

NH Network Plastics Working Group (PWG) #51

Sunday, October 1, 6 pm

Next Meeting: Sunday, October 15, 6 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6275609302>

Meeting ID: 627 560 9302 Passcode: 201544

One tap mobile

+13092053325, 6275609302# US

[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.yg`*

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, Reb MacKenzie, Susan Richman, Raelene Shippee-Rice

Welcome New Folks, Land Acknowledgment, Norms

Jane joined us for the first time!

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

Events

- Monday, October 2 - EPR Study Committee - [view live at this link](#) (DES testifying)
- Monday, October 9 - Indigenous People's Day
- Monday, October 16 - EPR Study Committee (public testimony OK)
- February 2024 - "Rethink Plastic: Global and Local Solutions to The Plastic Crisis" (working title)
 - Shift 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?
- Today - [Year of No Garbage](#) Book Launch - Judith Enck, Bill McKibben, Eve O. Schaub
- [Hidden Brain Podcast - The Secret to Great Teams](#)

Agenda

Updates from Ten Towns, Ten Actions Leaders & Attendees

- **Ann - Chester:** Works with Earth Grandmas on the Ball and indigenous groups; has indigenous grandchildren; planning to show Microplastic Madness; wrote article advocating ban of vinyl chloride;

scout group teaching grandparents soccer and the young person will present why environmental activism is important; [A Plastic Planet](#) - website about plastic reduction.

- **Bonnie - Hopkinton:** School composting with smoke and mirrors! Things aren't going well with PWG initiatives, Hopkinton has shut down composting and schools are composting but are not quite getting what to put in their composters. Interested in reusable restaurant take out pilot.
- **Bruce - Keene:** Attended Energy Expo in Peterborough and heard about single-use plastics in restaurants; we need to encourage restaurants not to use styrofoam. In 2021 there was a bill proposed to ban polystyrene foodware.
- **Carol - Center Harbor:** Approached by three influential people in town who all wanted to know about plastics at Center Harbor volunteer recognition event - lots of questions Carol was able to answer. Received a call from a librarian in Nashua who wanted to know more about the Plastics Working Group; was excited to know that Sherry Dutzy was involved in the PWG; found an article about new protections in communities by the EPA; mentioned chemical pollution; following Cory Booker's federal policy work on plastics.
- **Christina - Portsmouth:** Working on the reusable restaurant take out pilot with Kristine; Beyond Plastics Senior; met with students for the Skip the Stuff Campaign; going to Portsmouth Rotary to ask for funds to the pilot project.
- **Cindy - Cornish Flat:** Mesh Bag Mama project to donate cloth bags, ½ way through their goal of 1,000 bags; gave 2 composting workshops this week to educate municipal staff and residents, funded by Regional Planning Commission
- **Cynthia - Dover:** 1. Turnkey landfill air permit - thanks to Cindy for writing the PWG group comments and all who signed. We were joined by several Dover Reps, the Dover City Manager and others. CW requested an evening hearing in Rochester on environmental justice grounds and specific replies to about 10h deficiencies in the permit. No news about DES responses. 2. Request from CW - I need help for a presentation to NH town officials called, "Hazardous Industries: How can municipalities protect themselves?" As a newcomer to NH, I need cases in NH history of problems and successes in managing industries. So far I have 2 problems: St. Gobain and Groveton's plastic to fuel and 1 success: Oil refinery that was not located on Great Bay due to public pressure. Any more? I am now the new Co-chair with Kristine of the Dover Plastic Reduction Group. No others wanted this plush position - ha ! My husband Mike will focus on writing - LTE's, testimony, for the several bills coming up, PPTs for talks.
- **Jane Roth - Kingston:** I want to learn more about the plan to go to the City/town and talk about composting and recycling glass again. The town of Kingston stopped accepting glass 3 months ago. Uplifted by what PWG is doing. At a wedding reception, served in a plastic bottle, and tried to educate the server, but felt conflicted afterwards. Inspired to contact Market Baskets and asked them not to sell water in plastic bottles - they need to hear from more customers asking for this or have legislation mandating the action. Eve's book was at her local library; recommends!
- **Kristine - Dover:** An analytical chemist who works for a plastic company has joined Dover Plastic Reduction Group; also Non-Toxic Communities and Non-Toxic Dover leader; starting to contact high school, middle schools, elementary schools; met with business owner working on supporting the restaurant reusable container project; testified at the EPR study committee - spoke with Peter Blair of Just Zero who did a PPT on EPR and he will do so with the Dover Group in October.
- **Mary - Harrisville:** Helped organize the sewers for MMMama's with Patsy.
- **Patsy - Nelson:** Made 40 Mesh Bags (team of 5 sewers) with 10 more on the way; January screening of the Story of Plastics; [Radically Rural](#) attendees spoke about working with Reb on trauma, people from all over the U.S. talk about public health, environment, rural concerns; presented a grant to a group working with goats eating grass under solar panels. Attended NH Health Care Workers for Climate Action meeting - discussed plastic education.
- **Raelene Shippee-Rice - Durham:** On the band-wagon cognitively and want to do so with action!
- **Reb - Claremont:** Anti Litter Task Force; teaching trauma informed mental health skills to hs and college students.

