

NH Network Plastics Work Group (PWG)
Sunday, May 8, 2022, 6 pm

Next Meeting: Sunday, May 22, 2022, 6 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 627 560 9302

Passcode: garden

[Plastics Work Group Slide Deck Link](#)

[Ten Towns Toolkit Slide Deck Link](#)

[Ten Towns Toolkit website Link](#)

(All are invited to add resources to first two slide decks)

CHALLENGE FOR EVERY MEETING: Bring a high school or college student

Attending: Mary Armstrong, Darla Bruno, Nancy Dowey, Christina Dubin, Cindy Heath, Cheryl Jensen, Ann Podlipny, Susan Richman (NOTES), Juliana Rowland, Carol Sullivan, Cynthia Walter (FACILITATOR),

Agenda:

- Introductions, New Members & Action Updates!
- Metrics Update
- Challenges Round Table
- Plastic Free July
- Next Steps/Future Agenda Items

Resource: Hayley Jones, Community Action Works TTTA Vision/Goals Worksheet [LINK to shared Word doc](#)

Discussion/Outcomes

- **Introductions, New Members & Action Updates!**
 - **Durham** - Susan: Recycle Right campaign to launch June 4 with Durham Day; applying for \$1000 Seed grant from New England Grassroots Environment Fund. Currently have compost accepted at our Transfer Station, but need ideas from others on how to get curbside compost collection for whole town. Christina suggests the SEAREI website, WRAD compost initiative, Planted for the Planet in the Seacoast area, and a pilot with Mr Fox, gathering data. (Susan will email Christina to learn more.) Cynthia suggests starting a compost subgroup of Plastics WG – would bring in gardeners and farmers to our group..
 - **Bethlehem** - Cheryl: Sat May 14 townwide annual roadside cleanup, 40-60 volunteers, plus Bethlehem Elementary students collecting in-town trash.
 - **Bristol** - Nancy Dowey: will have a Sustainability Fair May 17, with 17 groups participating (gardening, planting, use this/not that, give-away of metal water bottles with logos); mentioned in Newfound Lake newspaper 4 times! Their Hannafords takes plastic wraps #2 and #4. Showed videos about plastic to students (12-16 year olds), then gave them colored plastic lids for crafts—balancing the disturbing science with a creative activity. NOTE: NexTrex website gives information about Hannafords plastic collection. <https://recycle.trex.com/>
 - **Harrisville** - Mary: Harrisville to celebrate 150th anniversary, will have a table to educate about plastics. Nearby town of Bennington joined TTT; their town leader will come to the next Harrisville meeting. Working on local recycling tips. Don't want to intimidate people with so much information! Home Depot takes some plastic. Working with the town plastic committee.

- **Portsmouth** - Christina: Working with the library for Plastic Free July activity. A conundrum – we want people to recycle, but don't want to perpetuate plastic by offering recycling! Promote reusable, turning off the tap! The history of Trex (begun by Exxon?): <https://www.referenceforbusiness.com/history/Th-UI/Trex-Company-Inc.html>
- **Hollis** - Juliana: had a town wide clean-up at the end of April; a local boy scout set up online sign-ups for his scout project. It was a small group, awareness is expanding, roads are staying cleaner. The girl scouts used to have a recycling collection bin, but difficulty finding folks to transport it to the recycling location.
- **Center Harbor, Meredith, Moultonborough** - Carol: got books to the 3 libraries and a school library, zoom presentation by NHN. Library posted on FB some of the new Earth Day books, the Network's zoom, and a zero-carbon presentation. Science teachers at the Interlakes School in Meriden saw that presentation and will use it with their students. Hope we can share more with schools, contact schools! Carol presented about these activities to her select board, to get their buy-in.
- **Lebanon** - Darla: began to approach restaurants, but they seem to be struggling right now. Sustainable Lebanon is Beta testing software that measures carbon footprint (points for walking rather than driving, using less water...) Cynthia asks if the software acknowledges that less carbon is used with reusables, since plastic is carbon-intense.
- **Chester** - Ann: working with Manchester Moves doing community gardening, planting Abenaki bean seeds, improving rail/trail hiking system. Local librarians would like an evening to show Microplastic Madness, and will partner with the town's waste management director to discuss the town's plastics management. If only 9% is recycled (vs. incineration or landfill) why recycle? Why reward companies with keeping carbon in the ground? We should be focusing on renewables. Try to get her schools to use less plastic, and will ask Chester Dems to support a resolution against Plastic. (Susan to give Ann info about the upcoming Citizens Climate Lobby meeting.) Sent FERC comments against the Bow coal plant contract.
- **Cornish** - Cindy: Had styrofoam collection in Lebanon; [great handout](#), including information on REDUCING foam use (thanks to Cynthia). Spoke with her Co-Op grocery store's board of directors about reducing single-use plastic in bulk and produce sections, and has support from Lebanon students. Co-op finally returning to efforts suspended during COVID. Gilford will have a foam densifier beginning in June.

