

NH Network Plastics Working Group (PWG) #48

Sunday, August 20, 2023, 6 pm

Next Meeting: Sunday, September 10, 6 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81275611544?pwd=dU5uRGwvSHh6KzQ4M2RETVB4RkMwQT09>

Meeting ID: 812 7561 1544 Passcode: 201544, One tap mobile +17193594580

[Plastics Working Group Slide Deck Link](#)

[Ten Towns Toolkit Slide Deck Link](#)

[Ten Towns Toolkit website Link](#)

[2023 PWG 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)

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

NOTE: Chat has been copied to the bottom of these minutes

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, **Carol Sullivan**, Cassie LaFleur (UNH Fellow), Christina Dubin, **Cindy Heath**, **Cynthia Walter**, Darla Thyng, Kennedy McGrath, **Kristine Baber**, Mary Armstrong, Nancy Dowey, Patsy Beffa-Negrini, Peggy Longley, Rep. Lucius Parshall, Reb MacKenzie, **Susan Richman**, MaryLou DiPietro, Peter Schmidt, **Bruce Norlund**, Leon Bernard, **Rep. Sherry Dutzy**

Welcome New Folks, Land Acknowledgment, Norms

Events

- Fall - 'Toward Zero Waste/Let's Talk Trash' panel - Network Meeting [Link to planning doc](#)
 - Could [this event](#) be an alternative offering or should we do both?
- September 3 Meeting - Reschedule? - **NO MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 3**
- September 6 at 7 pm - Thinking in Systems Kickoff with Edie Farwell - Limit 12 Participants
 - Program is full.
- September 18 - Offshore Wind/Fish & Fisherman program (Network)
- **September 18th**, meeting of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) study committee – Rep Parshall would like some PWG members to be present, with or without testimony. TIME, LOCATION: _____

Actions

- Think about a name for the bill and get info to Sherry Dutzy
- Ask for transfer station leader input
- Invite Water Warriors to September 10 meeting to hear their story (Sherry will invite)

Facilitator Schedule [Now Complete - Thank you!](#) Cindy Heath will continue to set up agenda, send reminders

Updates from Ten Towns, Ten Actions Leaders & Attendees

- **Kennedy - Durham:**
- **Cassie - Dover:** Concluded Fellowship and has returned to classes as a double major of Chem. Engineering and Women's Studies. A few materials are on the website. More will be added when Patsy gets back.
- **Cynthia - Dover:** An article, Advanced Recycling of Plastic: An Overview and Lessons from Other States, authored by Cynthia and Susan Richman will be Published in Sep/Oct edition of the NH Municipal Association magazine, Town and City. I will find out from the magazine editor about if we can distribute the article, e.g., send it to our town leaders, etc.
- **Cindy - Cornish Flat:** Mesh Bag Mamas materials on order. Deadline for 1,000 bags at the end of September. More Mamas needed to help! Working on municipal/residential composting projects with UVLSRPC to advance composting in 28 Upper Valley towns.
- **Ann - Chester:** 8 families so far have officially signed up for our Renewal Compost pilot program. Chester has recycled another 500 lbs of film plastic and will receive a second Nextrex bench. A Boy Scout is taking over the program for the next 6 months as an Eagle Scout project after which he wants to pass it on to a Girl Scout as her project in hopes that it will continue. Chester will be littered with Nextrex benches! A Chester resident who is an Episcopal priest and member of a group interested in environmental work wants me to help her buy 250 reusable bags from Hannafords (funds provided by the Diocese) to give to shoppers. We would 'table' outside the store to distribute reusable bags, educate the public and advocate for reducing plastic use. I have joined a Nature's Groupie week long event at Beech St. School in Manchester. They are planning a pollinator garden and need volunteers to break ground on this project. A resident journalist who has contacts at the Union Leader and Granite State Progress might schedule an interview with me on Chester's composting program. Finally, I attended a BP affiliate monthly meeting in which they reviewed the success of Plastic Free July including initiatives to eliminate plastic in offices and museum and aquarium gift shops. Also emphasized- sending petitions to the EPA to ban PFAS chemicals and contacting our MOC's once the federal plastic reduction bills are reintroduced into Congress. **Comment from Susan: can net produce bags also be bought and offered? This is a great model for all of us.**
- **Bonnie - Hopkinton:**
- **Kristine - Dover:** Our Dover Plastic Reduction Group completed our 40th Green Tip for distribution. (Watch for it in your email.) Christina and I are continuing work on the details for the reusable takeout container project. A decision was made to use Foodware for technology services to track containers. Have been in contact with potential funders for the pilot including Rotary Clubs in Portsmouth and Dover. Our Dover plastic group is taking an August break, so there is no regular meeting this month.
- **Carol - Center Harbor:** Part of a small group to create a bill to update the state environmental/climate action plan starting with a study group; discussed at Keep NH Green Summit - received a lot of interest by attendees & legislators present
- **Bruce - Keene:**
- **Rep. Parshall:**
- **Leon - Bow:**
- **Mary - Harrisville:**
- **Susan - Durham:** networking with others & hearing from others about microplastics, PFAS, solid waste & other issues at KEEP NH GREEN Summit; continue planning events & signage for the initial year of "Sustainable Durham."
- **Marge - Marlborough:** The church Food Pantry, the only one in town, has stopped providing plastic bags (which were used ones, at least) and now encourages people to bring their own. They also have some tote bags for those who need one, thanks to a couple of volunteers who make them out of old T-shirts.

