

NH Network Plastics Working Group Notes (PWG) #83

Sunday, June 22, 6 pm

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, August 24 , 6 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87209928697>

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 872 0992 8697

[Plastics Working Group Slide Deck Link \(all may add resources\)](#)

[Ten Towns Toolkit website Link](#)

[2025 Facilitator Schedule](#)

[Action Tracking Spreadsheet](#)

[2024-26 PWG Priorities Table](#)

[NH Network Bills Resource](#)

[Legislator Tracking Spreadsheet](#)

 Ten Towns Ten Actions Promotion Pieces

Attending

(KEEP THIS LIST INTACT AND EDIT EACH MEETING - USUALLY SIMILAR ATTENDEES SHOW UP EACH TIME)

NOTE: Names in **bold** were in attendance.

Mary Armstrong, **Kristine Baber**, Mark Berry, **Patsy Beffa-Negrini**, **Cindy Heath**, Kathy Manfre, **Janet Perkins-Howland**, Ann Podlipny, Susan Richman, **Rep Peter Schmidt**, Carol Sullivan, Cynthia Walter, Nancy Ladd, Christina Dubin

1. Land Acknowledgment, Norms, Leader in Every Chair, Welcome New Attendees, Recruitment

- [2025 Facilitator Schedule](#)

2. Upcoming Events/Education (this doc is editable - please add your events!)

- July 13 Cornish - Plastic Free Town Picnic
- July 18/19 - Harrisville - Old Home Day
- July Dover - Plastic Reduction Month resolution pending
- Put your events in the [Beyond Plastics Calendar](#)
- August 5 -14- Second Part of the Fifth Session (INC-5.2) of the Global Plastics Treaty - <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-5.2>

3. Discussion/Presentations/Updates

- Education Team (Patsy Beffa-Negrini)
 - Conscious Cafeteria Coaching Initiative
 - **ACTION:** Request ConVal presentation from Cynthia Walter
 - Patsy presented at Climate Cafe in Keene on community-based solutions
 - Skip the Stuff, Reusable Seacoast, School Based Reuse, SUP Bags Petition, Mesh Bag Mamas
 - May have a connection at Keene HS
 - Monadnock Shopper message on community solutions to plastic pollution and PWG efforts is out to 40,000+ readers
 - Resources
 - [Ten Towns Resources on School Reuse](#)
 - [Reuse in Schools — Upstream](#)

- [Plastic Free Lunch Day 2025](#)
- [Estimated Savings Calculator](#)

- **Collective Action Updates - Susan Richman & Kristine Baber**

- [Resource Directory of SUP Bag Ban Files](#)
- PWG 'No Bag Please' Campaign [Link to Working Doc](#)
 - Link to printable petition: bit.ly/paperNOplasticBAGS (useful for tabling, church or community groups, tabling outside your favorite grocery - with manager's OK)
 - Link to petition on-line: bit.ly/noPLASTICbags (sign it yourself, share link with others)
 - [Link to SUP bag ban map](#); [Link to meeting notes](#) with DES/Rep. Ebel
- **SWWG Presentation**
 - Well received, especially by Rep. Aaron, Chair of Env/Ag
 - Nick Germana & Terry Sparr want to advance a bill; need a Rep. sponsor
 - Rep. Ebel has asked us to pause until after June SWWG meeting where legislation will be discussed
 - NH DES interested but concerned about staffing capacity to enforcement (only 1 person for the entire state)
 - **ACTION:** Decide where bill should best fit into a statute; also need to consider carbon footprint of paper bags
 - **ACTION:** Peter Schmidt will contact ALDI management about their corporate wide no plastic bag policy
 - Beyond Plastics will support us, and trust other groups will get on board
 - Nora Bosworth (CLF) and will help draft legislation
 - Gretchen Salter (Safer States) will help us understand CA bill revisions
 - Will add provision to restrict plastic bags completely
 - Worked directly with Grocer's Association on press conferences/testimony
 - Did not work chain by chain
 - Ivana Start (Clean Water Action MN) - working on fighting a pre-emptive bill to prevent banning SUP bags; retailers want statewide legislation (same with us re: Hannaford's)
 - Waiting to hear from Maine reps on their bill
 - Consider paper industry as collaborators (3 paper bag companies in NH)
- [Ten Towns SUP Bag Ban Resources](#)
- **Next Meeting**
 - Sunday, June 29 6pm to get caught up, also a meeting scheduled for July 13
- **Notes from Susan Richman:**
 - The plastic bag subgroup has been communicating with grocery stores and the waste/environment officials of other states, gathering information and hopefully creating relationships.
 - Yesterday I spoke with Kevin Daigle, President of NH Grocers Assn, who very clearly stated any bag ban must apply to all retail stores, and have no reporting demands for the stores, and no responsibilities for the state.
 - I think the NJ model comes closest (no bags at all, no fee at all; but they do sell the \$1-2 stronger stitched handle bags) but he insisted we should go with the "familiar" models of Maine and Vermont.
 - I've learned from my very kind local Hannaford manager that Gov Ayotte wants a sustainability discussion with Hannaford folks, and I believe with other retailers.
 - RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM Hannaford's new Sustainability person, Samantha Pease, and she'll be in touch soon
- **What You Can Do:**