- Susan (not present) programs at Durham library: 9/18 ppt NRRA's Recycling 101; 10/4 "Kiss the Earth" 45 min school version; 10/25 Paige Wilson of DES on composting; 11/15 Dr. Robt Dewey on climate and health; 11/28 "Microplastic Madness" - all at 6:30 pm

Collective Actions Updates

- **Restaurant Project (Christina, Kristine): [Foodware Containers](#)** (stainless steel with silicone lid);
 - Meeting with Dover & Portsmouth Rotary to request funding \$5,000 for a 6 month pilot
 - Containers have the capacity for thousands of uses
 - Dover will have containers on January 3
 - Met with Dover City Councilor on Sea Grant Program - may be eligible for \$5,000
 - Downtown businesses may help
 - Portsmouth offers \$200 for restaurants who remove food scraps from waste stream
 - May get students involved from the Sustainability Program
 - Foodware program details - if the customer doesn't bring the container back, they are charged a fine. This gives encouragement for the customer to visit the participating restaurants
 - Kristine and Christina will be collecting data to encourage future adoption of this project
- **Organizing Tips:**
 - Using the word "pilot" helps to encourage organizations to consider a project. Ex: Mesh Bag Mamas pilot and restaurant take out pilots allow for data collection and project refinement
 - Community Action Works is a good source for funding activism projects; gave \$1,500 for Mesh Bag Mama postcard inserts without much encouragement.
 - Projects can be fun, like Mesh Bag Mamas - a fun community gathering experience.

Legislative - Current

- **Meetings with NH Senate & Rep staff** - Carol, Ann, Darla - meetings and updates continuing
- **Collaboration with Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)**
 - Kristine met with Nora Bosworth about having someone help PWG follow the relevant PWG legislation. Nora may be able to help PWG organize how to do this work. PWG would be more powerful/ effective about critical aspects of legislative issues re: plastics.
 - Nora wondered if our group would be open to receiving help organizing legislative activities around bills we are following. Nora will talk about this with Tom Irwin of Cons. Law Foundation.
 - We need someone who stays on top of committee meetings, tracks bills, and alerts PWG members to calls for action.
 - Only 2 Study Committee members attended the kick off meeting.
 - Reps from the bottle industry supporting EPR, Peter Blair from Just Zero, and PWG members attended.
 - CLF can help us coordinate and work together to be intentional about testimony/strategy.
 - Nora could watch for committee meetings and help organize the messaging.
 - Would we be able to get someone from the Union of Concerned Scientists and Just Zero who can talk about toxics? CLF, Just Zero & UCS already collaborate
 - The beverage industry talks about increasing plastic production because it is recyclable; need to respond to this with counter testimony
- **Container Deposit Law** - [Link to Working Document](#) - Sherry, Christina
- **EPR Legislation/Study Committee Update** - Committee Attendees
 - [LINK to PWG Slides](#) (Slide #44 & Beyond)
 - [Beyond Plastics guide to EPR legislation](#)
 - Focus on chemicals in food packaging with new legislation
 - [EPR Talking Points from PWG](#)

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

Legislative - Future

- **Toxics in Food Packaging** - [Link to Working Document](#)
 - Should be a separate bill from container deposit law - who will champion this? NHHCWCA?

Social Media/Media

- Social Media Campaign (Kennedy & Cassie) - in progress: Kennedy's work has someone interested in financially supporting it.

Education

- Thinking in Systems Training with Edie Farwell underway: Patsy, Cindy, Carol and Reb are involved in this. Patsy and Reb love it.
- 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

Priority Planning for 2023-24 - Your Name in the Lead Person Column?

(NOTE: There may be more things in this list than we can focus on. Should we eliminate any? If no one takes the lead on a topic should we put aside for now?)

