# 2025 Meeting Notes

## June 16th, 2025 | Green SWoRD Reusables Meetings

Attendees: Amber Schmidt Wendy Millar-Page Claudine Ellyin Marissa Major Leah Kelleher Micaela Guglielmi Shara Ertel

Notes

Discussion

- How to Recruit More Members
  - Question to Group: Does it feel open enough?
    - Must be invited, cannot Google search the website
    - There is more participation in the Quarterly Meetings than in subgroups
  - Considering inviting someone to speak on our Reuse Subgroup calls and invite/promote through our networks
    - Is fall enough time to plan? - possibly an October date
    - Schools excelling in cafeteria reuse (Lexington, Walpole, Needham, others?)
      - Want to hear from diverse communities
  - Need to be more proactive in planning around the school year
    - Create a calendar of events for the 2025/2026 school year
  - Avenues for promoting Green SWoRD and specifically the Reuse Working Group
    - Green Team Newsletter
      - Get this newsletter to Superintendents, Food Services, Principals, etc.
    - Sustainable Materials Meetings
      - Find contacts to promote at these meetings

- Updates
  - Change to meeting day and time - Shara now has a conflict
    - Amber will send out a Doodle poll
      - Will keep it within the 3rd week of the month, Monday-Friday
  - Amherst
    - Building a new school
    - Interested in reducing plastics
    - Green SWoRD member: Ben Herrington
      - Leah will reach out
  - Newton
    - Renovating/building 4 schools
      - Currently, none are planning to install dishwashers for cafeteria reuse

- Webinar Idea: Why building schools with dishwashers is better/necessary
    - Cost less than renovations later
        - Building for the future - even if schools won't switch right away, they are prepared to do so
    - Audience:
        - Top-level decision makers in towns and schools
        - Invite MSBA
            - Leah will ask Gail
            - What would the impact of H529: School Dishwasher Bill have on MSBA funding for school cafeterias
        - CET on current waste bans
            - There is an issue that schools are not doing waste audits and could be non-compliant, but are unaware without correct stats

- School Infrastructure Questionnaire
    - MA DEP is looking to get a public link form to send
        - Outreach:
            - Newsletter
            - Superintendent list
            - Facility Director list
            - Piloting first with our relationships: soft launch and requesting feedback
                - Amber S
                    - Lexington
                    - Brookline
                    - Needham
                    - Arlington
                - Shara
                    - Newton
                - Wendy
                    - Winthrop
                    - Revere
                - Amber K
                    - Natick
                    - Wellesley

# May 19th, 2025 | Green SWoRD Reusables Meetings

Attendees: Amber Schmidt Wendy Millar-Page Claudine Ellyin Marissa Major Leah Kelleher Amber Keller Micaela Guglielmi

Notes

Discussion

- School Facility Questionnaire
    - Finalized the written directions to accompany the spreadsheet
        - Set a meeting with Claudine and Sonja on where/how to gather the information
            - Considering keeping info on MA DEP website - Sonja to ask about logistics
            - Discussed piloting the questionnaire to school officials with whom we already have good relationships
            - Want to get feedback on the length of time for a district to gather this information across multiple departments

- ReThink Disposable Updates
    - Lexington Schools Dishwasher Update: Dishwasher installation will be complete by July
    - Georgetown Public Schools launched reusable trays on June 9th for both Penn Brook Elementary and Georgetown Middle/High School

- Grant Opportunity
    - Chef Ann Foundation
        - Bulk Milk grants are available apply here (deadline June 26th)

- Dishwasher Required for Schools - Legislation Introduced
    - HB529 Sponsored by Rep Ciccolo
        - CHAPTER 111, SECTION 223 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after SUBSECTION (g), the following- “(h) The Massachusetts School Building Authority shall promulgate regulations requiring applicants for funding for construction of new schools or substantial renovations of school kitchens (1) to install dishwashers which will allow for the use of reusable foodware, (2) to adopt procedures and an enforcement plan for reducing solid waste, including recyclable materials and food scraps.”

# March 17th, 2025 and April 25th | Green SWoRD Reusables Meetings

Attendees: Amber Schmidt Wendy Millar-Page Sarah Vular Marissa Major Leah Kelleher Amber Keller Heather Billings Micaela Guglielmi Shara Ertel Ben Schleifer

Notes

Discussion

- School Facility Questionnaire

        - Both meetings focused on finalizing the information we want to gather in the questionnaire
        - Focus on Reusables, Food Diversion, and Recycling Accessibility
        - Will create an instructions document to accompany the questionnaire
        - Sarah will update the Google Survey to reflect the finalized questionnaire

- ReThink Disposable Updates
    - Bedford Case Study
        - https://cleanwater.org/case-study/bedford-public-schools-bedford-ma
    - Lexington Schools Dishwasher Update: Harrington Elementary School is moving forward with the installation of a new dishwasher for cafeteria reuse
    - Georgetown Public Schools received stainless-steel trays through a subsidy from Plastic Free Restaurants

# February 24th, 2025 | Green SWoRD Reusables Meeting

Attendees: Amber Schmidt Wendy Millar-Page Sarah Vular Marissa Major Leah Kelleher Amber Keller Heather Billings Micaela Guglielmi

Notes

Discussion

- MSBA Contact
    - Email sent to larger Green SWoRD member group for MSBA contact
        - No contact from group
        - MSBA Board of Directors: Contact Deborah Goldberg
        - Leah to follow up with MA DEP on contact procedure

- Local Updates
    - There will be a tour of Re.Dish Thursday, March 6th at 12pm at the Hyde Park facility
        - ➔ Register Here
    - Amber, Shara, members of Green Newton and the Newton SMMC attended a tour of 4 Newton Schools
        - Tours of Brookline, Arlington, and Lexington are being scheduled
    - MASS Teacher Resources has a Free Store which serves full-time classroom teachers at Public Title 1 Elementary Schools in 70 communities in Greater Boston

- Required Dishwasher Language for Schools

    - Lexington updated their INTEGRATED BUILDING DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION POLICY to require the installation of dishwashers for reuse
        - Model Language:
            - Dishwashers installed for all eating areas - All kitchen/food preparation areas within buildings should be designed for and include dishwashers appropriate to the size of the intended population it serves. This would include cafeterias and break rooms (anywhere food would be prepared or stored). There should also be enough space to store, clean and collect used reusable foodware for eating areas as well as good design to dispose of extra liquids and to separate food waste from other trash.

