NH Network Plastics Working Group (PWG) #55
Sunday, December 3, 6 pm
Legislative Focus Meeting, Sunday, January 7, 6 pm
Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, January 14, 6 pm
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6275609302
Meeting ID 627 560 9302
One tap mobile
+13092053325, 6275609302# US

Plastics Working Group Slide Deck Link
Ten Towns Toolkit website Link
2024 Facilitator Schedule
Action Tracking Spreadsheet
NH Network Bills Resource
Ten Towns Ten Actions Promotion Pieces
(All are invited to add resources to the first two slide decks)

Attending

(KEEP THIS LIST INTACT AND EDIT EACH MEETING - USUALLY SIMILAR ATTENDEES SHOW UP EACH TIME)
NOTE: *Names in* ***bold*** *were in attendance.*
Ann Podlipny, Bonnie Christie**, Bruce Norlund, Carol Sullivan**, **Christina Dubin, Cindy Heath,** Cynthia Walter, Darla Thyng, Jane Roth (Weare), Kennedy McGrath, **Kristine Baber, Mary Armstrong**, Nancy Dowey, **Patsy Beffa-Negrini**, Peggy Longley, Rep. Lucius Parshall**,** Susan Richman, **Raelene Shippee-Rice**, Jack Hurley**,** Susan Richman**, Rep. Sherry Dutzy,** Rep. Tony Caplan**, Nora Bosworth,** Peter & Noreen Neville**,** Reb McKenzie, Jim Contois**, Kate Messner, George Reed, Peter Schmidt, Clark Corson & Carol Foss (Collaborative Solid Waste Strategies)**

1. Welcome New Folks, Land Acknowledgment, Norms

- George Reed - Bow - Christian Science clergy; green energy advocate
- Kate Messner - Hudson - Sustainability Committee; concerned about town discontinuing recycling

2. Facilitator Schedule (LINK) - 2024 Schedule Open For Sign Ups - Facilitators & Note Takers needed

Cindy Heath will continue to set up an agenda, send reminders. **We will meet when we have facilitators.** Thank you to Carol Foss & Kristine Baber - anyone else?

3. Events

- **February 2024 - *"Rethink Plastic: Global and Local Solutions to The Plastic Crisis"* (working title)**
  - Shifting to our 3rd anniversary! Link to Planning Doc
  - Peter from Just Zero; Christina from Beyond Plastics; Nora from CLF; EPR state rep; innovations in packaging rep; Seacoast restaurant pilot
  - Focus on the future of packaging? Packaging solutions?
  - Focus on EPR Updates from States?
    - Carol Foss will help brainstorm
    - Cynthia W will provide slides on toxics in packaging in Maine
    - Patsy will assist as connector to the NH Network Steering Committee/Communications Working Group
- **December 11 Webinar: Vinyl Chloride - Beyond Plastics**

- **December 13 - Beyond Plastics Affiliate Group Meeting - All Invited**
    - Earth Day Focused Events Being Evaluated
    - January - bottle bills, single use bans, Skip the Stuff reviews
- **Community Engagement on the Climate Action Plan**
- **Recording of NH Network Military Forward Presentation**

