

## NH Network Plastics Working Group Notes (PWG) #68

Sunday, August 11, 6 pm

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, August 25, 6 pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87209928697>

Meeting ID: 872 0992 8697

+19292056099,87209928697# US (New York)

[Plastics Working Group Slide Deck Link \(all may add resources\)](#)

[Ten Towns Toolkit website Link](#)

[2024 Facilitator Schedule](#)

[Action Tracking Spreadsheet](#)

[NH Network Bills Resource](#)

 Ten Towns Ten Actions Promotion Pieces

### Attending

(KEEP THIS LIST INTACT AND EDIT EACH MEETING - USUALLY SIMILAR ATTENDEES SHOW UP EACH TIME)

*NOTE: Names in **bold** were in attendance.*

**Mary Armstrong**, **Clayton Barrows**, **Jules Bailey (CLYNK)**, **Kristine Baber**, **Mark B**, Sandy Blanchard, **Patsy Beffa-Negrini**, Sarah Boudreau, Dennis Brown (Falmouth ME working to reduce plastic), Rep. Tony Caplan, **Carolyn Choate**, Bonnie Christie, **Clark Corson**/Carol Foss (Collaborative Solid Waste Strategies), Paul Del Frari, **Alice DonnaSelva**, Christina Dubin, Rep. **Sherry Dutzy**, Rep. Karen Ebel, Em Friedrichs, Rep. Nick Germana, **Cindy Heath**, **Nancy Ladd** and daughter Sarah, Peggy Longley, Liz Lu, Reb MacKenzie, Kathy Manfre, Kennedy McGrath, Janet Metcalf, **Bruce Norlund**, **Ann Podlipny**, Susan Posluszny, Raelene Shippee-Rice, Susan Richman, Rep Peter Schmidt, Reinmar Seidler, **Susan Smith**, Carol Sullivan, Darla Thyng, Cynthia Walter, Douglas Whitbeck

### 1. Land Acknowledgment, Norms, Leader in Every Chair, Welcome New Attendees

- a. Susan Smith - Dover Plastics Reduction Group
- b. Mark B, Bedford - retired plastics industry professional

### 2. Upcoming Events/Education

- PWG Enters Fourth Year of Action on Plastic Waste & Pollution! 54 Towns!
- **August 24 Keep NH Green Summit** - NH environment groups and individuals who support the environment invited, at Starr King in Plymouth, NH; register at <https://bit.ly/Interested2024Summit>
- **August 25 Next PWG Meeting, 6 pm**
- **September 7 - Laconia Multicultural Festival**; UU Laconia will have a booth
- **Sept 18 executive session on HB1614; letter from DES Commissioner Scott**
- **Sept 26 - Falmouth, ME Plastics Reduction Initiative**; [Matt Simon - A Poison Like No Other](#)

### 3. Discussion/Presentations

- **Presentation - CLYNK Chief Strategy Officer, Jules Bailey (bottle return system)**
  - [How CLYNK Bottle Drop Works - Cash-Out on Cans & Bottle Returns - CLYNK](#)
    - Operates in Maine, New York, Oregon, Connecticut, coming to Vermont
    - New England is interesting because every bottle bill is different.
      - Two levers - incentives and convenience - keys to success of CLYNK
      - Bottle Bill states have about twice the recycling as a non-bottle bill state, even higher for plastic bottles
      - Aluminum recycling is pretty effective and straightforward