NEW INITIATIVES:

- **Metrics** - Cynthia: We have the services of an accomplished intern. Since the TTT is on Google, he can easily use Google analytics with our TTT because to measure who is using it, how it is working. Cynthia **requests we please try completing the Google Form on the TTT to show your projects** – libraries, stores, clean-up – so we have objective measures of our actions. (Otherwise we only have anecdotes embedded in our minutes.) Brian Masewic and his professor Dr. Elizabeth Harpe are working with CW.
- **Plastics Free July**: an international effort (190 countries) to reduce plastics. <https://www.pasticfreejuly.org/>
 - Christina & her library: follow Kristine's efforts in Dover last year. Library already booked for the summer, so perhaps take-home events
 - Cindy will have a library display, and invite people to "take the challenge," and a celebration at the end.
 - Cheryl asks for clarification on Town Resolution/Proclamation: Cynthia explains that it builds a record within the city, hoping to build to the next level or be ready for legal permission from Concord. Gives more potency to any discussion and impetus when talking to Rotary, other civic groups. Gives leverage for next actions.
 - Mary - will do a panel, "Rethink Plastics: Ask the Experts," Zoom up to 300 people, from Keene State.
 - Cynthia – too many plastic bags coming out of grocery stores, need more cloth bags into people's hands. Give away cloth bags - at farmers' market & speak to the farmers, at food pantries, have a stockpile of cloth bags. <https://www.ecobags.com/Brands/ECOBAGS-Brand-Products> costs \$9 for 50 bags (needs 3 week warning) with ad printed on it, maybe would appeal to a sponsor, such

as Rotary, and can insert a flier on “why use a reusable bag?” Could also take groceries to your car in the cart and skip any bags. Can upload onto FB a video of yourself doing this. Could invite immigrant communities to make the bags (a sewing circle?) Make that a sub-group? Bethlehem stopped giving out bags a few years ago; have boxes at check-out if you forget your bag. Aldi has no bags (bring your own, use a cardboard box.) Just make bags unavailable and people will get used to it (only 4 weeks to adjust to the chaos?) Ask stores to have boxes handy instead of using plastic bags.

- Get people in your community to sign THE CHALLENGE: “I take the challenge to reduce the use of plastic in my life.” The mechanics of how that works? It is on the “Plastic Free July” website, so could just post the link. Have a plastic-free picnic (at the library, end of summer?). Piggyback onto library or church events? Ask to table, or hand out a flier. Put it on your email signature. More ideas on [Plastic Free July](#) website.

Agenda May 22:

- 5:30 pm Onboarding for new members, do training in Google docs and forms.
- Cindy will send facilitation notes and video separately to summer facilitators.
- Bag projects
- Election issues, which candidates have climate-friendly agendas, make voters be aware of plastic issues.

Previous PWG Meeting Notes

[Meeting Notes #1 - August 1, 2021](#)

[Meeting Notes #2 - August 15, 2021](#)

[Meeting Notes #3 - August 29, 2021](#)

[Meeting Notes #4 - September 19, 2021](#)

[Meeting Notes #5 - October 3, 2021](#)

[Meeting Notes #6 - October 17, 2021](#)

[Meeting Notes #7 - October 31, 2021](#)

[Meeting Notes #8 - November 14, 2021](#)

[Meeting Notes #9 - November 28, 2021](#)

[Meeting Notes #10 - December 12, 2021](#)

[Meeting Notes #11 - January 9, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #12 - January 23, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #13 - February 6, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #14 - February 20, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #15 - March 13, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #16 - March 27, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #17 - April 10, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #18 - April 24, 2022](#)

Community Action Works Notes

[Campaign Planning Principles, Decision-Making Chart, Kick Off Meeting Notes](#)

[#2 October 17 - Goal Setting & Timeline Notes](#)

[#3 November 14 - Messaging Workshop Handbook](#)

[#4 November 14 - Messaging Notes](#)

[#5 November 28 - Messaging & Slogan](#)

[#6 January 3 - Communications Work Group Meeting Docs](#)