4. NH Network Newsletter - Distribute to PWG?

- Approved - individuals can unsubscribe at any time

5. Legislative - Current

- **Meetings with NH Senate & Rep Staff & Federal Bills** (Carol, Ann, Darla)
    - Met with full delegation. Kuster's staff said BFFPPA was too complex but they still talked about the value of the bill. The office wants to see the path of money to munis, ie focus on economics not the environmental impact. Shared Reinmar's presentation since Molly was interested in supporting veterans.
- **Nora Bosworth - Conservation Law Foundation - Link to Detailed Bill Analysis**
    - **Container Deposit Law** - Link to Working Document with link to current bill
        - Models available around the country; more mature than EPR bills
        - PRO establishes for oversight
        - Less resistance by beverage distributors because PRO is running the system
        - PRO 'pays rent' for small retail space for redemption; scale based on size of store
        - TOMRA & Clynk
        - Unclaimed deposits will go toward recycling infrastructure & MRFs (Materials Recovery Facility)
        - **Focused Advocacy Research: rate of non-NH redemption (prohibited in bill)**
        - Advocates & Advisory Committees for env. Justice for unhoused people
        - Grant program - funded by 5% of unclaimed - education, infrastructure, litter clean up
        - Show job creation benefits
    - **EPR** - Link to Resource Document with link to current bill
        - Link to detailed explanation document (prepared by Nora Bosworth)
        - "Polluter pays" bill
        - Establishes PRO (Producer Responsibility Organization) with existing non-profit, 10 year contract, managed by DES
        - Producers must prove compliance;
        - Companies <$1 mil & <1 ton of packaging exempt but must prove
        - PRO has hefty list of responsibilities along with DES including a publicly accessible needs assessment
        - Data - recycling rates, non-compliant producer list
        - Fees - incentivizes reuse and refill systems, recycled products, enhanced recycling, but NOT replacing packaging with lighter plastic products
        - **Research Needed: Chemicals banned in packaging; need to check whether the chemicals are already banned in NH; need a resource that summarizes toxicity of each chemical; this may help counter pushback; Christina & Nora can help with this**
        - **SUGGEST: Granite State Poll to determine which towns are eliminating recycling - Kristine will coordinate**

- **Christina Dubin -Beyond Plastics - National Updates**
    - Webinar: Vinyl Chloride, Monday December 11

- Lawsuits encouraged against Pepsi for polluting the Buffalo River in NY
- Fact Sheet on Environmental Justice
- Bills to be added to NH Network Bills Action Page - can we link Fact Sheets from PWG?

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

- **Ann - Chester:** Renewal Compost program continuing in Town; working on grants with school to initiate a food scrap collection program; Bonnie Bethune (NRRA) lives in Chester; January 8: Recycling 101 for Chester residents; talk about hazards of chemical recycling; encourages trash pick ups for making connections & education; "Do What You Love"; planted beach grass at Hampton Beach; starting Indigenous Gardens in Exeter & Manchester;
- **Bruce - Keene:** Lempster is evaluating whether to discontinue plastics recycling
- **Carol Foss** - **Collaborative Solid Waste Strategie**s - attended SW Working Group meeting; will share notes; new DES website; currently negotiating for a 'waste characterization study' and studying food waste generators and recycling improvements; DES Rules Revisions on SWM; meetings coming up; 2021-22 SW Report coming out soon
- **Carol Sullivan - Center Harbor:** Energy Committee; needs contacts who are supportive of energy initiatives; hosting public hearings on solar initiatives; saves Town money & for taxpayers
- **Christina - Portsmouth:** Met with the Portsmouth Eco-club who is going to help the STS campaign at local and state level through social media, LTEs, restaurant meetings and will attend the hearing or submit testimony when the time comes for Rep. Caplan's bill. Working with Kristine to confirm our 4 restaurants for Reusable Seacoast and met with Reusable San Mateo.
- **Cindy - Cornish Flat:** continuing mesh bag distribution; Co-op transitioning to corn based packaging
- **George - Bow:** strong recycling program in Bow; Thailand is taking over plastics recycling that China used to do
- **Kate - Hudson:** Town looking at discontinuing recycling; how to address; signed on to Community Power; all reps are Republicans; economics is the primary conversation
- **Kristine - Dover:** Dover Plastic Reduction Group conducted a priorities poll to see where the group should focus and who would like to participate; legislative activities emerged as #1; many who will participate in research; testifying in Concord; 10 people want to be involved in restaurant project; CA pilot coordinator is sharing information;
- **Mary - Harrisville:** Rethink Plastics meeting on Wednesday; plugged Skip the Stuff campaign in local newsletter; Mesh Bag Mama handout at Market Basket; December 14; discontinuing plastic bag film collection after 3rd bench; Harrisville is looking to switch from simply using Monadnock Disposal Service back to Recycling. A rep on the Committee that runs our Transfer Station will be giving our team an update. Once the warrant article is prepared - there may be info on it that could help Kate Messner.
- **Raeline - Nottingham:** Looking for guidance on where to start - list of actions suggested.
- **George - Bow:** Thank you for this thoughtful working group. Bow has an active recycling program, yet my concern is that much of it doesn't get recycled, especially plastics. I saw a program, on NPR I believe, that showed a foreign country that does much plastic recycling and they stated that only about 25% of it actually gets recycled. So the repackaging work is a strong goal for the future.
- **Nancy - Bristol:** Bristol is having programs at the library. We are just starting to have something every month in our local paper and we are still working on getting all organizations in town to use less plastic when they have events. Our local Hannafords is a good partner that we need to use more.
- **Patsy - Nelson:** Christina presented to NH HWCA Policy and Advocacy WG; attended Solid Waste Working Group; Paige Wilson has A-Z recycling page on DES website https://www.des.nh.gov/waste/solid-waste/managing-my-waste; not much info on plastics; Movie Night Feb. 1 on Plastics. Attended meeting to comment on the NH Climate Action Plan. https://www.des.nh.gov/climate-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-pollution-reduction-grants
- **Peter - Dover:** perception of DES procedures and rules are '50 years behind'; will investigate this claim; active citizens are a credit to their communities; need more people to become actively engaged

