Statewide Solid Waste Reduction & Diversion Working Group - Green SWoRD

October 23, 2025 - School Waste Reduction Kickoff - America Recycles Day - November 15

School Waste Bans, School Recycling Policy and appropriate school signage should be in place. Campaign to Join The Green Team.

Screen Share - Todd

Record Meeting - Todd

AGENDA: Introduction; Things to Note; Resources; Google Site Review; New Bedford Presentation; Summary from working groups; Discussion

Opening 9:30 pm (20 minutes)

- Introduction and welcome new members – discuss why this group was formed:

  This series of informal discussions will involve municipalities that have an investment in waste reduction and diversion in K-12 schools. Members of this working group will meet virtually four times over the course of the school year with other municipal officials and volunteers to review topics, share experiences and learn from peers while working on the funding, marketing, implementation and management of school waste reduction and diversion programs. Best practices will be created in this working group. Each municipality will work with their own school district to implement these programs. Subcommittees will be formed as needed to work on specific projects pertinent to implementing the goals of the working group.

- What your school should focus on this time of year:
  - School Waste Reduction Kickoff - America Recycles Day - November 15
  - School Waste Bans, School Recycling Policy and appropriate school signage should be in place
  - Campaign to Join The Green Team

- Things to note:
  - All schools are subject to State Waste Bans
  - All municipal buildings, including schools, are required to have recycling in place in order for the municipality to qualify for MassDEP grants
  - School Recycling Policy and appropriate school signage should be in place
  - Start thinking about your budget for your school sustainability programs
    - Switching to reusables/dishwashers or adding composting - contact your facilities director, food service manager or DPW liaison now
  - America Recycles Day - November 15
    - How will you celebrate?

- Resources:
  - The Green Team - member schools are eligible for free equipment including recycling bins and backyard composters, and resources including school curriculum and other educational materials on waste reduction programs
    - Campaign to Join The Green Team

- Schools must be registered annually:
- The Green Team Registration: https://thegreenteam.org/forms/registration/

- Recycling Works in MA - offers technical assistance for implementing waste reduction programs districtwide
  - Recycling Works in MA School Assistance : https://recyclingworksma.com/
- Green SWoRD, the Green Team and RecyclingWorks in MA will be tabling at:
  - Massachusetts Facility Administrators Association (MFAA) Conference on October 29 - https://massfacilities.com/events/save-the-date-mfaa-2025-fall-conference-october-28-29/
  - On wait list for Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) & Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.) on November 13 - https://www.masc.org/conference/
- **Recycle Smart MA Quizzes and Prizes**
  - Any student that completes the Recycle Smart MA Quizzes by America Recycles Day on November 15th will be eligible for a commemorative prize.
  - Recycle Smart MA Quizzes https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/thegreenteam.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=85eb7551e62534efa817b59a1&id=23dc531daa&e=e87a724a2c__;!!CPANwP4y!XN3JBK0Z4vdeWrw3stLfN7KVVQBfWBNPYPyE5OeA0ORImS2s4j5xV7FjaYfcwi_FaKMGhWblnFCJ1R8hIja0-u-r$
  - Feeling crunched for time? Consider asking your school's technology teacher if the quizzes could be completed during computer lab time or send the link in a family newsletter to complete at home.
  - Submit participation information here to receive prizes: https://forms.office.com/r/PYkSfbZJsP
- **Green SWoRD Google site:** https://sites.google.com/view/ma-greensword-wg/home
- **Green SWoRD Google group:** https://groups.google.com/g/ma-green-sword

Presentation

- **Marissa Perez-Dormitzer - Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District - 9:50 am (30 minutes)**
  - Presentation from the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District about their journey to implement waste reduction programs in New Bedford and Dartmouth schools. From recycling to food waste collection to reusable foodware and dishwashers – learn about their struggles and successes!

Workgroup Updates

We are looking to make some changes as to how Green SWoRD runs our meetings and working groups. To ensure that Green SWoRD is providing you the support that you need with your school waste reduction and diversion needs, we've put together this member questionnaire. Please take a few minutes to fill out this brief 10 question survey.

Statewide Solid Waste Reduction & Diversion Working Group - Green SWoRD

Green SWoRD Member Survey:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0iyuNFmd9HkLlMyP-XBYifaw3Wki-Yfm7HqecPpiPthxaIw/viewform?usp=dialog

We currently have 4 working groups that have done research and developed resources to support schools with implementing waste reduction measures. Your responses to the survey will help determine how our workgroups will function. If you're interested in participating in any workgroup, please email a workgroup leader. Their contact information is on the Green SWoRD Google site Meet the Team's page.

Meet the Team: https://sites.google.com/view/ma-greensword-wg/2025-meet-the-team

- **Institutionalizing School Waste Reduction & Diversion Policies - 10:20 am (5 minutes)**
  - Alison Beucler, Lead; Missy Hollenback, Support
  - Currently working on food waste systems review matrix
    - Recycling post covid - back to basics
    - Meeting monthly - good core group
  - Next meeting is October 30 at 10am

- **School Sustainability Program Kickoff & Events – Discussion 10:25 am (5 minutes)**
  - Irene Congdon, Lead; Micaela Guglielmi, Support
    - Fall ideas
    - Worcester Waste Characterization
  - Next meeting TBD

- **Transitioning from Single Use Disposable to Reusable Food Serviceware - Discussion & Presentation 10:30 (5 minutes)**
  - Leah Kelleher, Lead; Amber Schmidt, *Zero Waste Organizer ReThink Disposable MA*, Support
  - Merging organics group - Co-led by Todd Koep and Brian Walsh
  - School infrastructure questionnaire - go through superintendents of schools
    - The Reuse Subgroup has been polishing up our School Infrastructure Questionnaire and preparing to send it out to school superintendents, with the help of the Green Team. More to come once responses start rolling in.
  - Next meeting is every third Monday of the month at noon - November 17

Discussion Topic: Recycling in Elementary School Cafeterias 10:35 (20 minutes)

Closing 10:55 am (5 minutes)

- Recruit for all subgroups
  - Need new members for the new school year
- Next Meeting – January 14, 2026 at 9:30am
- Register here : https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/VhToTAMpSxqHsLD4EBt6Lw