- School Infrastructure Questionnaire
    - We spent a good portion of the meeting discussing the information we want to gather from the school infrastructure questionnaire
        - Several people are duplicating the Template tab and will create alternate versions for review

Action Items

    - Confirm MSBA contact procedure
        - Leah will report back at next meeting
    - Complete draft of School Infrastructure Questionnaire by next meeting
        - To request a link to the draft spreadsheet email:
          aschmidt@cleanwater.org

# ARCHIVED Meeting Notes:

## Jul 13, 2022 | First Meeting of the MA Green SWoRD Reusables Working Group

Attendees: Eve Carey Gail Sowerder Garron Heather Billings Kathi Mirza Micaela Guglielmi Rachel Smith Samantha Salvatore Wendy Millar-Page

Notes

- Attendees

    - Only two munis were represented: Eve Carey - Sharon, Wendy Millar-Page - Winthrop
    - Other attendees were DEP and CET
    - We need more munis participating in this subgroup to take on the workload
- Reusables to consider
    - Dish Machines
    - Trays
    - Plates
    - Utensils
        - hard to wash, get thrown away
        - Use magnet top for trash can to grab utensils
    - Milk Dispenser
- Target Groups
    - Food Service Directors
    - School Chief Financial Officers
    - Facility Managers
    - Superintendents
    - Custodial Staff
    - Kitchen Staff
- How
    - Use Waste Ban Enforcement as a catalyst
    - Work with supply companies - Sodexo, Chartwell, Aramark - these are sometimes employees of school districts
    - Work with community activists - ex. Styrofoam ban will get rid of trays
    - Grants
        - Plastic Free Restaurants - subsidizes food trays for up to $5/item
        - MassDEP - RDP funding and Micro-Grant (rolling)
- Schools to use as examples
    - New Bedford
    - Framingham
    - Fitchburg
    - Lexington
    - Townsend
    - Palmer

Action items

- GSG to talk with MACs about schools that can set the example for Reuse
    - Get a school (or a few schools) to present at a meeting to get more people involved in Reusables Subgroup
    - Have a session on Reusables in Schools during RecyclePalooza
- ~~Reach out to DESE (MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education)~~
- ~~Green Team has a superintendent list - Rachel to look into~~
    - Consider sending out a survey with yearly email to collect data

# Dec 6, 2022 | Green SWoRD Reusables Subgroup Meeting

Attendees: Fritzie Nace Gail Sowerder Garron Heather Billings Kathi Mirza Micaela Guglielmi Rachel Smith Samantha Salvatore Wendy Millar-Page Heather Billings

Notes

Check Ins
winthrop

- Heather - CET
    - Assistance to school districts through Recycling Works
        - Recycling, composting, reusables
- Wendy - Winthrop
    - Looking for assistance to help in the schools
    - She has a champion in each school
    - Some resistance in cafeteria - they work with Black Earth
    - Airmark is their vendor
- Kathi - Boston
    - DESE contact at conference - DESE contact:  Nicole Good, School Wellness Specialist, W 781-338-6473, nicole.good@mass.gov
    - Micro grants
    - Shout outs to champions - custodial staff
- Fritzie
    - DPW composting pilot at elementary schools - 2 before covid
    - Facilities Director is starting up composting
        - Fritzie to assist
        - Starting back from scratch
        - Food services determines what trays get purchased
    - Reusables
        - Styrofoam trays are back in schools again
        - Custodian to decide whether they go in the trash
        - New school - wants to make it a full kitchen
- Rachel - manages Green Team

School Conferences

- DESE Contact - Wellness Champion - Nicole Good
    - Sends out a newsletter that we can contribute to
    - Survey to their audience
    - Have her speak at a meeting
- Statewide PTA contact
- Agawam, Franklin & Framingham have at least some schools using reusable trays

2023 Goals

- Don't have to buy it if it's already there - make admin look at reusables differently
- Getting assessment of reusables/bring Nicole in
- Newsletter blurb about micro-grants
- Superintendents and Business Admins newsletter
- Info by March 30 to get into school budgets
- Researching vendors in the area - with costs
    - Quality of reusable trays
    - Grant for Reusables
        - Plastic Free Restaurants
        - Rethink Disposable
    - Dishwasher costs
- Get them on OSD pricing/state contracts
- Reach out to current schools
    - Wellesley, New Bedford, Framingham, Agawam, Franklin
    - CET is talking to New Bedford for Green Team special project

Action items

- ~~Kathi to reach out to Nicole~~
- Fritzie to reach out to Food Service Directors in Agawam, Franklin & Framingham
    - Invite them to a reusables meeting, possibly MassRecycle Conference
- For Earth Day - Earth Week - All reusables - Wendy
    - Work with our Events subgroup

- Next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2023 at 9:30am

# Jan 17, 2023 | Green SWoRD Reusables Meeting

School Waste Reduction and Diversion - Green SWoRD Google Site
https://sites.google.com/beverlyma.gov/k-12-waste-reduction-diversion/home