- For plastic you need to separate food grade from non-food grade
- Bottle bill states have the ability to factor in re-use
- Re-use is the highest and best element of a recycling program
- Regulation on empty containers is coming in a lot of states
  - To date most recycling and redemption experiences are currently time consuming and unpleasant
  - Incentive and convenience individually do not work
- What is CLYNK? - Buy a bag at a store and fill unsorted and uncrushed
  - Bag itself gets recycled CLYNK bags
  - Digital sustainability wallet - can direct the money to be moved where you want
  - Gamifying further incentivizes people
  - CLYNK has been operating for 18 years
  - Can connect it to different non-profits which do can and bottle drives and collect the deposit money
  - So far market research shows that consumers like it
  - If your state doesn't accept the program, it can be picked up by non-profits
  - Maine has 300,000 bag accounts of 750,000 households statewide
  - Can set it up with bag cost being refunded when returned
  - Producer Responsibility Org can pay for the cost of the bag
- **Q & A**
  - **What is your relationship with the beverage industry?**
    - No relationship with the beverage industry
    - Oregon has a PRO based model, Maine system requires brand accounting by CLYNK
  - **Does CLYNK act as a PRO?**
    - No they provide a service to the PRO- they are the mechanism by which they can reach the legislative targets.
  - **What about communities that might lose revenue from their own recyclables?**
    - When you go to a redemption system, the pie gets way bigger so you can break up that pie for a while so that transfer stations continue to get a portion of the value to help them make the transition
    - Can incorporate milk containers into the program
  - **ACTIONS**
    - PWG would love to stay connected with CLYNK as we work on legislation; Jules is amenable
    - Sherry will talk to Karen Ebel about connecting with Jules Bailey for a presentation to the Solid Waste Working Group
    - Sherry believes that there are mechanisms in the draft bottle bill that would dovetail with CLYNK process
    - Casella might be dangling a carrot - of a NH bottling facility - to get their way
    - Sherry working with Clark, Rep. Nick G of Keene and Rep. David R of Lancaster to rewrite the bottle bill so it can be re-introduced

- **Evaluating Our Priorities - Round Robin Discussion** The Plastics Working Group is entering its fourth year of taking action on reducing plastic waste and pollution. We're looking forward to hearing your thoughts about what our priorities should be in the coming year. If you would like to check out some of the priorities listed in a recent federal report on reducing plastic waste, and priorities of other organizations, you can find resources below to assist you.

### **PWG Mission & Vision**

*The focus of the Plastics Working Group is to address the intersectionality of climate change, human health, environmental justice, waste management, and pollution aspects of plastics and the petrochemical industry. To this end, the Plastics Working Group engages in local, state, and federal initiatives to:*

- *Develop strong and effective local policy actions and state and federal legislation to reduce the production and use of single use plastic packaging and the toxic chemicals used to make them, evaluate the advancement of false solutions like chemical/advanced recycling, and reduce the negative environmental and health impacts of the petrochemical industry*
- *Support Zero Waste initiatives at the local, state, and federal levels*
- *Increase producer responsibility for the full life cycle of plastics and truth in advertising*
- *Develop partnerships with the business, education, and municipal sectors to implement alternatives to petroleum-based plastics*
- *Engage in public education to raise awareness of the environmental and human health risks of plastic, the availability of plastic alternatives, and the need for source reduction strategies, increased recycling, and related waste management strategies*
- *Educate about behaviors and practices to reduce consumption and limit the need for plastics recycling*
- *Follow the NH DES solid waste hierarchy*

*We envision a health-based approach to reducing plastic waste & pollution for the planet and for people.*

### **Framework**

- **Policy Actions** - Policy actions are adopted by a Municipal Department, Selectboard, or City Council
  - Proclamations, resolutions, warrant articles, department policies
  - Example: Dover's [July is Plastic Pollution Reduction Month Resolution](#)
- **Engagement Actions** - Engagement Actions involve citizen action, community events, and education
  - Education campaigns, grassroots organizing & events, citizen-led initiatives
  - Example: [Engage with Your Local Library for Education on Plastic Reduction](#)
- **Infrastructure Actions** - Infrastructure actions change existing systems by creating a new system
  - New equipment, facilities, transport networks, collaborative purchasing, waste management
  - Example: [Work With Your School Administration on Eliminating Single Use Plastics in the Cafeteria](#)

