting.
- e. School recycling initiatives / Green team - Great progress – all elementary schools not recycling food waste – Over 181,000 lbs. collected to date.



Hauling costs are going up slightly but still likely to be able to cover from the grant. We might want to think about a second grant for middle schools. School cafeterias now collecting and recycling food waste and offering fruit in more sustainable packaging. Lisa Alberts and Emma Kaye will be taking over the VP of sustainability role next year – Meghann – you will be a hard act to follow!!

- f. Mattress Recycling - The May Mattress recycling event will be on May 4th at Veterans Park. Bob working on getting a flyer and the insurance certificate. There is a high school student who will arrange to pick up your mattress for a small fee – we should update the Flyer with that info.
- g. Beach litter. – Suggestion was made to do townwide litter clean ups not just beach – Mary working with Mill Rover and other local organizations to have regular clean ups
- h. Other recycling opportunities and upcycle programs – Other towns , Greenwich and HRRRA towns in particular are doing a good job recycling other harder to recycling items either through the transfer station or designated drop off boxes. Mary will create a list of Items, where they need to be sent to be recycled and what the costs is.
- i. Zero waste events – We worked with Parks and Rec to try to make the Beach Bunny Hop 5 K more of a zero-waste event and created a lessons learned suggestion sheet. Mary to work with Amanda to pick the next event.

2. Food Actions:

- a. SNAP at farmer's market. – Emma has been working on getting SNAP at the Fairfield Farmers market, but Parks and Rec does not feel they can support the staff needed to administer the program- If SFTF and Green teams can cover all dates of the Farmers market we may be able to cover the administrative side.
- b. Flash Food - Stop and Shop - Becky to request Rabab promote on social media.
- c. Refill program. – Becky to create a list of Stores that we will request to participate in a Fairfield Refill program – which encourages and incentivizes people to bring in their own reusable coffee cups when they are getting coffee from local stores so single use paper cups are not wasted
- d. Meatless meals - - Becky to request Rabab promote on social media.