



Sustainable Fairfield Task Force
FOOD and WASTE subcommittee meeting
MINUTES: January 6, 2023

1. **Waste Actions:**

- a. Glass Recycling pilot. – Glass collection is proceeding but it is still a very small percentage of the total Town glass sent for recycling.
- b. Food waste program - SFTF has requested an additional 150 Free starter kits be funded from the increased grant funds from the Lee Sawyer grant. There was a discussion on how we could get a secondary drop off location in North Fairfield and one suggestion is to do bins with combination locks on them. The BigBelly smart Cans are also an option but expensive and we would need to find a grant. We are still seeing some non-BPI certified bags come into the collection bins, so we need to continue to do outreach and education as well as potentially increased signage. There was a request to reach out to all local markets and Drug stores to request they stock BPI certified compostable bags
- c. OOPS stickers - This program is expected to roll out in the spring and will need significant outreach and awareness if it is to be successful.
- d. Request for town plan to meet the State's goal of 60% diversion from disposal by 2024 - Not discussed
- e. Upcoming seminars on recycling at local libraries and senior center -none are currently planned but we should look to schedule at least one composting seminar and one on recycling in the spring.
- f. School recycling initiatives – School green teams are focusing their tips for January on how to avoid food waste – we should cross post.
- g. EPA grant - There was a suggestion to see if HRRRA would be willing to partner wit SWEROC on this
- h. Lee Sawyer grant updates - We have an extension inti April as well as close to \$ 4000 more in grant funds than requested. Becky is working with DWP/SWR to confirm how to spend these.
- i. Christmas trees – There was a discussion on whether we can request the town start a tree recycling program, perhaps by eliminating the last leaf collection and having the trees be collected instead

2. **Food Actions:**



- a.** Tips to reduce food waste upfront by understanding sell by dates and buy by dates and tips to extend the life of food - Suggestions to cross promote with School Green teams

- b.** Farmers market and sustainable food options outreach – Becky to reach out to Kristen and see if she has the time to update for this spring, if not, the goal would be to send out information on Local CSAs and how to sign up as well as remind people about local farmers market and buying locally.