**Among the questions we would like you to think about are the following:**

- ***How is the PWG working for you? Why did you sign up? Why do you show up?***
  - Hugely educational about legislative action and has made it easier to get involved with legislators
  - Believe the collective action has been impactful
  - Helpful to have others to bounce ideas off of
  - Great examples within the group to inspire us
  - Original goal was to get 10 towns engaged, now there are more than 50
  - We can share resources
  - Ten Towns Toolkit so helpful in making action possible in towns
  - It's easy to get down in this work, and this group/tribe always has someone feeling optimistic; support during difficult times; met so many people across the state
  - From Chat: I am just beginning to get involved but...this has been a great group in terms of raising my awareness of the "plastic problem" and the various associated issues. It has also prompted me to start asking what types of initiatives are being undertaken in my town (Greenland)
  - Desire for everyone to have skin in the game
  - Have had many state representatives come, makes us feel like someone is hearing us in the legislature
  - People in this group are so good at reaching out and bringing people in
  - From Chat: All I can think of is the song lyrics by Carole King - *You've Got a Friend* - as how our group inspires and buoys each of us as individuals when we need it
  - I am still working my way through the materials but am impressed. In my time in management, I learned that some of the hallmarks of solid objectives/priorities is that they be specific, actionable and measurable. The priorities that you sent out hit on all of these.
  - Vast knowledge and experience in this group
  - Someone stated a desire to meet on weeknights occasionally
  - Ideas for the group in the future
  - Wish we could influence industry leaders
  - Educating community and youth organizations like Boys and Girls Club or Scouts, beyond ourselves and youth org
    - Public Service Announcements on Community TV
    - Tabling around the bottle bill (Citizens United is a good role model)
    - Might be useful to have a calendar of events
    - Sherry will work on developing education displays for the bottle bill
- ***If you could set the priorities for this group, what would be the top 3? (individual)***
  - More organized and proactive influence of legislature around specific bills especially in support of legislation
  - Get more people elected who will address the environmental, plastics and chemicals problems with legislation; producer responsibility
  - Election action
  - Education
  - Increase our understanding and actions individually and collectively.
  - Effective legislation is the only way to accomplish anything
  - Education efforts should be focused on getting bills passed - educating voters to support strong legislation
  - Get good climate people elected
  - Three pronged approach on education - bottle bill - educating the citizens, get businesses behind us, legislators

- More focus on Zero Waste - I wish we had an easier way to find out what bills are going on - current system still feels a little clunky
  - Legislation, Education - be more organized and systematic about the education, actions related to reducing plastic - for example our reusable container project
  - Education, Branding the Group (Waste Reduction Group? Instead of Plastics Working Group)
  - Legislation is key, we have good resources already for education, brochures, bookmarks, focus on single use plastics when educating
  - Education through social media, discuss climate when knocking doors
  - More depth in our outreach to professional organizations with paid staff whose mission aligns with ours
  - Convene legislators to discuss our priorities
  - Keep each other energized, celebrating each other's work
- **Who are our allies in this work?**
  - Beyond Plastics, 350NH, NH Healthy Climate/CHICKS, Conservation Law Foundation, Just Zero, NH Lakes Association, Save Forest Lake
  - Collaborative Solid Waste Strategies
  - Slingshot
  - NRRA
  - Organizations related to the NH Food Alliance like NOFA
- **What relevant newsletters/organizations are you following?**
  - Upstream and the Ellen McArthur Foundation podcasts—these lead me to all kinds of other resources
  - Heated Newsletter, Bill McKibben
  - Plastics Industry News
- **Resources -**
  - [2023-24 PWG Action Steps](#)
  - [Full Report](#) - *Mobilizing Federal Action on Plastic Pollution*
  - [Report Fact Sheet](#) - *Biden-Harris Administration Releases New Strategy to Tackle Plastic Pollution, Takes Action to Reduce Single-Use Plastics in Federal Operations*
  - [Beyond Plastics](#) - *Working to End Single Use Plastic Pollution*