7. Collective Actions Updates

- **Restaurant Project (Christina, Kristine)**
  - Foodware To Go Containers (stainless steel w/ silicone lid)

- **Mesh Bag Mamas (Cindy)**
  - Produce market in WRJ, VT now distributing
  - Coop shifting to corn based packaging in 2024

- **Social Media Campaign** (Kennedy)

8. Education

- **PWG Reuse Resources**
  - **Upstream Article: Reuse vs. Single Use: Economics**
  - **Foodware To Go**
  - **Reusable Packaging Association**
  - **Reuse Seattle**
  - **Reusables**
  - **Zero Waste USA**
- **Thinking in Systems Training** with Edie Farwell wrapping up.

9. Legislative - Past

- **Chemical Recycling & Cumulative Impacts Bill -** Cynthia
- **08/06/2021 HOUSE BILL 618- Banning single use food product-polystyrene foam**
  - https://legiscan.com/NH/text/HB618/id/2242207
    - An Act relative to the sale and distribution of polystyrene food service products
    - SPONSORS: Rep. Spang, Straf. 6; Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Watters, Dist 4
    - COMMITTEE: Commerce and Consumer Affairs

10. Legislative - Future

- **`Toxics in Food Packaging -** Link to Working Document
  - Should be a separate bill from container deposit law - who will champion this? NHHWCA?

Future Agenda Items

- Presentation to NH Legislative Committee on the environment
- Road map tour of NH legislative website
- Collective Action - Develop a book list on climate change for consideration by libraries
- Connect with Businesses for Social Responsibility
- Tabling venues to spread our message

RELEVANT CHAT:

Table of PWG Action Steps 2023-2024 (Updated 11.12.23)

Overarching Themes (In no particular order!)	Subcategories (In no particular order!)	SMART Goals Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound	Time Frame	Lead Person

