

September 24, 2026 - Gear up for the New School Year

Tweak existing programs, plan for volunteer transitions, implement new programs.

AGENDA

Screen Share - Alison

Record Meeting - Alison

AGENDA: Introduction; Things to Note; Resources; Google Site Overview; East Longmeadow Schools Composting/Food Waste Reduction Presentation; Workgroup Updates (Survey); Beginning of School Year

Opening 1:00 pm (10 minutes)

- Greeting and welcome new members – discuss why this group was formed

This series of informal discussions will involve municipalities that have an investment in waste reduction and diversion in K-12 schools. Members of this working group will meet virtually four times over the course of the school year with other municipal officials and volunteers to review topics, share experiences and learn from peers while working on the funding, marketing, implementation and management of school waste reduction and diversion programs. Best practices will be created in this working group. Each municipality will work with their own school district to implement these programs. Subcommittees will be formed as needed to work on specific projects pertinent to implementing the goals of the working group.

- Things to note
 - New meeting format – still quarterly, but individual meetings are scheduled for different times. Meetings will still be recorded and posted on the Green SWoRD Google Site afterwards.
 - Green SWoRD working group will be meeting on October 8th at 10 AM. As a reminder, the working group meeting format has changed from 4 separate working groups to 1 single group. The group is still focused on reusables, food waste reduction and composting, events, and policy but are now working as one group. To join the working group please email Alison.
 - In addition to Green SWoRD, the Green Team is another resource
 - Schools must be registered annually: <https://thegreenteam.org/forms/registration/>
 - Eligible for equipment including recycling bins, yard composter, resources including school curriculum on waste reduction programs
 - All schools are subject to State Waste Bans
 - All municipal buildings, including schools, are required to have recycling in place in order for the municipality to qualify for MassDEP grants
 - School Recycling Policy and appropriate school signage should be in place
 - Start thinking about your budget for your school sustainability programs
 - Switching to reusables/dishwashers or adding composting - contact your facilities director, food service manager or DPW liaison now

Statewide Solid Waste Reduction & Diversion Working Group - Green SWoRD

- What your school should focus on this time of year:
 - America Recycles Day – November 15
 - Adjust existing programs or consider new programs
 - Food Waste Prevention Week - September 28 - October 4
 - Campaign to join the Green Team
- Resources:
 - The Green Team - member schools are eligible for free equipment including recycling bins and backyard composters, and resources including school curriculum and other educational materials on waste reduction programs
 - Campaign to Join The Green Team
 - Schools must be registered annually:
 - The Green Team Registration: <https://thegreenteam.org/forms/registration/>
 - Green SWoRD now on Green Team's website!
 - Recycling Works in MA - offers technical assistance for implementing waste reduction programs districtwide
 - Recycling Works in MA School Assistance : <https://thegreenteam.org/forms/registration/>
 - **Green SWoRD Google site:**
<https://sites.google.com/view/ma-greensword-wg/home>
 - **Highlight Awards, Events, Webinars, and Conferences and Grants webpages for upcoming opportunities for this school year.**
 - **Green SWoRD Google group:**
<https://groups.google.com/g/ma-green-sword>

Presentation - Alison to introduce

- **Town of East Longmeadow - Liz Bone, Waste and Recycling Coordinator of East Longmeadow – 1:10 PM (35 minutes)**

We will hear from Liz Bone of East Longmeadow about school composting and food waste diversion in East Longmeadow schools. Liz began working in East Longmeadow as a Recycling Coordinator in 2017. In 2022, Liz initiated the composting program at five East Longmeadow schools and Senior Center. Last year, Liz also secured a DEP grant, which enabled the implementation of reusable food service ware at the schools, along with the establishment of share tables. To date, East Longmeadow has diverted over 186,000 pounds of food waste within the past four years.

Working group Update - 1:45 pm (25-30 minutes)

Statewide Solid Waste Reduction & Diversion Working Group - Green SWoRD

- Alison & Leah
 - Survey – share screen to show survey data summary
 - Short accompanying slide show (15 minutes)
 - Share plans for follow up with respondents, deliverables, and potential second survey to be worked on with working group
 - Discussion, questions, etc. (10-15 minutes)

Segway to...

Closing 2:15 pm (5 minutes)

- America Recycles Day - November 15th
- Food Waste Prevention Week - September 28 - October 4
- Recruit for working group
 - Email Alison