- Speak with the retailers you come in contact with; let them know that legislation is being drafted for plastic bag reduction; what do they recommend as a good way to go about this? What would be less helpful?
- Keep the petition going; we've paused at 4450 - can we make it to 5000 or 10,000?
- Give presentations (Rotary, Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, church groups, knitting clubs, libraries, local environmental/conservation groups); we have ppt you can use or mix & match
- **ACTION:** Consider starting a bag share program with a local retailer, laundry service, co-op. **Models:**
 - [Mountain Equipment Coop](#) (Canada)
 - [Online bag tutorial & step by step bag share program instructions](#)
 - [Bag Share Project](#) (Massachusetts)
 - [MorsBags](#) (award-winning NP in the UK)
 - Article - [The Rise of Reusable Bag Share Programs](#)
 - [Blooming Foods Co-Op Consumer incentives List](#)
 - [Adams, MA Bag Share Program](#) (made bags for every resident)
 - [Beyond the Bag Consortium](#) Pilot Program
 - [Closed Loop Partners article](#) about Beyond the Bag pilot in 150 Denver stores
 - [Beyond the Bag](#) graphics, signs templates
- **Environmental Justice & Lead Issues (Ann Podlipny)**
 - Lead group has stalled, but Ann is writing articles on the topic
 - Reusable bags in use by Chester seniors; successful initiative
 - Working with Rocky Morrison on Merrimack River Clean up who identifies SUP bags as a problem in his boom equipment; may reach out to ask him to be an advocate/testify; wants to help get a dock in Manchester to clean up that section
 - Urban pollinator gardens being installed; Food Bank garden in place
 - Indigenous People are returning and re-introducing sustainable ag practices
- **Federal Legislation (Carol Sullivan & Ann Podlipny)**
 - **Resources**
 - [Full Report](#) - Mobilizing Federal Action on Plastic Pollution
 - [Fact Sheet](#) - Biden-Harris Administration Releases New Strategy to Tackle Plastic Pollution, Takes Action to Reduce Single-Use Plastics in Federal Operations
 - [Beyond Plastics](#) - Working to End Single Use Plastic Pollution
- **Legislative Action & Outreach Research Team - **BILL UPDATES BELOW****
 - [2025 Leg Tracking by County & LSR Tracking](#) (Strategies Included)
 - [2025 Legislative Resource Working Doc](#)
 - [Legislator Tracking Spreadsheet With Bill Numbers](#) [Legislative Research Group Tracking Sheet](#)
 - Check the [NH Network bill tracker](#)
 - **HB 479** - Establishing a committee to study the use and problems associated with regulating the distribution and disposal of certain solid waste within landfills and transfer centers.
 - Inexpedient to Legislate: MA VV 03/06/2025
 - Sessions are recorded and available [online](#)
 - HB 479 Hearing/Testimonies Recording [Here](#);
 - HB 479 Online Testimony ([read here](#)) Support: 158 | Oppose: 3 | Neutral: 0
 - **ACTION: Jim will help with SWWG communication to get a bill set up for Fall 2025**
 - Which bills should PWG focus on?

- We agreed to have an intentional focus on these bills. [NH Network tracking sheet](#) lists them with relevant hearing information (thanks Patsy & Susan!) but we need to see them through after the hearings and alert our reps to support if they get to a vote; all are encouraged to track using [Fast Democracy](#) or [Legiscan](#). Action alerts will come weekly via email from NH Network.

