

NH Network Plastics Working Group (PWG) #28
Sunday, September 25, 2022, 6 pm

Next Meeting: Sunday, October 9, 2022, 6 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 627 560 9302

Passcode: garden

[Plastics Working Group Slide Deck Link](#)

[Ten TownNHEEC Plastics Work Groups Toolkit Slide Deck Link](#)

[Ten Towns Toolkit website Link](#)

[PWG Facilitator Schedule](#)

[PWG Visioning Workshop](#)

[Ten Towns Ten Actions Promotion Pieces](#)

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

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

Attending:

Cynthia Walter, Susan Richman, Cindy Heath, Reb MacKenzie, Ann Podlidny, Kristine Baber, Peggy Longley, Christina Dubin (Beyond Plastics), Kennedy McGrath, Bonnie Christie, Carol Sullivan, Rep. Sherry Dutzy, Dan Xie (SPIRG)

Agenda/Discussion:

- **Welcome and Land Acknowledgment (Reb)**
- **First Year Celebration Date - [October 15, Castle in the Clouds](#) (LINK TO DETAILS)**
 - 9-11 am Potluck and optional hike afterwards (see Kristine) – Spouses/partners are welcome too
- **Community Updates from Ten Towns, Ten Actions Leaders & Attendees (Reb)**
 - Claremont – Reb – Anti-litter Task Force - Tabling planned for Oct 1 Chili Cook Off
 - Durham – Susan
 - Skill development events (e.g., LTE writing) for election – see email invite
 - Oct 1. Energy Expo –Bow NH tabling & presentation re NH Network and PWG
 - Durham solid waste committee beginning to consider plastics problems
 - UNH Sustainability Fellow idea - Susan will talk with Cynthia W
 - Cornish/Lebanon – Cindy H.
 - Restaurant Project – Sustainable Lebanon is interested along with Reb
 - Foam collection in Lebanon Oct 29, Hanover planning one post holidays
 - Lebanon Coop (75 yr. old group of 4 stores) – After 1 year of discussion with Cindy and others, management voted for the first time to have 4 goals to reduce environmental impacts. Now stores will choose which actions to begin, e.g., reduce plastic packaging, reduce SUP bags
 - Sustainability Leaders Circle Grant – NH Health Workers for Climate Action will handle funds from grants and donations, e.g., anonymous \$300 just received. Anonymous donors will support Kennedy's attendance

- Dover – Kristine and Cynthia
 - Plastic Reduction Group voted to become non-partisan and amicably separated from Dover Democrats. DDwill continue to post Green Tips online.
 - Restaurant Survey Project – Survey and Interview Guidelines are ready for this pilot phase. Watch for email to invite interviewers from across NH.
 - 80 local restaurants received their second email on plastic reduction. The first email informed them of options to reduce plastic waste & how to get support for reusables. This second email invites them to webinar “Hold the Plastic” from Beyond Plastic see below. Note: Dover city business development coordinator provided restaurant owner emails.
- Center Harbor – Carol
 - Attending Enck’s course on plastic via Bennington College – course will repeat
 - Plastic Free July actions were successful
 - On Energy Committee, and most, but not all, members understand connection between energy and plastics
 - Recommend past webinar on alternative packaging from seaweed and mushrooms
- Hopkinton – Bonnie
 - Fall Festival – Active Participation by 6th graders to distribute compostable garbage bags and utensils and also collect recyclable aluminum and plastic. Handed out 300 sets of reusable utensils. Bonnie has been working with grade school staff, including three 6th grade teachers to reduce plastic in the cafeteria.
- Chester – Ann
 - Tabling at the town’s 300th anniversary yielded interested folks including an active High School student; showcased ‘Plastic Monster’
 - Still working on trash collection day, but slow going
- Nashua – Sherry (Rep Dutzy)
 - Restaurant - informal contacts – some are willing to let customers bring their own take-out
 - Department of Public Works – limited ability to change – but Sherry may get help through the Parks Committee

[Hold the Plastic, Please! A Web Briefing For Restaurant Owners Who Want To Reduce Single-Use Plastic — Beyond Plastics - Working To End Single-Use Plastic Pollution](#)

- **Presentation & Discussion**

Dan- dan@studentpirgs.org -Political Director at Student Public Interest Research Group – (Organization began 1971 and advocates for people’s voices in politics. Working on plastic reduction policies across the US)