Attendees: Eve Carey Gail Sowerder Garron Heather Billings Kevin Dawson Micaela Guglielmi Nicole Good Rachel Smith Samantha Salvatore Brooke Nash
Matthew DeMarrais - Needham - New Superintendent at Transfer Station
Andy Costello - Medfield Recycling Committee
Janice Pare - MassDEP MAC NE1
Ben Schleifer - Center for Environmental Health (CEH)

Notes

Guests:

- Nicole Good - School Wellness Specialist, School Nutrition Office, Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE)
- Kevin Dawson - Farm to School Coordinator, School Nutrition Office, DESE
- Ben Schleifer - Food Program Coordinator, Center for Environmental Health (CEH)

Introductions & Check Ins

- Eve Carey - Sharon
    - Using reusable plates
    - Connected Special Education program with the Food Service Team and the students are going to start washing dishes as part of their vocational training
- NEW - Matthew DeMarrais - Needham
    - Compostables go to Agricycle - Digestor in Maine - expensive
- NEW - Andy Costello - Medfield
    - Recycling Committee is interested in seeing program out there to learn

Nicole & Kevin - School Nutrition Office, DESE

- Schools transitioned to grab & go method during Covid
- Back to National Food Service Program
- Free lunches again
- Schools are still using plastics
    - Need to reach more schools
- Kevin brought in for issues around recycling
- They want to go back to normal school meals before Covid
- There has been an increase in tonnage
- Monthly newsletter
    - Food service managers, etc
    - Food tonnage
    - Put information for Green SWoRD into newsletters
- Commissioners weekly update
- Surveys
    - Survey with schools that have dishwashers
- Share success stories

Ben - CEH

- Invite folks from facilities to Green SWoRD Meetings - they oversee custodial staff
- Reusables
    - Emeryville Reusable Slide deck https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1LarT6-ft8RC3isH-crzRRYAoYmqbZkmh5AXRMv40Sx8/edit?usp=sharing
    - Pictures of Reusable roll out at Bay Farm https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1uZsqshs6mIBy0hrxgrfEn6goa8T6qV9a2_N7ksFUV-o/edit?usp=sharing

    - CEH Ditching Disposables Toolkit https://ceh.foleon.com/ceh/ditching-disposables-toolkit/
- Dish machine
    - Survey from Washington State
    - Washington Workgroup for Sustainable School Cafeterias - Cafeteria Survey: Facilitated by ZeroWasteWashington.org https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1f7KCpBG3_ixWU5Y8OWSUnd111Zy4HTxHJzYomWtH85o/edit
    - Labor piece is big - increasing hours is not that easy to do
    - Dish machines - hard to use
        - Free dish machine maintenance - Eco Lab - when you use their detergent
- Stainless steel - can get grants
    - Plastic Free Restaurants Flyer https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f42ad4952c37e122281f800/t/621409a0ea080754b0ee2398/1645480352739/Schoolflyer.pdf
- PFAS embedded in some compostable trays
    - CEH Webinar: GreenScreen Certified™: PFAS-free and Preferred Food Service Ware https://ceh.org/webinar-greenscreen-certified-pfas-free-and-safer-food-service-ware/
    - Safer States Bill Tracker https://www.saferstates.org/bill-tracker/
- Alternative to styrofoam containers
    - Polystyrene Fact Sheet https://ceh.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Polystyrene-Factsheet.pdf
    - PFAS (forever chemical) free compostable container
    - Ben will share list of products - 75% had PFAS
        - CEH Single-Use Foodware Public Database 12-15-2021 https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sNwuTxMwNMKfLo0B033OblXQzkja5nJwv_MNSEcr6HM/edit?usp=sharing
        - Starting to see shifts
    - Paper food boats with wax coating
        - 3 lb food boat
    - Plastic reusable plastic basket with liner
    - Supply chain is a major issue
        - Vendors for paper goods restrict how much schools can get
        - Reusables remove that issue
        - Linen service as an alternative
- Milk dispensers - most cost effective
    - Children only take the quantity of milk they want
    - Milk is colder
    - School of 500 can save $7,000/yr
    - Dual stream milk dispenser - Gives 2 milk options as required
        - different fat levels, chocolate, plant based milk
        - $3,500 per dispenser

        - needs to be plugged in
        - give them a cup first
        - Water refill stations aren't always nearby
    - Silver King SKMAJ2-ESUS4 12 gal Refrigerated Milk Dispenser https://www.katom.com/086-SKMAJ2ESUS4.html?gclid=Cj0KCQiAn4SeBhCwARIsANeF9DIgi37BG6VArA6MRdMAPxnshnRPUa2W3d0oZhRwNY_7fNQY4dJMZt0aAoO2EALw_wcB
    - Novato Unified K-12 Milk Dispenser Cost Analysis With Reusables Food Ware Verison 2.0 https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Dvv2dAVha81c6NjDoNsOfRGr7_S22xFxAjf7m02n_sc/edit?usp=sharing
- MassDEP microgrants - up to $5k
    - Apply for a MassDEP Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-massdep-reduce-reuse-repair-micro-grant
    - Milk dispenser & electrical work, water filling stations
- Local dairies
    - Hood, Garelic Farms
    - Bag in Boxes (BIB)
    - Contact Dairies and see if they are willing to do it
    - I BIB per day - 5 gallon - 300 meals per day - 500 students
    - Cooperative buying agreements among schools for milk?
        - State contract - Garelick Farms - start with them? BIB
        - Sudexco, Chartwells, Earmark
            - Milk in blanket contract
    - Trays specific to carry milk
        - Milk goes in middle due to weight
- Share tables - Food Share Table and Donation Guides for Schools https://www.stopwaste.org/at-school/resources/food-share-table-and-donation-guides-for-schools
    - Relatively easy to start with a share table
    - Each school district deals with their own BOH
    - DESE checks for authorization on file
    - Try to make it formal across district
        - Signage
        - On wheels
        - Chill pack for milk
        - Staff education
        - Put systems in place for what to do with leftover food
            - Donate to local food bank