Priority Planning for 2023-24

- **ACTIONS TO TAKE in the discussion about chemicals & toxins in food packaging**
 - Warn people to look carefully at alternatives/reusables to be sure they are not toxic, aka melamine
 - Connect [Food Packaging Forum](#) experts with NH EPR study group
 - Share The Guardian article with our state and national legislators
 - Refer to plastic food packaging as a toxic and hazardous waste material
 - Keep educating about toxins in food packaging
 - Also consider material that backpacks are made of and learn how California is dealing with this issue
 - Pursue truth in labeling law in NH
 - Educate about many things related to plastics including reproductive issues
 - Talk with orgs & individuals who are already involved.
 - Become familiar with the language previous bills
 - Joining forces with those that have written previous bills & involve
 - Together, draft a new bill
 - Find a (or a few) legislative sponsors

- **Discuss 2-3 goals and Priorities to Focus On**
 - Presentation to legislators on EPR? (Recommend an expert)
 - Education on toxins in food (see ACTION in red font above) and chemical recycling?
 - Work with Solid Waste WG and NH Food Alliance on Food Waste?
 - Grow the number of Ten Towns?
 - Work on environmental justice?
 - Social media campaign?
 - Restaurants?
 - Mesh bags?

BIG DISCUSSION (in response to NH Network request that each WG develop goals for the year):

1. FOCUS ON LEGISLATION:

- Have a PWG member present at the EPR Study Committee, which will complete their work by the end of Fall (what month?)
- Would the EPR group be interested in comments from the towns? Peter says to bundle them, get them to him to pass them to the right hands, ASAP.
- Examine the different bills, to understand which are easier to move ahead.
- Prepare with info about toxins in plastic touching foods

2. FOCUS ON EDUCATION:

- Develop a plan for how to “do” education.
- Aim the message to the audience: our legislators, our town waste committees, young families, college students, senior citizens.
- We have a number of documents that could be turned into 1-pagers for elected officials; most of us have relationships
- A speakers bureau with experts on different topics - there’s interest in religious communities, Parent-Teacher meetings, Senior Citizen groups, Schools (cafeteria AND classroom)

- Get specific? Grocery bags?
- Start refusing what the plastic industry gives us; stop being consumers of plastic.
- Need to change people's behavior—theories of behavior change: look to other successful campaigns (e.g. we no longer have public smoking).
- Bills can be advanced as “Messaging” even if it won't pass this year. But is that worth the energy it would require? (go to hearings, develop relationship with DES personnel)
- Social media
- Birdog candidates, hold signs, keep these topics top of mind for the general public
- Cassie is making it easy: go to your school board meeting, town council, superintendent with her findings!! (They may need help if they don't have a dishwashing machine – but working on getting that funding!)
- McKibben says it's not winning the argument – it's the \$\$, but we are working from the bottom up, and he also said an army of activists can overcome the \$\$
- Composting!!

3. SUGGEST INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

- Project Drawdown has suggestions
- We all have different arenas where we like to work – consider the many initiatives we each have taken up

4. POSSIBLE CONCLUSION

- Today is brainstorming, but we need to implement ALL these great ideas, turn them into a grid with the actions, by whom, by when...Schools = cafeteria AND classroom (We got rid of public smoking – we can do this!!)

5. FINALE: Mesh Bag “Craftivism” - needs to be a chance to educate people, not just be amusing.

- And Patsy showed us a video to go with Mary's MeshBag Mama's song. Maybe get it on TV? Maybe get press attention for the mesh bag initiative?

