

NH Network Plastics Working Group (PWG) #49

Sunday, September 10, 6 pm

Next Meeting: September 17, 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, **Bruce Norlund**, **Carol Sullivan**, **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, **Rep. Sherry Dutzy**

Welcome New Folks, Land Acknowledgment, Norms

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

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 18 - [Offshore Wind/Fish & Fisherman Program](#) (Network)
- September 18 - meeting of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) study committee – Rep Parshall would like some PWG members to be present, with or without testimony.
 - Bruce Norlund, Kristine Baber, Ann Podlipny will attend

Actions

- Letter campaign to DES on air quality (air permit for Turnkey Landfill) - Cynthia Walter
 - [Link to talking points](#)
 - Turnkey DES permit allows expansion, which triggered a requirement for an air permit
 - **September 13 deadline for letters to DES**
 - Hearing recently showed gaps between DES responsibility and actions being taken at Turnkey; measurements only taken once every 3 years
 - DES is not looking at PFAS in air quality control measures; claiming to wait for EPA before measuring PFAS emissions
 - Why aren't St. Gobain regulations being applied? Antiquated flares still in operation
 - DES has capacity to require modern flares which would allow air quality monitoring

Presentation

Representative Wendy Thomas - on PFAs in water in Merrimack & NH at large

WETHomas@gmail.com. Phone # is 603-494-3851

- **PFAS Uses:**
 - Teflon, medical tubing
 - Waterproofing for outdoor gear
 - Dental floss - [link for PFAS free dental floss](#)
 - Used by DOD
- **The Problem:**
 - Waste products from St. Gobain operation was burned and dumped into nearby waterways
 - Heat from fires didn't destroy the chemicals; soot lands on the soil
 - Rain drives PFAs into soil affecting produce grown in affected soil
 - Improper disposal practices are contaminating everything
 - Excessive deaths of pets from cancer; human impacts widespread - serious health issues
 - People don't understand the severity and dangers of PFAs, forever chemical
- **Background:**
 - 2016 St. Gobain self-identified that PFAs was a problem
 - Local committee formed - testing by state revealed 1 mile radius of concern
 - Rep. Thomas tested her home well and found high levels of PFAs (3 miles away)
 - Installed \$5K of water filtering systems, but in 2021 PFAs levels were higher
 - Entire family has been contaminated and St. Gobain has provided bottled water but not admitted guilt; still using contaminated water for bathing; all family members have health issues
 - 14,000 PFAs chemicals exist, DES only tests for four
 - St. Gobain committed to connecting to City water but not for 7-10 years
 - Wendy has 12 chemicals in her blood that exceed recommended levels for humans
 - Chemicals associated with breast, ovarian cancers
 - Neighbors all have cancer; raised awareness after Wendy went public with her cancer
 - Part of a class action suit for private well owners; will take years; now requiring international legal proceedings due to St. Gobain's closure
 - NH has very little regulation so polluting companies choose to move here
- **Actions**
 - Must push the message of **People Over Profit**
 - St. Gobain has decided to close its plant and leave Merrimack, but legal action is ongoing
 - Wendy has convened concerned Democratic House members - Public Health & Environmental Toxins Committee (PHET) devoted to addressing environmental problems with 2 house resolutions (formal letters between legislative bodies) - 50-60 legislators involved
 - Letter going to President of France to raise awareness to be sure St. Gobain is held responsible for remediation; if this occurred in France, St. Gobain executive would be put in jail - much stronger environmental laws in Europe
 - Letter going to President Biden with same ask
 - St. Gobain is likely to spin off the Merrimack site and file for bankruptcy to eliminate funding for remediation
 - Bill submitted in 2018 to require PFAs testing be covered by insurance
 - Aware of advocates and groups working in the space who may provide public education
 - Soil testing is being considered - the only allowable limit for PFAs is 0
 - Biosolids are being tested; PFAS is excreted into biosolids
 - Cows in Maine were infected with PFAS from eating contaminated hay and water and had to be euthanized; farmer lost his livelihood

- Standards lacking for soil tests
- **Support Groups:**
 - Environmental Working Group - [Federal PFAS Report Card](#)
 - [Dartmouth College - PFAS Fact Sheet](#)
 - Dartmouth Student Award Winning Capstone Project - [Poster](#)
 - *Low Cost, Open Source PFAS Filter Design for Small Businesses*
 - Silent Spring Institute - [PFAS Exchange](#)
 - PFAs Project Lab at Northeastern - [Resources](#)

Discussion - How can PWG members help Water Warriors?