Bills moving forward - all have been re-referred to their Senate committees

- [HB 451](#) - (Rep. Ebel) relative to paint stewardship: **Crossed over to the Senate. Committee Report: Rereferred to Committee, 05/01/2025, Vote 4-1; SC 19 - Up for a <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87209928697> on Thursday!?????**
ACTION: reach out to your Senators, esp if they are R, to support a vote of OTP
[Article on paint care bill](#)
- [HB 171](#) - (Rep. Germana) establishing a moratorium on the processing and approval of new landfills. **Ought to Pass with Amendment 2025-0465h: MA VV 03/20/2025. Crossed over to the Senate. Hearing took place on: 04/15/2025. Rereferred to Committee, 05/01/2025**
- [HB 566](#) - (Rep. Germana) requiring permit applications for new landfills to contain a detailed plan for leachate management. **Ought to Pass with Amendment 2025-0429h: MA VV 03/06/2025 Referred to Finance 03/06/2025 HJ 7 Division I Work Session: 03/14/2025. UPDATE: Committee Report: Ought to Pass 04/02/2025 (Vote 25-0; CC) Hearing: 04/22/2025, Room 103, SH, 09:00 am; Rereferred to Committee, 05/22/2025 UPDATE: House Concurs with Senate Amendment 2025-2188s (Rep. J. Aron): MA VV 06/12/2025**
- [HB 707](#) - (Rep. Potenza) requiring the department of environmental services to establish a site-specific setback distance for proposed new landfills. **Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2025-1041h (NT) 03/18/2025 (Vote 14-1; CC) Crossed over to Senate. Hearing: 04/15/2025, Room 103, SH, 09:15 am; Rereferred to Committee, 05/08/2025**
- [HB 451, 171, and 707 all stuck in Committee?](#)
- [HB 639 - SAY NO - April 29](#)

ITL Bills (479 are still alive!)

- [HB 556](#) - (Rep. Parshall) relative to the sale of products labeled as biodegradable or compostable. **Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate 03/19/2025 (Vote 16-0; CC)**
- [HB 601](#) - (Rep. Read) creating a private cause of action against companies that misstate the impacts of their business on the environment. **Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate 03/10/2025 (Vote 18-0; CC)**
- [HB 479](#) - (Rep. Parshall) establishing a committee to study the use and problems associated with regulating the distribution and disposal of certain solid waste within landfills and transfer centers. **Inexpedient to Legislate: MA VV 03/06/2025**

4. Updates from Ten Towns, Ten Actions Leaders & Attendees

Peter - Dover: Budget/Legislative Session close to ending; working to defeat the budget to save Office of Child Advocate and other agency staff; Gov. Ayotte has threatened to veto the budget in its current state; if a continuing resolution occurs, active support will be needed; **ACTION:** contact Peter if you want to comment on the budget process

Ann - Chester: Has a FB page 'environment corner' with local news & action invitations; trash clean up; 'Got Lunch' program ongoing by a local UCC church for the summer; seniors getting reusable bags - in use

Cindy - Cornish: July 13 Plastic Free Community Picnic; Mesh Bag Mamas 2.0 in progress to give 250 bags away at the Woodstock VT Farmers' Market; [wrote article](#) about supporting business in Quechee, VT

Kristine - Dover: Continuing to organize Dover PRG on petition, speaking at City meetings on plastic turf issue; SUP bag legislation; seeking 5th proclamation from Dover City Council

Patsy - Nelson: Attended a training on NH 'Committee of Conference' process; Climate Cafe in Keene; Beyond Plastics invites members to submit their dates for PFJ events; produced [June 2025 Ten Towns Newsletter](#)

Christina- Portsmouth: [Plastic Free July Calendar](#) on the Beyond Plastics Blog

Janet - Durham: Had a successful campaign to eliminate SUP bottles at her hospital; everyone wants to know what's next; Suggestions:

- Reusable take out containers for the cafeteria
- **ACTION:** Cindy will connect Janet with DH sustainability group

