



Sustainable Fairfield Task Force
FOOD and WASTE subcommittee meeting

MINUTES: July 7, 2023

1. Recycling and Waste Actions:

- a. Glass Recycling pilot - There was a discussion about putting flyers (to remind people about glass recycling) at the checkout counters of liquor stores. Mary to check with Mo and Harry's to see if there is an easy way to get the all the store owners to put these up. Becky to follow up on a possible Commerce Street secondary drop off location with John C.
- b. Food waste program - The program is still a pilot and there is some level of concern that the town may decide to discontinue the program as the hauling costs are so expensive relative to other MSW and recycling hauling.
- c. HRRRA - Becky has reached out to Jen Heaton Jones from HRRRA to better understand the economics of becoming part of the HRRRA regional group. This would mean resigning from the current multi town recycling and MSW interlocals – but since both of the contracts come up for renewal in June 2024, this would be the ideal time to make the change. Joining HRRRA would mean that the town could take advantage of the HRRRA negotiated Tipping fee rates for Recycling and MSW which are significantly lower than Fairfield's at least until 2029 and it is believed this can save the town hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- d. Meeting with SWR commission and Town – It was agreed that a meeting with the town on some of the above suggestions and opportunities to save money and become more sustainable in our Solid waste and Recycling Initiative would be a good next step. Becky to reach out to set up once we have the HRRRA figures.
- e. OOPS stickers and Clean the Stream - No update on OOPS. Brief discussion on whether smart and clear signage at the transfer station could help clean up any contamination --at least on recycling.
- f. Farmers market outreach – For the summer, SFTF with the support of school green teams are organizing a sign up for people to take shifts at the Sherman Green farmers market to create awareness for the Glass and Food waste recycling as well as easy tips on composting at home. Food waste and glass will be collected during this summer as well
- g. School recycling initiatives / Green team - 3 schools are currently recycling food waste which includes trays. Some schools are exploring



milk carton recycling. Share tables will be in all the schools in the coming year and they're working to get Food rescue set up for the fall.

- h. Discount composter program - We only had four participants this year but will continue to offer the program going forward.
- i. Sustainable CT grant - The Green teams (Sustainability VP of the PTA council) - A grant to add up to five additional school food waste recycling programs will go live in July, The plan is to raise \$26,000 which will be matched 1.5 to 1 and allow five schools to cover their food waste costs for two years.

2. Food Actions:

- a. SNAP at farmers market - Unfortunately it does not appear that the Parks and Rec department decided to trial SNAP at the farmers' market.
- b. Flash Food - Stop and Shop - We are promoting this on social media.
- c. Refill program - no update
- d. Brown paper bags at grocery stores - no update