



Sustainable Fairfield Task Force
FOOD and WASTE subcommittee meeting

Minutes: December 1, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84542946911>

Meeting ID: 845 4294 6911

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+13052241968,84542946911# US

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1. Recycling and Waste Actions:

- a. Glass Recycling pilot - Continued discussion about options for a second location as we are not getting any residents from the northern part of town to participate regularly.
- b. Food waste Recycling – Lisa G from the transfer station raised a concern that we are still getting some people bringing their food in plastic bags. We will do an e mail reminder to the people who signed up with the grant program, but many people did not sign up that way and we do not have their e mails. It was agreed to propose that the town put up a sign at the transfer station both reminding people not to use plastic bags and also encouraging them to give us their e mails via a QR code so we can contact them with news. Dan also agreed to provide free BPI bags that we can give out – maybe the first week of each month and ideally to get the free bags they will give us their emails. A secondary location continues to be a priority for this as well.
- c. OOPS stickers and Clean the Stream - Misty updated us that the town is looking to start this program in February. It would start with educational outreach reminding people how to recycle correctly in local magazines and newsletters. Rep Gresko, the chair of the state environmental committee, says food waste is their number 1 priority for the year.
- d. School recycling initiatives / Green team - Meghann outlined the great progress we have made in rolling out food waste recycling in all elementary schools. This was funded by the Sustainable CT grant and 6 schools have rolled the program out and the remaining five elementary schools will roll out in January. Most schools have share tables/ fridges and several also have food rescue for the leftovers.
- e. Pumpkin recycling – This is the last weekend for pumpkin recycling which was expanded to 5 additional schools this year. We agreed to make a big awareness push over the weekend and encourage all residents to drop their pumpkins off at the participating schools. We will have the number of tons diverted from the waste stream available for the next meeting.
- f. Mattress recycling. We have 2 potential spring dates, May 4 and 11 and are just confirming with parks and rec.



- g. Meeting with new Town Selectmen – We discussed outlining 3 – 5 of what SFTF sees as priority projects and sharing those with the new selectman team. It was also discussed to offer data on waste diversion from various programs on a rolling basis for the Selectman’s weekly newsletter.
- h. Beach litter - no action this call

2. Food Actions:

- a. SNAP at farmers market – continue to work towards a spring program.
- b.** Flash Food - Stop and Shop - continue to publicize.
- c. Refill program - Will work on that over the coming months. Need to confirm health department sign off on the procedures and get a sign-up form ready to solicit coffee shops.
- d. Brown paper bags at grocery stores - possibly encourage people to reuse their brown paper bags if they sue them for recycling.
- e. Meatless meals - Continue to publicize and maybe highlight that the school cafeterias all have meatless Mondays.