



Sustainable Fairfield Task Force
FOOD and WASTE subcommittee meeting

Minutes: April 7, 2023

1. **Recycling and Waste Actions:**

- a. Glass Recycling pilot– No update
- b. Food waste program – There will be a 40% off promotion on the cost of Compost kits for Earth Day (month of April). These will be promoted at the Earth day event at the Y, at plant sales and at the Southport school. We will need to assemble more kits over the coming weeks.
- c. OOPS stickers and Clean the Stream – There was a discussion that after almost a year, many of the haulers are still not putting the stickers on the Bins. There was a suggestion to do a monthly dedicated focus on social media on the key sources of contamination – so May can be NO PLASTIC BAG month, June, only recycle plastics 1 and 2 month, etc. There was also a suggestion for SFTF to write a formal request to the SWR department and commission to start the OOPS program and use the Alcohol mini funds to hire people to go with the haulers on their routes and place OOPs stickers.
- d. Mattress recycling event for spring – May 6th 8:30 – 12:30. Bob will work with the communications team to get on Brenda’s newsletter and social media . we will also request a flyer be placed at the transfer station as well as promotions on Earth Day.
- e. Seminars on recycling and composting – We are scheduled for May 8th at 5:30 at Fairfield Woods and have requests out to Audubon and Pequot.
- f. School recycling initiatives / Green team - The School Green teams are applying for a grant from Sustainable CT to expand the Food Waste pick up. They are also exploring adding sharing tables and reinstating Food Rescue pick-ups. The challenge will be to make this cost effective on an ongoing basis. They are also working with the School administration to make one of the School Website headers “ Sustainability” as a robust sustainability focus is attractive to perspective parents choosing a school system.
- g. Discount composter program - We will put up a flyer at the Earth Day event and promote on social media.
- h. Sustainable CT grant - The Green teams (Sustainability VP of the PTA council) will be applying for a grant to expand school composting. We are also exploring the option of working with CET to help apply for a USDA grant to expand composting through METROCOG.



2. Food Actions:

- a. Farmers market and sustainable food options outreach – We have reached out to Parks and Rec (who now run the Sherman Green farmers Market) to explore the option of a one year trial to take SNAP (food stamps).
- b. Flash Food - Stop and Shop is rolling out an app that helps reduce food waste upfront by offering large discounts on food nearing its expiration date. We will start to promote on social media.
- c. Refill program – We are exploring a program to reduce the use of Single use coffee cups at local coffee shops called Refill not landfill. This has been rolled out successfully in surrounding towns.
- d. Brown Paper bags at Grocery stores – After speaking with the manager of Trader Joes, we have decided to look into getting a town ordinance to assess a fee for all paper bags. This has been done successfully in Stamford, so we are reaching out to get the language of the Stamford ordinance. Paper is very resource-heavy to produce: “Manufacturing a paper bag takes about four times as much energy as it takes to produce a plastic bag, plus the chemicals and fertilizers used in producing paper bags create additional harm to the environment. “