#### 4. Updates from Ten Towns, Ten Actions Leaders & Attendees

- **Carolyn - Nashua:** participated in Bethlehem parade as part of protest
- **Patsy - Nelson:** Working with Emily and Maria from NHHC and CHICKS on a speaker related to health effects of plastics
- **Mary - Harrisville:** Planning a Foam Drive for this Friday morning. Continue to write articles for our Community Newsletter.
- **Susan Smith Dover** - working on the restaurant project with Kristine

#### Legislative Updates

- **Container Deposit Bill**
  - [National Caucus of Env. Legislators Fact Sheet](#)
  - [NH Needs a Bottle Bill One Pager](#)
  - [CDB Resources Doc](#); [CDB/EPR Advocates & Opponents Slides](#)

#### Other Updates

- **Reusable Seacoast Pilot**
- **Keep NH Green Summit August Climate Summit**

## Future Agenda Items

- **Political Action Discussion**

The discussion began at the June meeting regarding learning more about state and local candidates including developing questions for candidates and ideas for items such as bumper stickers, postcards, etc. that Kennedy McGrath might design.

- [How did they vote?](#) (Partial view of Legislators' voting records)
- [Sample 'Environment/Energy/Climate' questions for candidate forums](#)

## Below this Line: Resources in General (not agenda items)

\*\*\*\*\*

### 12. Legislative - Past

- Bag Ban introduced by Laurel Stavis (Lebanon)

### 13. Legislative - Future

- **Toxics in Food Packaging** - [Link to Working Document](#)
  - Should be a separate bill from container deposit law - who will champion this? NHHCA?
  - Contact Wendy Murphy & Karen Ebel to co-write and sponsor; Bill Palmer will be involved
  - Strategizing on Future Legislation with Gretchen Salter
- **Microplastics in Water** - [Link to Working Document](#)

### 14. Future Agenda Items

- Presentation to NH Legislative Committee on the environment
- Road map tour of NH legislative website
- Connect with Businesses for Social Responsibility
- EPR Toolkit & Solid Waste Event - EPR: "Breaking It Down" [Link to Working Slide Deck](#) - Cindy

### 15. Resources

- **NHLA Sustainability Book List**
  - NH Library Association's Sustainability Committee has created a spreadsheet of titles and resources (not just climate change). Send additional titles to Nancy Ladd? Linked at the bottom of their web page:  
<https://www.nhlibrarians.org/Pages/Index/226518/sustainability-home-page>
- **Food Security**
  - **NH Food Hub Network**
  - <https://www.newhampshirenetwork.org/resources/agriculture-food-and-public-health#h.w9g0yko055hg>
  - **Messaging about Policy**
  - <https://www.10towns.org/actions/policy-actions/testify-about-plastic-pollution>
- **Film - The Politics of Beauty** - about Stewart Udall
- **Reuse Resources**
  - [Upstream Article: Reuse vs. Single Use: Economics](#)

- [Foodware To Go](#)
- [Reusable Packaging Association](#)
- [Reuse Seattle](#), [Reusables](#), [Zero Waste USA](#)
- 350 NH
- [Fossil Fuel Investments Webinar](#)
  - 99% of Americans are forced to invest in fossil fuels in their retirement plans.
  - Almost 20% of investments in fossil fuels come from retirement savings.
  - If you took 12 companies including Adobe, Amazon, Apple, Google, Intuit, Meta, Microsoft, Netflix, Oracle, etc: the employees have lost \$5.1 billion due to their companies investing in fossil fuels.
  - If you took \$10,000 and invested in fossil fuels 10 years ago, guess how much money you'd have today? \$10,004.
  - If you took the \$10,000 and invested in the S&P 500 minus the fossil fuels, you'd have \$34,851!
  - Google has invested \$1.7 billion in fossil fuels through their retirement savings. If they hadn't done that it would be like taking 700,000 cars off the road.
  - An explanation of why fossil fuel companies are desperate to turn to plastics.