RESOURCES

Ben Schleifer, CEH

- Emeryville Reusable Slide deck
  https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1LarT6-ft8RC3isH-crzRRYAoYmqbZkmh5AXRMv40Sx8/edit?usp=sharing
- Pictures of Reusable roll out at Bay Farm
  https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1uZsqshs6mIBy0hrxgrfEn6goa8T6qV9a2_N7ksFUV-o/edit?usp=sharing
- Washington Workgroup for Sustainable School Cafeterias - Cafeteria Survey: Facilitated by ZeroWasteWashington.org
  https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1f7KCpBG3_ixWU5Y8OWSUnd111Zy4HTxHJzYomWtH85o/edit
- CEH Ditching Disposables Toolkit
  https://ceh.foleon.com/ceh/ditching-disposables-toolkit/
- Plastic Free Restaurants Flyer
  https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f42ad4952c37e122281f800/t/621409a0ea080754b0ee2398/1645480352739/Schoolflyer.pdf
- Food Share Table and Donation Guides for Schools
  https://www.stopwaste.org/at-school/resources/food-share-table-and-donation-guides-for-schools
- CEH Webinar: GreenScreen Certified™: PFAS-free and Preferred Food Service Ware
  https://ceh.org/webinar-greenscreen-certified-pfas-free-and-safer-food-service-ware/
- Safer States Bill Tracker
  https://www.saferstates.org/bill-tracker/FilterBills
- CEH Single-Use Foodware Public Database 12-15-2021
  https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sNwuTxMwNMKfLo0B033OblXQzkja5nJwv_MNSEcr6HM/edit?usp=sharing
- Silver King SKMAJ2-ESUS4 12 gal Refrigerated Milk Dispenser
  https://www.katom.com/086-SKMAJ2ESUS4.html?gclid=Cj0KCQiAn4SeBhCwARIsANeF9DIgi37BG6VArA6MRdMAPxnshnRPUa2W3d0oZhRwNY_7fNQY4dJMZt0aAoO2EALw_wcB
- Novato Unified K-12 Milk Dispenser Cost Analysis With Reusables Food Ware Verison 2.0
  https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Dvv2dAVha81c6NjDoNsOfRGr7_S22xFxAjf7m02n_sc/edit?usp=sharing
- Polystyrene Fact Sheet
  https://ceh.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Polystyrene-Factsheet.pdf

Brooke Nash

- Apply for a MassDEP Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant
  https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-massdep-reduce-reuse-repair-micro-grant

Gail Sowerder Garron

- MA School Waste Reduction and Diversion Working Group - Green SWoRD Google Site https://sites.google.com/beverlyma.gov/k-12-waste-reduction-diversion/home

Action items

- Fritzie to reach out to Food Service Directors in Agawam, Franklin, Framingham, South Hadley
    - Invite them to a reusables meeting, possibly MassRecycle Conference
- ~~For Earth Day - Earth Week - All reusables - Wendy~~
    - ~~Work with our Events subgroup~~
- Continue conversions with DESE
    - Get info into newsletter
    - Contact Statewide PTA contact
    - Reusables Data?
        - Dishwashers
    - Survey?
- ~~Gail to update Green SWoRD Google site with resources~~
- ~~Next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2023 at 11am~~

# Mar 9, 2023 | Green SWoRD Reusables Subgroup Meeting

Attendees: Andy Costello Fritzie Nace Gail Sowerder Garron Heather Billings Kathi Mirza Micaela Guglielmi Rachel Smith Sonya Williams Wendy Millar-Page

Check Ins

- Andy - Medfield
    - Started conversation about dishwashers in schools
    - Working on RDP
    - New school being built - include dishwasher
- Wendy - Winthrop
    - No one will meet with Wendy regarding Black Earth composting at schools
    - Push back about reusable water bottles
        - alternative containers for water
- Fritzie - Winchester
    - Contact with Superintendent with rebuild of existing elementary school
        - Looking at working kitchen
        - Hadn't considered reusable trays
    - Meeting with group of parents in different elementary schools about Green Teams
        - Using styrofoam trays again
        - Cardboard trays difficult due to supply chain

- Rachel - MassDEP
    - Reached out to OSD about having reusables on State Contract
        - Dishwashers GRO40
        - Cafeteria supplies (paper and compostable only on it currently) GRO40
        - Milk Dispensers - not on state contract
            - Bag in a Box (BIB) not on dairy contract
    - Will have follow up call next week
- Kathi - MassDEP
    - When building new schools:
        - CHPS or LEED standards
            - Get in contact with Facilities Director and Food Services Director
        - Deconstruction and Reuse

Action items

- DESE Newsletter
    - Food Waste information - Gail
    - Locker/Desk Cleanout - Wendy
        - Focus on one thing at a time
        - Share table for school supplies
        - Lost and found
    - Updated food code and share table guidance - Gail
- Fritzie to reach out to Food Service Directors/Facility Maintenance Managers - Fritzie in Agawam, Franklin & Framingham
    - Fritzie to ask on Google Group
    - Invite them to a reusables meeting, possibly MassRecycle Conference
    - Aermark, Witsons, Sedexo
- For Earth Day - Earth Week - All reusables - Wendy
    - Work with our Events subgroup
    - Golden Lunch Box Award - least waste - put in parent newsletter
    - PTA sold Lunch Skins
    - Green Team website - video on reusables
    - Survey Monkey that classroom can do together
        - To see where they are - teachers and students
        - Include link in Newsletters, DESE, Green Team
- Next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2023 at 11am