- **PWG Members Actions To Take**
 - **LTEs to explain the dangers of PFAs and their effects**
 - **Wendy will speak to any town**
 - **Wendy will write up a summary for PWG members to use as a guide**

Updates from Ten Towns, Ten Actions Leaders & Attendees

- **Patsy:** visited Greenland/Iceland; lunch provided on bike trip was plastic free; guide reported that he was only doing it because it was legislated by law in 2021; Nelson is going to adopt community power; Keene Clean Energy team is a good venue for a plastics discussion next year
- **Cynthia - Dover:** sent letter to SW staff in Dover; has been focused on air pollution coming from landfill; wants to visit schools on transitioning from plastic to reusables; At the NH Municipal association Annual conference, I will be presenting in a 75 min panel on Chemical Recycling and other hazardous industries and how towns can protect themselves at the local land use level.
- **Cindy - Cornish Flat:** Mesh Bag Mama project launched in pop up studio with permission from co-op to install reusable mesh bags alongside plastic bags in produce section, planning to perform Mesh Bag Mama song; redesigning postcard in 'coop style'; Zero Waste Harvest Pot Luck on September 29; Rev. Jim Antal possible panelist for October Network presentation; working on advancing food scrap collection in Upper Valley towns with Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
- **Christina - Portsmouth:** has reusable containers from Foodware; now a sample restaurant and can guide the restaurants through the scanning/sign out process; running Skip the Stuff campaign; promotion is challenging but will outreach to City Councilor who might bring forth an ordinance
- **Ann - Chester:** inquired about container deposit, no response; more community events, compost project expanding; NexTrex program handed over to an Eagle Scout; published an article about NH Bulletin/Concord Monitor on environmental justice - relates directly to PFAs issue and Wendy's situation; sending to church groups to advance environmental justice issues; wants to write a letter to state reps and senator about PFAs and would like to contact Montessori families; 'Do One Thing' and 'It's Easy Being Green' campaign with schools making buttons
- **Kristine - Dover:** Observed plastics waste scene is Switzerland; grocery stores charge 5 cents for plastic bag; most use reusable bags; chemist has reached out to join Dover Plastic Reduction group
- **Carol - Center Harbor:** good communication with Selectboard and Town Committees; continuing to push education on Earth Day and Plastic Free July for standing activities and successors; communicating with libraries and school (serving 3 towns) to learn about their efforts on environmental issues; kids are on board to join the environmental train
- **Bruce - Keene:** Can you recycle black plastic or just black styrofoam; observing [Soda Stream](#) ads
- **Nancy - Bristol:** Newfound Country Store has switched to reusables and restaurants also; library has PSU professor to talk about climate change; helped with Hazardous Waste Collection; engaging in activism judiciously; Community Center has eliminated plastics and have started composting
- **Sherry - Nashua:** submitting LSR for container deposit bill; feedback from Michael Nork wearing his citizen's hat - suggested looking up RS 178:26 - 30 cents/gallon tax, and would go down to 18 cents if beer bottles are included; contacted leg. Coord. For NH Liquor Commission; will liquor stores be redemption centers?; contacted Governor's office to take the temperature - response was to start a dialogue; lobbyist for ABA has recommended liaison to begin to discuss the draft bill

Collective Actions Update

- Restaurant Project (Cynthia, Kristine)
- Mesh Bag Mamas (Cindy, Mary, Patsy) - Mesh bag kits available soon; **Comment from Susan: can mesh produce bags also be bought and offered? This is a great model for all of us.**

Education

- Thinking in Systems Training with Edie Farwell underway
- 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

Legislative

- **Meetings with NH Senate & Rep staff - Carol, Ann, Darla**
- **Democratic Legislative Retreat on Tuesday August 22 - Update - Sherry Dutzy**
- **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
- **Toxics in Food Packaging - [Link to Working Document](#)**
 - Should be a separate bill from container deposit law - who will champion this? NHHWCWA?