**Table of PWG Action Steps 2023-2024 (Updated 8.5.24)**

Overarching Themes (In no particular order!)	Subcategories (In no particular order!)	SMART Goals Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound	Time Frame	Status	Lead Person
<b>#1: Keep Working in Our Own Towns and Regions</b>	A. Composting	Increase # towns offering pilot composting programs or collection initiatives	UV focus 4 towns piloting by 9/24	Hanover, Grantham actively meeting	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	DONE CO, CA, MA have contacted us for info; Possible MBM 2.0 with VA Hospital, area FM & Subaru may fund	Cindy Heath

	C. Ten Towns Toolkit	Send out newsletter updates Nov/Dec;  Annually update spreadsheet of actions taken	Jan/Feb; Mar/April; May/June; July/Aug; Sep/Oct; Nov/Dec;  Action Update Feb	Nov/Dec: DONE J/F: DONE Mar/Apr: DONE  DONE	Patsy Beffa-Negrini  Patsy Beffa-Negrini
	D. Restaurant Projects	Four restaurants selected to pilot reusables in Dover & Portsmouth; Fully funded		ongoing	Dover Plastics Reduction Group, Kristine/Christina
	E. Saint Gobain PFAS	Help environmental justice campaigns in NH	Attended DES public information session on Nashua asphalt plant. Will continue to oppose	ongoing	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	Created an 'Earth Grandmas on the Ball' program to launch with Boy Scouts	Spring 2024	Ann Podlipny
	H. Legislators	Support legislators in their efforts to introduce and	2023-24 session	DONE ONGOING	CLF/BP to support and guide PWG



		pass legislation focused on reducing plastic waste and pollution			
	I. Schools - Reuse Presentations			Funded, complete	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	<b>Susan will contact Paul F. (not yet)</b>
	K. Speaker's Bureau	Possible collaboration with HCWCA to get Beyond Plastics training?		Request speakers through BP	Cindy Heath
	L. Targeted Education	By age, by town committee, by political leaning, seniors, parents of young families; college students		Revisit in 2024 for 2025	Cindy Heath
	M. Connect with NRRA, Businesses for Social Resp., Libraries	Organic connections at conferences, gatherings			ALL
	N. <i>"Rethink Plastic: Global and Local Solutions to The Plastic"</i>	February Network presentation Christina Dubin will moderate	February 2024	DONE	Cindy Patsy Susan Carol

	<i>Crisis"</i>				
<b>#3: Legislation</b>  <b>DES Legislation Page:</b> <a href="https://www.des.nh.gov/rules-and-regulatory/legislation">https://www.des.nh.gov/rules-and-regulatory/legislation</a>	O.	PWG member participate in EPR study committee ( <a href="#">Model EPR</a> )	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 <a href="#">Meals on Wheels guide</a>		Carol Foss
	Q.	Banning single-use plastic; other legislation ?	Four priority bills by CLF/PWG - EPR for Packaging; PFAS; Container Deposit Law; Skip the Stuff	Introduce; testimony provided	DONE  CLF Surfrider Beyond Plastics
	R.	Dealing with 'chemicals of concern' and 'toxics' in food packaging, similar to <a href="#">Maine's legislation</a>			See above

	S.	Environmental Justice Saint Gobain PFAS	Help environmental justice campaigns in Saint Gobain affected communities	Support anti PFAS bills and Rep.Wendy Thomas at State House	ongoing	Ann Podlipny
<b>#4: Social Media &amp; Other Media</b>	T.	Instagram			Ongoing	Kennedy McGrath
	U. V. W.	Facebook <a href="#">Chester FB Page</a> <a href="#">NH Network</a>	Regular PWG updates		Ongoing	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