## Apr 11, 2023 | Green SWoRD Reusables Subgroup Meeting

Attendees: Andy Costello Ben Schleifer Eve Carey Fritzie Nace Gail Sowerder Garron Heather Billings Kathi Mirza Matthew DeMarrais Micaela Guglielmi Nicole Whitten Patricia Fabbri Rachel Smith Sonya Williams Wendy Millar-Page Samantha Salvatore

Check Ins

- Sonja - CET
    - New Bedford Public Schools
        - Transitioning from Styrofoam to reusables
        - Will do case study
- Andy - Medfield
    - Paper bags from stores
        - Green Team 5th grade teacher
        - Shaw's - gave bags, offered money and food
        - Entire class, not just club participated
        - 75  bags
    - Schools all have bins - still issues post covid
        - No reusables
        - Energy Committee is looking into things
            - Pushing for dishwashers
- Fritzie - Winchester
    - Business Manager for School District about School recycling policy being upgraded to school waste reduction policy
        - New school being built
            - New kitchen - dishwasher - reusable trays
            - Info gathering stage
    - School committee's policy subgroup
        - Interest in moving toward reusables
        - Big transition to get dishwashers
    - Recycle-MA Google group
        - Asked about reusables
        - 2 more respondents
- Kathi - MassDEP
    - New Bedford - get video clips of Facility Directors saying how easy it is!
        - Mayor is forward thinking
        - EJ community
        - Many reasons to showcase
    - Reduce and Reuse Action Plan
        - Target single use plastics and reusable plastic serviceware
            - Met with DPH
            - Will be starting stakeholder listening sessions across state
            - Understanding and obstacles
    - Case study schools
        - Share information at schools
        - Celebration assembly as best practice
- Ben - CEH - ben@ceh.org
    - Compostables trays have PFAS in them
    - Plastic Free Restaurants
        - Up to $5 per item for stainless steel

                - $1 for some plastic trays
            - 16,000 metal trays
                - Mobile dish machines
            - April 17 launch
            - UC Berkley study
                - Students eat more off of reusables
                - Less food waste
    - Ben can donate school interns for case studies
    - Toolkit
    - Tray questions can go to Ben
    - Director - ask about Dish machine audit
    - 3rd party washing
        - 2 sets of dishes
            - Dirty & clean
            - 3rd party comes in after hours -
                - Picks up dirties and drops off cleans
            - Doing for lunch only
        - Dish Joy, Re-dish
            - $0.25/meal
            - https://www.redish.com/  Plastic-based, but also offer a washing service.
- Pat Fabbri - Lynnfield
    - Plastic Free Restaurants
        - Go full reusable - paid for almost everything
            - Stainless steel trays and utensils for all the schools
            - Students recommended - school committee receptive - students moved on
        - Free lunch situation is a roadblock
            - Too much work to do
                - Consider Share Table https://thegreenteam.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Share-Table-Guidance.pdf (up against 20 minute lunch) and Foodlink to pick up extra food
                    - Girl Scout troop to run
            - Trouble getting staff to do the washing
                - 3rd party washing is of interest
        - For profit cafeteria
            - Winchester - Witson's
        - Using styrofoam for to go meals - cheaper

- Ben
    - Milk - small school will save about $5k/year with a milk dispenser
        - Give them a cup - students choose type of milk or water

        - Less carton waste
        - Give students better quality milk
        - CEH will be hosting a webinar
        - Money saved can provide money to wash the dishes
        - Recess before lunch - play before they eat - more hungry - less waste
            - 30% food waste reduction
            - Report coming out of washington state
    - Avoid saying “plastic free”
        - Less packaging, plastic light
        - Makes it easier to accept
    - Condiment packets - $0.01/packet
        - Squeeze bottles are the way to go
        - Purchasing prefilled condiments are too big for younger students
        - High school students have condiment flavor station

https://recyclingworksma.com/how-to/recyclingworks-technical-assistance/
https://thegreenteam.org/recycling-facts/food-waste-reduction/#:~:text=School%20Cafeteria%20Discards,items%20with%20classmates

Action items

- DESE Newsletter
    - Food Waste information - Gail
    - ~~Locker/Desk Cleanout - Wendy~~
        - ~~Focus on one thing at a time~~
        - ~~Share table for school supplies~~
        - ~~Lost and found~~
    - Updated food code and share table guidance - Gail
- Fritzie to reach out to Food Service Directors/Facility Maintenance Managers - Fritzie in Agawam, Franklin & Framingham
    - ~~Fritzie to ask on Google Group~~
    - Invite them to a reusables meeting, possibly MassRecycle Conference
    - Aermark, Witsons, Sedexo
- For Earth Day - Earth Week - All reusables - Wendy
    - ~~Work with our Events subgroup~~
    - Golden Lunch Box Award - least waste - put in parent newsletter
    - PTA sold Lunch Skins
    - Green Team website - video on reusables
    - Survey Monkey that classroom can do together
        - To see where they are - teachers and students
        - Include link in Newsletters, DESE, Green Team
- Next meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2023 at 11am

# May 30, 2023 | Green SWoRD Reusables Working Group Meeting

Attendees: Ben Schleifer Eve Carey Gail Sowerder Garron Kathi Mirza Micaela Guglielmi Rachel Smith Sonya Williams Wendy Millar-Page