DRAFT Table of PWG Action Steps 2023-2024

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		Cindy Heath (can assist, cannot lead)
	B. Mesh Bag Mamas	Raise awareness by co-op customers on reusable options for produce; Move co-op toward voluntary	End of September to complete 1,000 bags; launch in October	Cindy Heath

		phase out of SUP bags in produce section		
	C. Ten Towns Toolkit			
	D. Restaurant Projects			
	E. Saint Gobain PFAS	Help environmental justice campaigns in NH		Ann Podlipny
#2: Education (including tabling)	A. General Public (including Earth Day and PFJ)	"Do One Thing" campaign		Ann Podlipny
	B. Legislators			
	C. Schools - Reuse Presentations			Cynthia Walter
	D. Toxics in Food Packaging and Recycled Plastic			
	E. Speaker's Bureau			
	F. Targeted Education (by age, by town committee, by political leaning, seniors, parents of young families; college students)			
	G. Connect with NRRA, Businesses for Social Responsibility, Libraries			
	H. Fall - 'Toward Zero Waste/Let's Talk Trash' panel			
#3: Legislation	A. PWG member participating in EPR study group (Model EPR); Connect Food Packaging Forum experts; Pursue truth in labeling law in NH			
	B. PWG member participating in Solid Waste Working Group			

	C. Banning single-use plastic; other legislation?			
	D. Dealing with 'chemicals of concern' and 'toxics' in food packaging, similar to Maine's legislation			
	F. Environmental Justice Saint Gobain PFAS	Help environmental justice campaigns in Saint Gobain affected communities		Ann Podlipny
#4: Social Media & Other Media	A. Instagram			
	B. Facebook C. Chester FB Page D. NH Network	Regular PWG updates		Kennedy McGrath
	E. Twitter or Threads			
	F. Online Media G. NH Municipal Association	Invite Rep. Wendy Thomas, Rosemarie Rung & Nancy Murphy (Water Warriors) Mara Hoplamazian (NHPR)		

Legislative

- **Democratic Legislative Retreat on Tuesday August 22.**
 - Different topics, can attend any and all topics.
 - Discussing what bills to file, coordinating sponsorships
 - Chuck Grassie is
- **Thoughts on Model EPR Legislation - [LINK to PWG Slides](#) - 44 & beyond on EPR legislation**
 - Getting away from calling it EPR? Important for messaging.
 - Product stewardship
 - Plastic takeback
 - EPR has to include safety benefits of less production, lower cost
 - Promote companies that are doing it well as a consumer (vote with your dollar)
 - What does Beyond Plastics think about a name change? [Their guide to EPR legislation here.](#)
 - Focus on chemicals in food packaging with new legislation
 - [EPR Talking Points from PWG](#)
- **EPR Study Committee Update** - Rep. Parshall is our contact, Sherry Dutzy co-sponsored bill

- **Chemical Recycling & Cumulative Impacts Bill (Cynthia)** - See recording of April 10 NH Network Crossover webinar to learn updates for legislation. SB267 (Cumulative Impacts) was voted down because of hiring challenges
- **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
- **Container Deposit Law** - [Link to Working Document](#) - Sherry Dutzy leading w/Christina's support
 - Reviewed Illinois model bill; distributed bill & PPT to stakeholders; planning to summit LSR;
 - Spoke to David Waters & Ellen Reid who suggested not filing this year
 - May reach out to Gov. Sununu's office to see if he might support it; industry has not responded
 - "Recycling Refunds and Litter Reduction Act" suggested name
 - Has connected with Elizabeth Balkan, the North American Director for ReLoop discussing a bottle bill for another state and wanted to suggest reaching out to her to give a Zoom presentation to legislators to get cosponsors. [Reimagining the Bottle Bill](#) is focused on the Northeast. Also attaching a great factsheet for policymakers from CRI on the economics and need/support for bottle bills. [FACT SHEET](#).
 - website: <https://bottlebillreimaginl>
 - Rep. Peter Schmidt suggests submitting the [bed.org](#)
 - Report - [Reimagining the Bottle Bill](#) for visibility, to keep it up front
 - If the bill is solid, and doesn't pass, it can be reintroduced
 - Looking for a Republican co-sponsor
 - Beyond Plastics position is to eventually have refillable containers rather than recycling
 - Draft bill has refill & reuse components, as well as refunds for transfer stations & individuals
 - Has reached out to lobbyist whose clients are bottlers, distributors
- **Toxics in Food Packaging** - [Link to Working Document](#)
 - Should be separate bill from the bottle bill
 - Cindy has reached out to Bill Palmer, Margaret Drye & Sue Prentiss to co-write

Collective Actions Updates

- Social Media Campaign (Kennedy & Cassie) - in progress
- Meeting with NH Senate & Rep staff (Carol, Ann, Darla) - planning another outreach
- Restaurant Project (Cynthia, Kristine)
- Mesh Bag Mamas (Cindy, Mary, Patsy) - seeking sewers!