#1: Keep Working in Our Own Towns and Regions	A. Composting	Increase # towns offering pilot composting programs or collection initiatives	UV focus 4 towns piloting by 9/24	Cindy Heath
	B. Mesh Bag Mamas	Raise awareness by co-op customers on reusable options for produce; Move co-op toward voluntary phase out of SUP bags in produce section	Complete 1,000 bags; launch in October DONE	Cindy Heath
	C. Ten Towns Toolkit	Send out newsletter updates Nov/Dec; Annually update spreadsheet of actions taken	Nov/Dec-DONE; Jan/Feb; Mar/April; May/June; July/Aug; Sep/Oct; Nov/Dec; Action Update Feb	Patsy Beffa-Negrini Cindy Heath
	D. Restaurant Projects	Four restaurants selected to pilot reusables in Dover & Portsmouth; Fully funded		Dover Plastics Reduction Group, Kristine/ Christina
	E. Saint Gobain PFAS	Help environmental justice campaigns in NH		Ann Podlipny
	F. Zero Waste Campaigns	Help communities explore the options		Reb interested
#2: Education (including tabling)	G. General Public (including Earth Day and PFJ)	"Do One Thing" campaign Possible soccer mentorship program with a fundraising goal to support environmental causes		Ann Podlipny
	H. Legislators	Support legislators in their efforts to introduce and pass legislation focused on reducing plastic waste and pollution	2023-24 session	CLF/BP to support and guide PWG
	I. Schools - Reuse Presenta-tions			Cynthia Walter

	J.	Toxics in Food Packaging and Recycled Plastic	Look at next legislative session for a targeted push; Truth in Labeling Laws; most influence at the state level;		NH HCCA Nurses for Planetary Health Revisit in April/May to assess learning and forward movement **Susan will contact Paul F.**
	K.	Speaker's Bureau	Possible collaboration with HCWCA to get Beyond Plastics training?		Request speakers through BP
	L.	Targeted Education	By age, by town committee, by political leaning, seniors, parents of young families; college students		Revisit in 2024 for 2025
	M.	Connect with NRRA, Businesses for Social Resp., Libraries	Organic connections at conferences, gatherings		ALL
	N.	*"Rethink Plastic: Global and Local Solutions to The Plastic Crisis"*	February Network presentation Christina Dubin will moderate	February 2024	Cindy Patsy Susan Carol
#3: Legislation **DES Legislation Page: https://www.des.nh.gov/rules-and-regulatory/legislation**	O.	PWG member participate in EPR study committee (Model EPR)	Connect with Food Packaging Forum experts; Pursue truth in labeling law in NH		Bruce Norlund, Kristine Baber, Ann Podlipny
	P.	PWG member participate in Solid Waste Working Group	Align with curriculum development by Collaborative Solid Waste Strategies group; Align with Cynthia Walker's work with UNH intern; NH Hospital Assoc & nursing home administrators; Beyond Plastics has a Meals on Wheels guide		Carol Foss

	Q.	Banning single-use plastic; other legislation?	Three priority bills by CLF - EPR for Packaging, PFAS, Container Deposit Law; also Skip the Stuff bill		CLF Surfrider Beyond Plastics
	R.	Dealing with 'chemicals of concern' and 'toxics' in food packaging, similar to Maine's legislation			See above
	S.	Environmental Justice Saint Gobain PFAS	Help environmental justice campaigns in Saint Gobin affected communities		Ann Podlipny
#4: Social Media & Other Media	T.	Instagram			Kennedy McGrath
	U. V. W.	Facebook Chester FB Page NH Network	Regular PWG updates		Kennedy McGrath
	X.	Twitter or Threads			Kennedy McGrath
	Y.	Online Media	Invite Rep. Wendy Thomas, Rosemarie Rung & Nancy Murphy (Water Warriors) Mara Hoplamazian (NHPR)		
	Z.	NH Municipal Association			
	AA.	Action Network			Kennedy

Links & Resources

- **Bloomberg** Law Article - *US Senators Highlight Environmental Justice in Plastics Process*
- **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



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
Meeting Notes #44 - June 24, 2023
Meeting Notes #45 - July 9, 2023
Meeting Notes #46 - July 23, 2023
Meeting Notes #47 - August 6, 2023
Meeting Notes #48 - August 20, 2023
Meeting Notes #49 - September 10, 2023
Meeting Notes #50 - September 17, 2023
Meeting Notes #51 - October 1, 2023
Meeting Notes #52 - October 15, 2023
Meeting Notes #53 - October 29, 2023
Meeting Notes #54 - November 12, 2023

Community Action Works Notes

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