Notes

Check Ins

- Eve - Sharon
    - Reusable plates - Plastic Free Restaurants
    - High School - audit - students don't know plates are there
        - Some were in trash
        - Need to publicize and educate
        - Looking for funds
        - ORCA
            - Food waste into a machine - get's into wastewater - $23K - $100K machine - could get with grant funding
        - Trying to get Share Tables started up
        - Audit - less food waste than they thought
            - 23 lbs from 3 lunches at high school
            - Some students were away on field trip
        - Started food waste table
            - Kids were taking food

- Ben - CEH
    - Recommended morning announcements to Eve
    - Worked with 2 schools in last month
        - Will get baseline data
        - Kids will eat more food off of reusables
        - 1.5 years out
    - 10 schools next school year

- Sonja - Recycling Works
    - Best Practices sheet

- Wendy - Winthrop
    - Having issues with cardboard boxes in trash
    - Working with high school environmental science teacher
        - Hoping to form Green Team

- Kathi Mirza - MassDEP
    - Framingham - used threat of waste ban violation to get them to recycle right
    - Got letter from recycling facility
    - Got School Recycling Coordinator
    - Set up system for moving materials with custodial staff - shutes
    - SMRP Grant - RDP grant
        - New - dishwashers and reusable dishware
            - 1 school - 1 pt
            - Majority or more - 2 pts
- Micaela - MassDEP - listening in
- Rachel - MassDEP
    - Promoting reusables on State Contract
        - Met with OSD - GRO40
            - Paper & compostable products
            - Eager to get reusable products on state contract
                - Still in scope
                - MassDEP needs to be specific in what we're asking for
                    - Specific list of types of reusable products were looking for
                        - Include specs
            - Make sure schools know that they can buy off state contract
            - Need specs for BIB

Resources to focus on

- Spreadsheets with grant info with all details - deadlines, requirements, etc.
- Webinar on applying for grants - education on how to do that - look at chatbot
- Directors timeframe - find out as best practice
    - September & October - directors are bogged down
    - November & December - breathing room
    - End of year - checked out
    - Choose timing right
    - Now - get into nutrition director staff meetings
        - Mid July is planning time
- Show that it's happening somewhere else
    - Spreadsheet - include munis
    - Get munis to speak/grant support
    - Green Team - platform to share reusables info
        - Newsletter
        - August Superintendents and Principals
        - Monthly - newsletter to school contacts
        - Include survey monkey link
            - DESE - healthier programs
        - Zero Waste Washington
            - Sends surveys out to all directors in state
            - 22 responses

            - Dishwashing and dish machines
        - Mass School nutrition Association (SNA)
            - Not very active - do have calendar of events
        - Lunch Assist
            - Progressive lunch helpers
                - composting

Action items

- Fritzie update
- DESE Newsletter
- Highlight - New Bedford - no styrofoam trays
- Ben - Milk Dispenser presentation - toxic foodware in case for reusables
    - 15 minutes for milk
    - Ben to present August 2
- Next meeting July 18 at 11am

11:09:08 From Sonja Williams to Everyone:
Share table guidance... in case it's helpful - https://thegreenteam.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Share-Table-Guidance.pdf
11:09:27 From Ben Schleifer (he, him)/ CEH to Everyone:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1B3SwVcU2GOydzfB2dv55RQZhllGlcxlUzbcgFJBwWv8/edit?usp=sharing
11:09:39 From Sonja Williams to Everyone:
(that guidance doc was created pre covid times)
11:13:26 From Ben Schleifer (he, him)/ CEH to Everyone:
We are here to support! Banshees support group!
11:16:35 From Eve Carey - Town of Sharon to Everyone:
Framingham is actually hiring a new Recycling Coordinator right now
11:16:55 From Ben Schleifer (he, him)/ CEH to Everyone:
Can we get a link in the chat?
11:17:40 From Eve Carey - Town of Sharon to Everyone:
for which information?
11:18:04 From Kathi Mirza to Everyone:
https://www.mass.gov/doc/details-recycling-dividends-program/download
11:19:52 From Ben Schleifer (he, him)/ CEH to Everyone:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kZAIxQb6XrtgT9OAyziBFiV2v8UaDE8p_4Id2JVHR9U/edit?usp=sharing
11:22:16 From Rachel Smith to Everyone:
Thank you for this spreadsheet!
11:23:48 From Sonja Williams to Everyone:
https://www.thelunchbox.org/fresh-food-initiatives/apply-for-a-grant/bulk-milk
11:24:20 From Eve Carey - Town of Sharon to Everyone:
PFR only subsidizes plastic items $1/unit as opposed to $5/unit for metal btw

11:24:32 From Rachel Smith to Everyone:
Reacted to "PFR only subsidizes ..." with 👍
11:24:39 From Sonja Williams to Everyone:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BBcA5yKrSGigX3iol2XEhg#/registration
11:24:46 From Sonja Williams to Everyone:
Is this the same one, Ben?
11:26:57 From Ben Schleifer (he, him)/ CEH to Everyone:
Same one Sonja!
11:27:02 From Ben Schleifer (he, him)/ CEH to Everyone:
Thanks!
11:28:47 From Ben Schleifer (he, him)/ CEH to Everyone:
applying for grants is a good use for chatbot too!
11:45:33 From Ben Schleifer (he, him)/ CEH to Everyone:
https://www.lunchassist.org/
11:45:41 From Ben Schleifer (he, him)/ CEH to Everyone:
https://www.schoolnutrition.info/
11:46:49 From Rachel Smith to Everyone:
We should link to the GT winners press release in the newsletter as well.
Cross-promotion.
11:47:02 From Kathi Mirza to Everyone:
Reacted to "We should link to th..." with 👍
11:47:15 From Rachel Smith to Everyone:

https://www.mass.gov/news/state-environmental-officials-announce-student-and-school-recipients-of-green-team-awards-0
11:47:27 From Kathi Mirza to Everyone:
Reacted to "Framingham is actual..." with 👍
11:48:07 From Rachel Smith to Everyone:
By June 30
11:51:46 From Micaela Guglielmi, MassDEP to Everyone:
have to hop off a little early, great to listen in, you're all doing such awesome work!