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	End of	Cindy

		by co-op customers on reusable options for produce; Move co-op toward voluntary phase out of SUP bags in produce section	September to complete 1,000 bags; launch in October	Heath
	C. Ten Towns Toolkit	Send out newsletter updates Nov/Dec; Jan/Feb	Nov/Dec; Jan/Feb	Patsy Beffa-Negrini
	D. Restaurant Projects			Dover Plastics Reduction Group
	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 Possible soccer mentorship program with a fundraising goal to support environmental causes		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 NRRRA, Businesses for Social			

	Responsibility, Libraries				
	H. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT: CHANGING THE PLASTIC PARADIGM IN NH		End of October	Cindy Patsy Susan Carol	
#3: Legislation DES Legislation Page: https://www.des.nh.gov/rules-and-regulatory/legislation	A. PWG member participating in EPR study group (Model EPR); Connect Food Packaging Forum experts; Pursue truth in labeling law in NH			Bruce Norlund, Kristine Baber, Ann Podlipny	
	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			Kennedy McGrath	
	B. Facebook C. Chester FB Page D. NH Network	Regular PWG updates		Kennedy McGrath	
	E. Twitter or Threads				
	F. Online Media	Invite Rep. Wendy Thomas, Rosemarie Rung & Nancy Murphy (Water Warriors) Mara Hoplamazian (NHPR)			

	G. NH Municipal Association			
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Future Agenda Items

Links & Resources

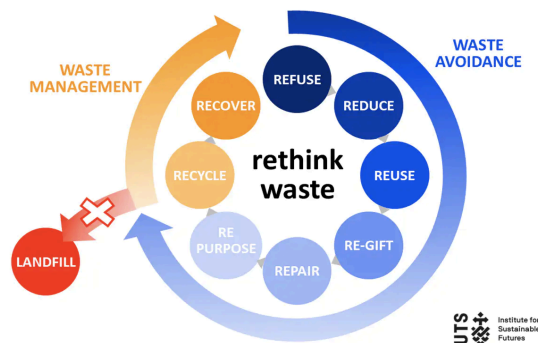
- [Beyond Recycling Plastic](#) (draft document created by Kristine Baber)
- [Biomimicry Website with Real World Solutions - Ask Nature](#)
- [Link to NH Network Brochure for Copying](#)
- [PPT by Susan Hodges with good material on alternatives to SUP](#)
- [Bloomberg Philanthropies - Beyond Petrochemicals 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

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:

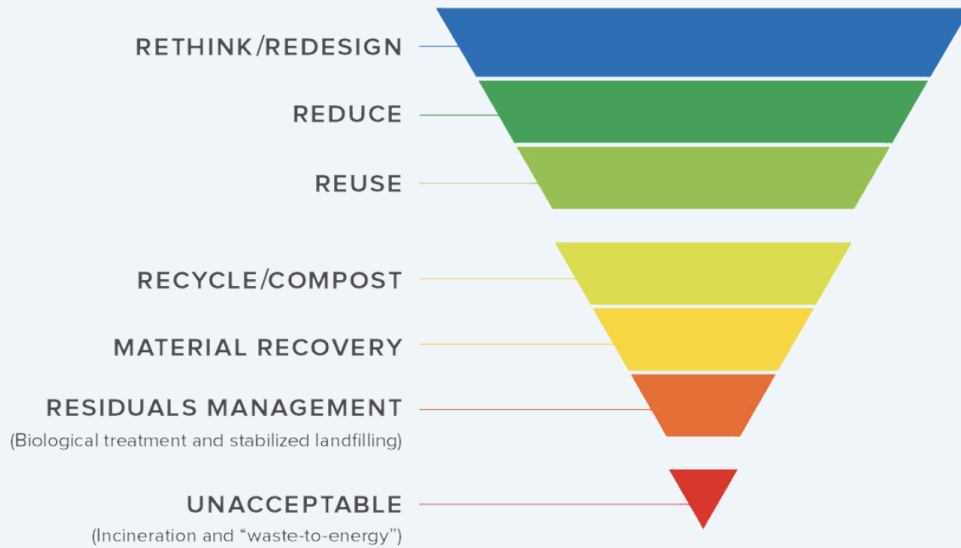
An **Extended** Waste Hierarchy



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

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](#)

[Meeting Notes #48 - August 20, 2023](#)

[Meeting Notes #49 - September 10, 2023](#)

[Meeting Notes #50 - September 17, 2023](#)

Community Action Works Notes

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

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RELEVANT CHAT:

Ann/Patsy: [Facebook post on Earth Grandma group in Chester](#)

Bonnie: [Pictures from Hopkinson Schools composting programs](#)

Christina: [Reusable Take Out Vendor](#) - Foodware To Go