

NH Recycling Accountability Working Group - NHEEC
Inaugural Meeting: August 1, 2021

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, August 15, 2021, 6 pm

ZOOM Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6275609302?pwd=cDd0eDIqYytxa0xKek5FRVVYcJJVUT09>

Meeting ID: 627 560 9302 Passcode: garden

Attending:

Name	Town	Networks/Groups
Liane Avery	Lebanon	Sustainable Lebanon, Living A Sustainable Lifestyle: Tea & Talk, Vital Communities Climate Leader
Christine Baber	Dover	Co-Chair Dover Democrats Energy & Environment Action Group Plastic Team (Subcommittee) Plastics Coalition
Maya Barnett	Meriden	Lebanon High School; AP Environmental Class
Bruce Berk		Kent Street Coalition, NHEEC Co-Founder
Judith Bush	Lebanon	Sustainable Lebanon
Bonnie Christie	Hopkinton	Chair of Waste Reduction Committee Member of NH Chapter Climate Reality Project Refuse Disposal Committee Hopkinton Conservation Commission
Rebecca Hastings (Irit Levy)	Waterville Valley	Municipal Solid Waste Committee
Cindy Heath	Cornish Flat	Living A Sustainable Lifestyle: Tea & Talk, Vital Communities Climate Leader
Susan Moore	West Lebanon	Living A Sustainable Lifestyle: Tea & Talk
Rebecca Paquette	Hanover	C3 Group - Community, Climate, Connections - subcommittee of Sustainable Hanover
Janice Orion	Cornish Flat	Living A Sustainable Lifestyle: Tea & Talk
Nancy Wightman	Cornish Flat	Cornish Energy Committee Plainfield/Cornish Energy Committee

LINKS:

[Vermont Legislation - Single Use Plastic Ban](#)

[Waster Free Upper Valley Resources](#)

[Petrochemical Data \(Bonnie Christie\)](#)

[Plastic Oil Recycling](#)

[go100PA](#)

[Container Recycling Institute](#)

[Report of the Committee to Study Recycling Streams and Solid Waste Management in New Hampshire, HB 617, Chapter 265, Laws of 2019 November 1, 2019](#)

[Covering Climate Now - Global Journalism Project](#)

[Resource Recycling article on Maine's Law with supporters/opponents viewpoints](#)

[Northeast Resource Recovery website](#)

[Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act One Pager \(Federal\); Break Free From Plastic website](#)

[Maine's Extended Producer Responsibility Law \(National Law Review\)](#)

[Upstream Solutions Website; Surfrider website](#)

[Plastic Pollution Coalition \(National\); Beyond Plastics website](#)

[Community Action Works Website](#)

[Conservation Law Foundation ZERO Waste Project](#)

[Free the Ocean Plastic Removal Project](#)

Good descriptions of the variety of approaches in state bills:

<https://www.wastedive.com/news/2021-state-extended-producer-responsibility-recycling/594873/>

And a related article as suggested reading for "How to talk about EPR, product stewardship and minimum content policies":

<https://www.wastedive.com/news/how-to-talk-about-epr-product-stewardship-minimum-content-ilsr/574600/>

MEETING NOTES:

Clarify Purpose:

- Attend the next meeting of NHEEC to discuss integrating the work of this group into their goals
- **Use the acronym PIE to guide the scope of our work: P - Policy; I - Infrastructure; E - Education initiatives**
- Share resources for presentations, brochures, events, potential educational forums

Active Groups in NH:

- NH Plastics Coalition - a small ad hoc group identifying opportunities to build grassroots awareness leading to support for policy/legislation; also working with the NH congressional delegation to support the Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act (federal). Coalition consists of: Climate Reality Project NH Chapter (Bonnie Christie); Sierra Club (Cathy Corkery, Laura Magzis, Jerry Curran); Dover Dems Plastics Subcommittee (Kristine Baber); Surfrider Foundation NH Chapter (Christina Dubin)
- NRRRA (Northeast Resource Recovery Association) non-profit organization serving as broker for municipalities to connect with markets for recyclables; excellent information source for all aspects of waste, including plastics
- Kearsage Environmental Group
- Local Sustainability, Recycling, and Town Waste Management/Recycling Committees
- UNH, Dartmouth, Plymouth State, Public Schools (Hanover, Hopkinton, Somersworth, etc.) - Environmental Action Clubs, Sustainability Committees, Food Service Departments, campus recycling groups, etc.
- Leaders in NH legislature: Rep. Judith Spang, Durham; Rep. Christy Bartlett, Concord; Senator David Watters, Dover

Legislative Activities to Date:

- NH: "As the chair of the HB 617 [Committee to Study Recycling Streams and Solid Waste Management in New Hampshire](#), which issued a final report to the Governor of New Hampshire in November 2019, I became aware that municipalities in New Hampshire rely heavily on NRRRA's efforts to make recycling financially sustainable. Our report found that municipalities in New Hampshire need more assistance with managing their solid waste and recycling programs. Our report also found that municipalities and residents would benefit from standardization of recycling messaging, which could help increase recycling. This is exactly the type of technical assistance NRRRA proposes to provide through Recycling with Results." - Rep. Karen Ebel, Democratic Leader Pro Tempore, NH House of Representatives
- NH: Bills to ban single use plastic bags- failed
- NH: Straws by request only - failed
- NH: Enabling legislation to allow towns to pass municipal ordinances regulating plastics under existing authority of NH Solid Waste Law (RSA 149-M)- failed
- NOTE: none of this legislation was ultimately supported by the leadership of either party!
- Local: Portsmouth ordinances restricting polystyrene and single-use plastics; one ordinance bans distribution of polystyrene and single-use plastics on city properties/events/facilities; the other is city-wide ban on polystyrene in restaurants and retail businesses- passed by City Council
- Local: Dover Resolution for voluntary reduction of single use plastics - passed by City Council
- Local: Dover Proclamation on plastic reduction month - adopted by City Council
- National: Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act (S. 984, H.R. 2238): 101 House co-sponsors, 12 Senate co-sponsors, NONE FROM NH DELEGATION! This legislation was introduced in the 116th congress, no action. Reintroduced in 117th congress, now waiting for hearing schedule, gathering co-sponsors

Suggested Actions:

- Choose an initiative that the active groups can rally around
- Evaluate waiting on further NH legislative attempts until better political climate

- Meanwhile, focus on community level outreach to increase awareness of issues related to plastics/petrochemicals and work with congressional delegation to co-sponsor the BFFPPA
- Learn more about Community Action Works (Judith Bush is familiar)
- Identify concrete non-legislative actions that we can share with other groups
 - Plastic Free July Proclamations (Dover model)
 - Voluntary municipal plastics reduction resolutions (Dover model)
 - Rotary Club Presentations (Hopkinton powerpoint; Dover presentation and handout)
 - PPTs, Handouts, Flyers already created
 - Dover Public Library presentations
- Gather existing templates for presentations, brochures, flyers

Next Steps:

- Co-Chairs: Cindy Heath & Bonnie Christie
- Note Taker, Information Circulator: Cindy Heath
- NHEEC Liaison - Bruce Berk will include meeting notices in his weekly summary

COMMUNITY ACTION WORKS:

SHAINA KASPER - VERMONT & NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE DIRECTOR

- Email: SHAINA@COMMUNITYACTIONWORKS.ORG
- Phone: 802-223-4099

Shaina Kasper is the Vermont and New Hampshire State Director of Community Action Works, a Northeast-wide non-profit based in Boston that organizes with communities on the frontlines of local environmental and health threats. Shaina's work with community groups has helped stop two pipelines, stop landfill expansions and incinerator proposals, and more. She also facilitates the National PFAS Contamination Coalition.

Suggested Focus Statement:

The NH Recycling Accountability Working Group supports the development of legislation to place responsibility for the treatment and disposal of single use and other plastic waste on producers, manufacturers, and retailers in New Hampshire. The group is also developing non-legislative initiatives related to public education and municipal ordinances, proclamations, and resolutions for eliminating the use of single use plastics and polystyrene.

Table 1 Top 20 sustainability policies of places with fewer than 25,000 people (*Source: Homsy & Warner, ICMA 2012 Yearbook*)

Sustainability policy	Municipalities adopting
1. Community-wide recycling for residents	75%
2. Government office recycling	67%
3. Biking and walking trails	57%
4. Energy audits of government buildings	55%
5. Requiring sidewalks in new developments	52%
6. Supporting a local farmers market	51%
7. Recycling household hazardous waste	48%
8. High-efficiency lighting in government facilities	47%
9. Recycling of household electronic waste	45%
10. Community-wide recycling for businesses	44%
11. Tree preservation and planting program	42%
12. Heating and cooling upgrades in government facilities	38%
13. Use water pricing to encourage conservation	38%
14. Purchased fuel-efficient vehicles	33%
15. Community-wide collection of compost material	33%
16. Zoning codes to encourage more mixed-use projects	32%
17. Actions to protect quality of aquifers	32%
18. Installed high-efficiency traffic lights	30%
19. Set limits of impervious surfaces on private property	30%
20. Co-locate recycling with trash containers in public spaces	30%