# May 23, 2024 | Green SWoRD Reusables Working Group Meeting

Attendees: Amber Schmidt Ben Schleifer Shara Ertel Patricia Fabbri Fritzie Nace Micaela Guglielmi Sonja Williams Wendy Millar-Page

Notes

Check Ins

- Meet and Greet New 2024 Reuse Working Group Members

- Follow up on previous meetings
    - 2014 Dishwasher Inventory Document - needs updating
    - List of grants for dishwashers - needs updating
        - SMRP Municipal Grant, RDP Funds, Federal grants
    - Plastic Free Restaurant subsidy requirements
        - Will pay 100% of cost to switch from plastic (petroleum-based) to non-plastic
        - Will pay 100% of cost to switch from compostables that contain PFAS chemicals
            - Currently no Statewide ban on PFAS in food packaging
            - Is easier to prove the absence of PFAS than to prove PFAS in compostable food ware
            - Most schools using compostable food ware are purchasing BPI-certified and/or PFAS free items
        - Must be from Preferred Vendor list (i.e. Green Screen Certified or independently tested to the same standards)
        - Cannot have any town, municipal, or state law requiring reuse or banning items (e.g. No school in a town that has banned expanded polystyrene can qualify for PFR subsidy to replace Styrofoam trays)

- How to talk about reuse
    - Best when children/students are advocates - health and plastics, environment and climate change
    - Creating a step-by-step process
        - Small implementations first
        - Switching to bulk condiments/milk
        - Incorporating into composting programs with Green Teams and schools
        - Collecting data around trash/waste reduction and GHG emissions
        - Why food ware should not be considered dangerous
            - Books, scissors, cell phones and other items are not lumped into this same ‘dangerous’ category
            - Adults set the tone for how reusables are used and beneficial

- Getting dishwashers into new and renovated schools
    - CT legislation (line 297) around a full net-zero school could be used as and example to require dishwashers for cafeteria reuse (CT bill only passed one chamber)
    - Could DEP or MSBA require dishwasher installation for reuse at schools?

Next steps to focus on

- Spreadsheets with grant info with all details - deadlines, requirements, etc.
- Updating 2014 dishwasher inventory

    - Reach out to municipalities for updated inventory
    - Seek out schools using reusables as case studies/ best practices

## June 17, 2024 | Green SWoRD Reusables Working Group Meeting

Attendees: Amber Schmidt Micaela Guglielmi Sonja Williams Leah Kelleher Lin Jensen

Notes

Discussion

- MSBA
    - Can MSBA require dishwashers for cafeteria reuse in new/renovated school construction
    - Language needed to specify cafeteria reuse vs pots & pans dishwashers
    - Currently there is a list of requirements to seek state funding for construction
        - What are those requirements?
        - How difficult would it be to add dishwashers?
        - Requirement vs Incentive - which is more feasible
            - Build language around requirement for dishwasher for reuse
            - Incentivize incorporating dishwasher installation in blueprints with added state funds
    - What are the reasons dishwashers are not first recommendations in school construction?
        - Labor, storage, space? - Reach out to learn more
- MA RDP's
    - Some difficulty in identifying which districts feel that RDP funds should be used for dishwasher installation vs capital expenditure that falls on the school or town
    - Is the RDP point system for dishwasher use reflective of priorities
        - 1-2 points for towns that have schools utilizing dishwashers at schools
        - Are those points based on cafeteria reuse or back of house reuse (pots/pans/kitchen items)
        - Could we restructure the point system to incentivize dishwasher installation - Question follow up with DEP
    - Newly built schools without infrastructure to install dishwashers
        - Companies are looking to build industrial 3rd party wash hubs in MA
        - Potentially Needham looking to partner with a wash hub?
        - In the future, could RDP funds be used for the startup of contracts with wash hubs to sanitize and distribute reusable food ware?
- Action Items

    - Delegate a point of contact to reach out for updated dishwasher inventory - will create a template email
        - Find success stories and ask to present and share experience
    - Look into MSBA requirements for state funding and point of contact to discuss possibility to establish dishwasher installation incentives
        - Could MA or DEP help with cost
        - How to engage stakeholders before blueprints are finalized
            - Presentations on cost-savings and waste-reduction
            - GHG emission reductions
            - Meeting state goals for reuse and reduction
    - Build upon MA state grant funds spreadsheet - include federal and municipal grants
        - Could reuse be considered in food waste diversion grants (e.g. if a school switched to reusable cups and bulk milk, would the elimination of milk cartons and trash of those items qualify for food waste diversion from landfills/incinerators?
        - How to message reuse as a climate priority for grants

## July 15, 2024 | Green SWoRD Reusables Working Group Meeting

Attendees: Amber Schmidt Micaela Guglielmi Sonja Williams Leah Kelleher Shara Ertel Ken Stone Wendy Millar-Page Sarah Vular

Notes

Discussion

- Re.Dish
    - Re.Dish is a reusable container/food ware wash hub currently located in Brooklyn New York and Philadelphia Pennsylvania
    - Re.Dish applied for a MA DEP Reuse Business Grant
    - Confirmed that Re.Dish will be opening an industrial wash hub around the Boston area opening in October this year and servicing approximately 50 miles around the facility
        - Needham and Winchester are working with Re.Dish to sanitize reusable trays for schools
        - Having this wash hub can allow schools without dishwashing capacity and/or infrastructure issues to transition to reusables without need for labor or storage
        - Will the MA DEP Micro Grant be eligible to help with costs for start up service?
            - Likely yes, but need to confirm