5. PWG Priorities Action Plan

- [LINK TO SURVEY RESULTS](#)
- [SUMMARY](#)
- [2024-26 PWG Action Steps](#)
- [Link to Discussion on Sept 8 - PWG Meeting #70](#)
- **ACTION: Ask an environmental legislator to host an environmental caucus and invite our list of environmental legislators** - wait until after election for this to invite those who have been elected
- **ACTION: Susan to contact Nick Germana, Karen Ebel for advice on environmental caucus - may have a weekly phone call with Peter Bixby (family friend)**

6. Open Space Topics

- Free Staters Influence on Our Work
 - Read the Privateers by Josh Cowen; The Last Bake Sale Andru Volinsky
 - Follow Gary Reyneau articles
 - Follow In Depth NH
 - Facilitation Training Resource - [Interaction Institute for Social Change](#)

7. Resources:

- [Usefull](#) (large scale recycling/waste at arenas/universities)
- [Citizens' Climate Lobby Website Correction](#) - Percentage of Climate Change Caused by Plastics
- [Climate Action Tracker](#)

8. Future Agenda Items

Recycling Discussion - NRRRA is focused on recycling; how do we navigate the discussion about revenues and the business of recycling? What is the current state of plastics recycling? Do most towns realize revenues from recycling? [Companies like this](#) are out there making plastic bricks.

David Wasielewski - asked about a possible future presentation from a company that is exploring processing of leachate from landfills through a closed loop system to destroy toxics.

Cynthia will talk with him to get more details and possibly this presentation should first go to groups focused on waste processing and landfills.

[Microplastics Legislation Worksheet](#)

- Presentation to NH Legislative Committee on the environment
- Road map tour of NH legislative website

- Connect with Businesses for Social Responsibility
- EPR Toolkit & Solid Waste Event - EPR: "Breaking It Down" [Link to Working Slide Deck](#) - Cindy
- [Article by Ann Podlipny](#)

Below this Line: Resources in General (not agenda items)

9. Legislative - Past

- Bag Ban introduced by Laurel Stavis (Lebanon)
- Enabling Legislation introduced by Marge Shepardson (Marlborough)

10. Legislative - Future

- Toxics in Food Packaging - [Link to Working Document](#)
 - Should be a separate bill from container deposit law - who will champion this? NHHCA?
 - Contact Wendy Murphy & Karen Ebel to co-write and sponsor; Bill Palmer will be involved
 - Strategizing on Future Legislation with Gretchen Salter
- Microplastics in Water - [Link to Working Document](#)

11. Resources

- **NHLA Sustainability Book List**
 - NH Library Association's Sustainability Committee has created a spreadsheet of titles and resources (not just climate change). Send additional titles to Nancy Ladd? Linked at the bottom of their web page:
<https://www.nhlibrarians.org/Pages/Index/226518/sustainability-home-page>
- **Food Security**
 - **NH Food Hub Network**
 - <https://www.newhampshirenetwork.org/resources/agriculture-food-and-public-health#h.w9g0yko055hg>
 - **Messaging about Policy**
 - <https://www.10towns.org/actions/policy-actions/testify-about-plastic-pollution>
- **Film - The Politics of Beauty - about Stewart Udall**
- **Reuse Resources**
 - [Upstream Article: Reuse vs. Single Use: Economics](#)
 - [Brief on "anchor venues" and "wash hubs."](#)
 - [Foodware To Go](#)
 - [Reusable Packaging Association](#)
 - [Reuse Seattle](#), [Reusables](#), [Zero Waste USA](#)
 - [As You Sow](#) - environmental investing group; puts pressure on companies for issues like plastic reduction and use to influence shareholders; try to harness shareholder power to change companies
- **350 NH**
- [Fossil Fuel Investments](#) Webinar
 - 99% of Americans are forced to invest in fossil fuels in their retirement plans.
 - Almost 20% of investments in fossil fuels come from retirement savings.

- If you took 12 companies including Adobe, Amazon, Apple, Google, Intuit, Meta, Microsoft, Netflix, Oracle, etc: the employees have lost \$5.1 billion due to their companies investing in fossil fuels.
- If you took \$10,000 and invested in fossil fuels 10 years ago, guess how much money you'd have today? \$10,004.
- If you took the \$10,000 and invested in the S&P 500 minus the fossil fuels, you'd have \$34,851!
- Google has invested \$1.7 billion in fossil fuels through their retirement savings. If they hadn't done that it would be like taking 700,000 cars off the road.
- An explanation of why fossil fuel companies are desperate to turn to plastics.