Christina – christina@bennington.edu – Community Organizer with Beyond Plastics – Based at Bennington College, VT, founded by Judith Enk, former EPA Regional Administrator

- **Main Idea**

- Reduce plastic pollution and production through many actions, especially policy changes, e.g., such as restaurant “Hold the Plastic” campaign laws, e.g., a bottle bill in NH sponsored by Reps. Eagen, Dutzy and McGhee, introduced Nov.2022 and further developed in Jan 2023. We can help with this process

- **Participation in Beyond Plastics**

- Local Group - 2-3 people in a town working to reduce plastic
- Affiliate - Established non-commercial organization that supports Beyond Plastic goals

- Local and Affiliate Groups can attend monthly meetings and have access to members' communication frameworks
- **Five Action Frameworks for Near Term**
 - Restaurant Projects
 - Our current restaurant work – e.g., customer cards for restaurant owners and pilot survey
 - Other projects - Yelp listing and search option for restaurants that reduce plastic, esp. SUP
 - Surfrider's Ocean Friendly Restaurant listings
 - Municipal Procurement Policies
 - Sample policy available from Dan
 - Options to change policy through formal meetings with department heads, town counsel, mayor, or informal meetings with municipal workers, e.g., Parks
 - Institutional Procurement Policies
 - Schools – e.g., Bonnie doing this at Hopkinton
 - College/University – e.g., several have reusable Take-Out containers at cafeteria- scan with bar code and if student does not return, then charged for cost
 - Museums, Hospital cafeterias
 - Retirement Communities
 - Meals on Wheels – see Cynthia for example from Pennsylvania
 - Medical Supplies - Note: this is a work-in-progress at Mass General hospitals (e.g., Boston, Dover) – see Cynthia for info on webinars on this topic
 - Plastic Pollution Research Coordination – e.g., Microplastic in NH Waters
 - Goal – connect researchers & citizens working on microplastic monitoring in this region
 - Benefits – aid research itself, make legislators & public aware of the problem (e.g., add bottle bill support)
 - Next steps –
 - Kennedy will talk with advisor for her project on Great Bay waters to learn if there is a Microplastic research group
 - Reb will look into her volunteer river assessment group leader & ask about expanding testing to include Microplastic and PFAS
 - Bonnie will connect Kennedy with leader for the 19 rivers in NH
 - Bonnie found this youtube of NH lakes study - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljbn_bfesqA
 - Carol - will contact her local lake association and also nhlakes.org
 - Cynthia – will contact others monitoring ponds and streams at Harris center, [Research on Harris Center Lands: Featured Projects](#)
 - Brands Found in Waste Audits
 - Goal – highlight waste burden from plastic users (e.g., Coke, Pepsi, Dunkin)
 - Action – At community Trash Pick-up day or Trash Audit day at a school - identify most common brands of plastic waste.
 - Success story - After reporting Dunkin polystyrene items were common in local litter, the local Dunkin cut out foam use. Now, national Dunkin will end

Links to ideas in presentation above:

Procurement:

- Break Free From Plastic [Campus Pledge](#)
 - University of California [Campus Policy](#) - Section F.4.
- [Procurement Policy](#) (Canadian Dept of Fisheries)

- Sample [executive order](#) (from VA)

Brand Audit/ Corporate Responsibility:

- BFFP [Brand Audit](#) training

Microplastic Sampling:

- Oregon [Microplastics study](#)
 - Microplastics [sampling & processing guide](#)
 - Microplastics [identification guide](#)
 - polystyrene use.

PWG minutes (continued)

- Advancing our Next Collective Actions
 - Continue with restaurant projects
 - Developing plastic in NH Waters research connections – see above
 - How to develop and manage a social media presence

Future Agenda Items:

- Creating a slide in the slide deck for information about different projects that towns are working on such as reusable resources for restaurants so we can collaborate rather than each town duplicating efforts because they are not aware of others efforts.
- Collective Action - Develop a book list on climate change and plastic pollution topics for consideration by libraries
- Collective Action - Create a list of films for a winter series
- Connecting with Businesses for Social Responsibility
- Tabling venues to spread our message
- Deep dive into advanced recycling

See Below For Past Meeting Notes

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](#)

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