            - If yes, we should develop strategies on communicating this to schools
- Obstacles schools face:
    - Dishwashers
        - Funding
        - Space
        - Electrical and plumbing
    - Drying capacity - both space and time to dry
        - Schools with multiple lunch waves find it difficult to have dry trays available and often switch back to single-use disposables after the second lunch wave
        - Suggested that schools purchase enough trays and utensils to provide for all meals served, not just the largest lunch wave
    - Finding good sources for racks and shelves
        - Drying racks with wheels, collapsible racks, and other space saving options
    - Labor
- Food and Reusable Health Standards
    - Do schools follow the same health standards as restaurants?
    - Do schools follow State or Local health standards?
    - Who regulates food in school?
    - Can a fan be used to help dry trays?
    - Can trays be left to dry overnight?

Action Items

    - Edit and finalize draft email to schools for updated inventory information on dishwashers and reusables
        - Amber will develop a list of potential contacts
        - Amber is updating the Excel Spreadsheet for each region
        - Need to finalize questions for the Google Survey
    - Edit and finalize draft email to MSBA with questions on dishwasher incentives and state funding and questions on health standards
        - Amber will send the finalized email
    - Creating a reuse in schools playbook
        - Compile information on best options for storage, drying, trays, utensils, etc.
        - Start to draft an outline on how to guide

## September 16, 2024 | Green SWoRD Reusables Working Group Meeting

Attendees: Amber Schmidt Shara Ertel Wendy Millar-Page Sarah Vular Ben Schleifer Micaela Guglielmi Sonja Williams Leah Kelleher

Notes

Discussion

- Letters to Principals and MSBA
  - Finalizing language by the next meeting
  - Determining who is the best person to contact at MSBA
  - Look into Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as another avenue to promote/require reusables
  - Considering including school committees in recipients of drafted letter
- Re.Dish
  - Potential to promote the launch
    - Is this a cost-savings for schools? $0.40/meal service to wash
  - Clarification on ability for MA DEP to promote from Green SWoRD
    - Ability to have a Re.Dish representative give presentation to Reuse Working Group
  - Identifying who to promote Re.Dish launch
    - List Serves
    - Reduce and Reuse Workshop
    - School Green Teams
    - Climate Resilient Schools Coalition
- Ben is working with Sen Booker on federal funding for dishwashers
  - Based on successful legislation in California which provided $15 million in grants to schools for the purchase and installation of dishwashers for cafeteria reuse
- Food and Reusable Health Standards
  - Do schools follow the same health standards as restaurants?
    - Shara confirmed that schools do follow the same health codes as restaurants
  - Do schools follow State or Local health standards?
    - Same a restaurant – Local health standards which can vary and be stricter than state health standards
  - Still looking into:
    - Who regulates food in school?
    - Can a fan be used to help dry trays?
    - Can trays be left to dry overnight?

Action Items

- Get approval on letters
  - Amber will develop a list of potential contacts
  - Amber is updating the Excel Spreadsheet for each region
  - Need to finalize questions for the Google Survey
- Creating a reuse in schools playbook
  - Compile information on best options for storage, drying, trays, utensils, etc.
  - Reach out to Department of Health in communities where reusables are being used in schools for their best practices

    - Start to draft an outline on how to guide

## October 24, 2024 | Green SWoRD Reusables Working Group Meeting

Attendees: Amber Schmidt Shara Ertel Wendy Millar-Page Sarah Vular Ben Schleifer Marissa Major

Notes

Discussion

- Plastic Free Lunch Day – November 18-22
    - Program of Cafeteria Culture
        - Information and resources online here
            - Free screening link to the Microplastics Madness movie Oct-Nov and March-April
    - Promote on Green SWoRD
        - Draft and send email to member list
- Re.Dish
    - Need to determine their service area
    - Shara will connect with the food department at Needham to discuss their transition to reusables using Re.Dish as the washing facility and Revolusation as the foodware manufacturer
        - Interested in learning whether the town used RDP or SMRP funds for this transition
- Foodware Providers
    - Best practices handbook should reflect GreenScreen Certification as a standard for safety
        - WeReuse and Ahimsa are currently GSC, Revolusation is in the process of GSC
    - Need to review OSD Purchasing List
        - Confirm or notify reusable providers
- Cross-workgroup collaboration
    - Interested in connecting with the policy sub-group on best language and a sample for a school food vendor sustainability position

        - Several schools are incorporating/requiring food vendors to have a sustainability manager for food service, but language can be vague as to the scope of work and measurable progress
    - Interested in policy sub-group working on a bill similar to California's designating money to schools for dishwashers
- Potential sub-group speakers
    - Getting clarification/guidance on how not to promote for-profit entities but still hear about the available options and opportunities
    - Representative from Re.Dish
    - Foodware providers
        - Revolusation
        - Ahimsa
        - WeReuse
    - Ben Schleifer on CA dishwashing bill
        - Share successes and data on schools using these funds for dishwasher installation
        - Can this be replicable in MA?
        - Updates on moving towards getting a federal bill

Action Items

- Letters
    - Deciding to wait until next meeting for maximum attendees to do final review of letter to the principals
        - Can this data be collected from the municipal surveys done for RDP each year?
        - How to limit excess emails/questions for school administrators
        - Can we access this information from previous years to begin the compilation?
    - Next meeting we will decide what is the best method for reaching out to the MSBA
        - Virtual meeting with sub-group preferred
        - Unsure of responsiveness through email
    - Need to finalize questions for the Google Survey
- Survey on meeting time
    - With 2025 approaching, we are considering changes to the time and/or day of our monthly meeting to gain the most attendance