Future Agenda Items

- Presentation by solid waste professionals on plastics problem, solutions & challenges
- Presentation to NH Legislative Committee on the environment - Kat McGee is sympathetic
- 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

Links & Resources

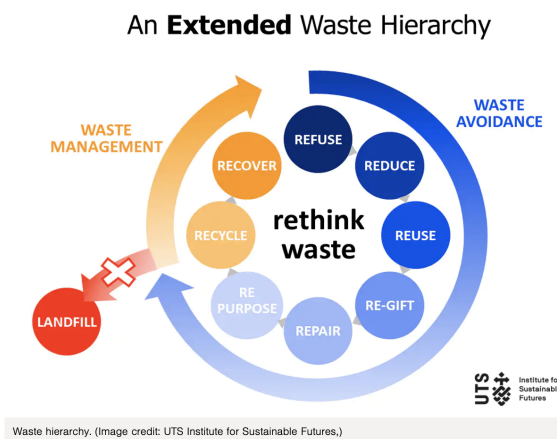
- [Beyond Recycling Plastic](#) (draft document created by Kristine Baber)
- [Biomimicry Website with Real World Solutions - Ask Nature](#)

- [Link to NHAskNature 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

Planning for the Upcoming Year (September 2023 - September 2024)

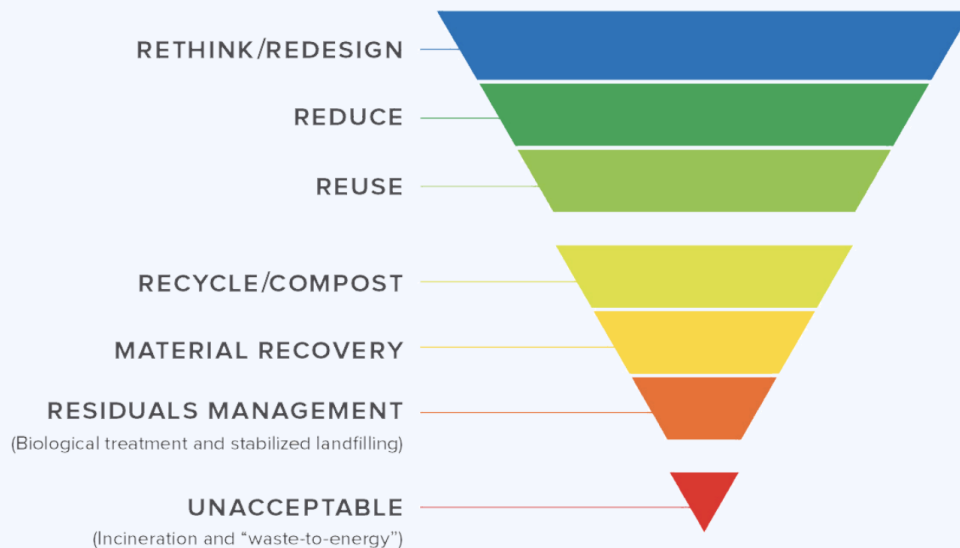
- **Revisit Community Action Works Notes and Future Planning**
 - [Campaign Planning Principles, Decision-Making Chart, Kick Off Meeting Notes](#)
 - [#2 October 17 - Goal Setting & Timeline Notes](#)
 - [#3 November 14 - Messaging Workshop Handbook](#)
 - [#4 November 14 - Messaging Notes](#)
 - [#5 November 28 - Messaging & Slogan](#)
 - [#6 January 3 - Communications Work Group Meeting Docs](#)
 - [#7 June 5 - Updates and Legislative Planning, Campaign Planning PDF, Visioning Workshop](#)

Additional Food for Thought:



THE ZERO WASTE HIERARCHY 8.0

For detailed version visit 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](#)

[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](#)

Community Action Works Notes

[Campaign Planning Principles, Decision-Making Chart, Kick Off Meeting Notes](#)
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MEETING CHAT:

[Google Doc for Bottle Bill](#)