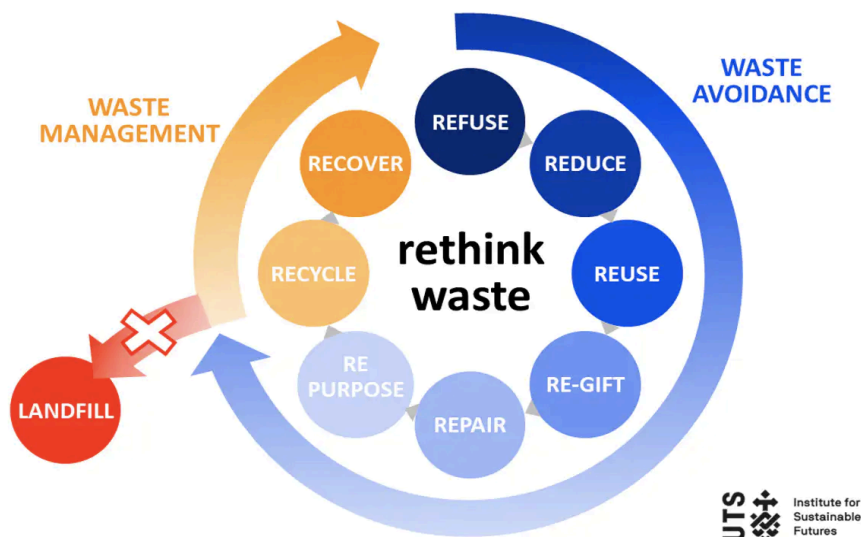
- **Bloomberg** [Law Article](#) - *US Senators Highlight Environmental Justice in Plastics Process*
- [Beyond Plastics Tabling Kit](#)
- **Grist** [Article](#) - *Democrats Unveil Most Comprehensive Bill to Address Plastics Problem*
- [Beyond Recycling Plastic](#) (draft document created by Kristine 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](mailto: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

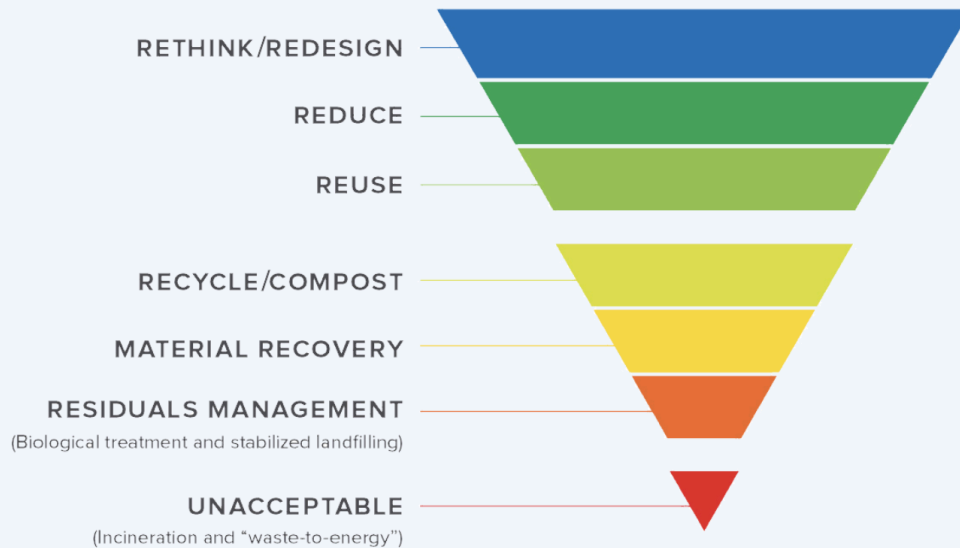


Waste hierarchy. (Image credit: UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures,)

Version 8.0 — Last updated May 19, 2022

## THE ZERO WASTE HIERARCHY 8.0

For detailed version visit [www.zwia.org/zwh](http://www.zwia.org/zwh)



## Zero Waste Hierarchy of Highest and Best Use 8.0

**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](#)  
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[Meeting Notes #23 - July 19, 2022](#)  
[Meeting Notes #24 - July 31, 2022](#)  
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[Meeting Notes #64 - May 5, 2024](#)

[Meeting Notes #65 - May 19, 2024](#)

[Meeting Notes #66 - June 30, 2024](#)

[Meeting Notes #67 - July 28, 2024](#)

### **Community Action Works Notes**

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