12. Links & Resources

- **Bloomberg [Law Article](#)** - *US Senators Highlight Environmental Justice in Plastics Process*
- [Beyond Plastics Tabling Kit](#)
- **Grist [Article](#)** - *Democrats Unveil Most Comprehensive Bill to Address Plastics Problem*
- [Beyond Recycling Plastic](#) (draft document created by Kristine Baber)
- [Biomimicry Website with Real World Solutions - Ask Nature](#)
- [Link to NH Network Brochure for Copying](#)
- [PPT by Susan Hodges with good material on alternatives to SUP](#)
- [Bloomberg Philanthropies - Beyond Petrochemicals Initiative](#)
- [UN Report on Chemicals in Plastics](#)
- [Recycled and Reused Food Contact Plastic Are Vectors for Toxics](#) (Swedish meta analysis)
 - Corresponding author: Birgit Geueke; Email: birgit.geueke@fp-forum.org
- [Project Drawdown](#) (Paul Hawken)
- [Low Carbon Diet](#) (You Tube - David Gershon)
- ["Thicker Than Water: The Quest for Solutions to the Plastic Crisis"](#) by Erica Cirino

Community Action Works Notes and Future Planning

- [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](#)
- [#7 June 5 - Updates and Legislative Planning, Campaign Planning PDF, Visioning Workshop](#)

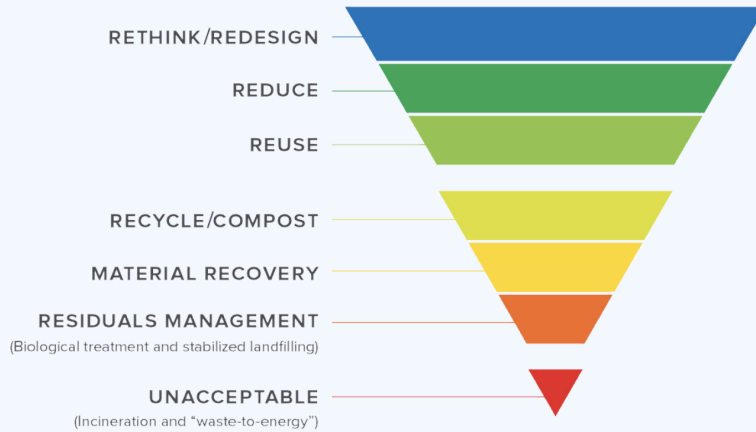
An **Extended** Waste Hierarchy



Version 8.0 — Last updated May 19, 2022

THE ZERO WASTE HIERARCHY 8.0

For detailed version visit www.zwia.org/zwh



Zero Waste Hierarchy of Highest and Best Use 8.0

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](#)

[Meeting Notes #19 - May 8, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #20 - May 22, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #21 - June 5, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #22 - June 19, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #23 - July 19, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #24 - July 31, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #25 - August 14, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #26 - August 28, 2022](#)

[Meeting Notes #27 - September 11, 2022](#)
[Meeting Notes #28 - September 25, 2022](#)
[Meeting Notes #29 - October 9, 2022](#)
[Meeting Notes #30 - October 23, 2022](#)
[Meeting Notes #31 - November 6, 2022](#)
[Meeting Notes #32 - November 20, 2022](#)
[Meeting Notes #33 - December 4, 2022](#)
[Meeting Notes #34 - January 8, 2023](#)
[Meeting Notes #35 - January 22, 2023](#)
[Meeting Notes #36 - February 5, 2023](#)
[Meeting Notes #37 - February 19, 2023](#)
[Meeting Notes #38 - March 5, 2023](#)
[Meeting Notes #39 - March 19, 2023](#)
[Meeting Notes #40 - April 16, 2023](#)
[Meeting Notes #41 - April 30, 2023](#)
[Meeting Notes #42 - May 14, 2023](#)
[Meeting Notes #43 - June 11, 2023](#)
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[Meeting Notes #61 - March 24, 2024](#)
[Meeting Notes #62 - April 7, 2024](#)
[Meeting Notes #63 - April 21, 2024](#)
[Meeting Notes #64 - May 5, 2024](#)
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[Meeting #81 - April 27, 2025](#)

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