Social Media/Media

- Social Media Campaign (Kennedy & Cassie) - in progress

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

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 phase out of SUP bags in produce section	End of September to complete 1,000 bags; launch in October	Cindy Heath
	C. Ten Towns Toolkit			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		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			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 G. NH Municipal Association	Invite Rep. Wendy Thomas, Rosemarie Rung & Nancy Murphy (Water Warriors) Mara Hoplamazian (NHPR)		

Future Agenda Items

Links & Resources

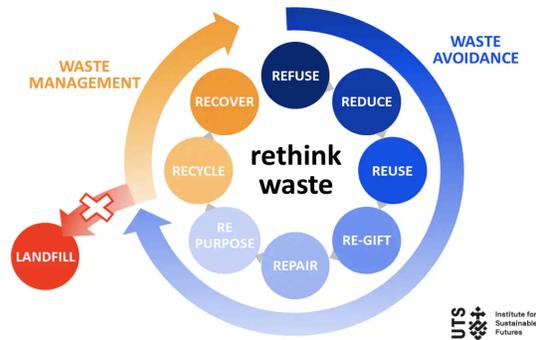
- [Beyond Recycling Plastic](#) (draft document created by Kristine Baber)
- [Biomimicry Website with Real World Solutions - Ask Nature](#)
- [Link to NH Network Brochure for Copying](#)
- [PPT by Susan Hodges with good material on alternatives to SUP](#)
- [Bloomberg Philanthropies - Beyond Petrochemicals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

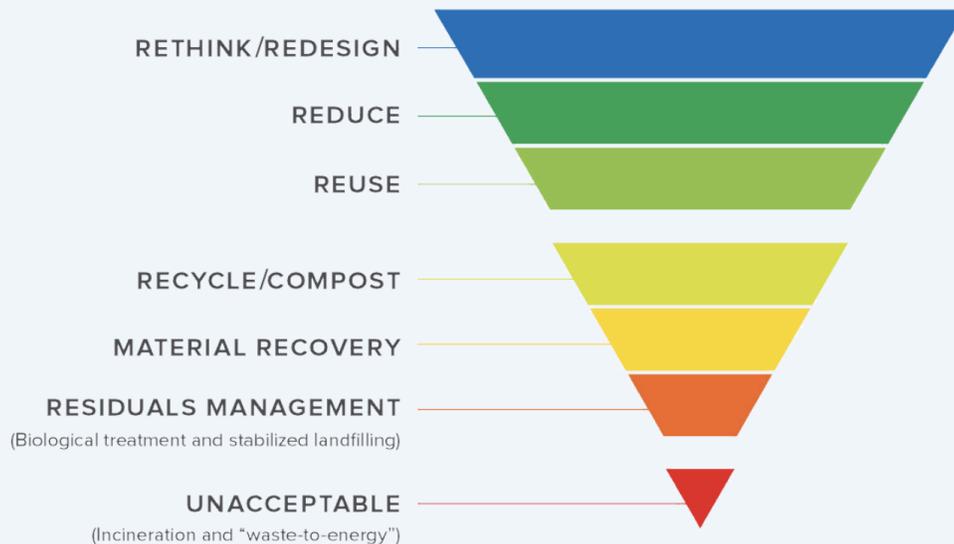
An **Extended** Waste Hierarchy



Version 8.0 — Last updated May 19, 2022

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 Note #47 - August 6, 2023](#)
[Meeting Note #48 - August 20, 2023](#)

Community Action Works Notes

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MEETING CHAT:

Patsy Beffa-Negrini:

Offshore Wind Event: <https://www.newhampshirenetwork.org/events>

Christina Dubin:

Turnkey Issue Talking points:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1y8MXh8uRd67zvNLID9fWk3oTQE7lvosa/edit>

Patsy Beffa-Negrini:

Cynthia's request: <https://www.newhampshirenetwork.org/take-action#h.ltgsi9fyjijo>

Cynthia Walter:

Wendy, many thanks for your efforts. Your story is sadly similar to that of others I know from my former home in SW Pennsylvania, including the neighborhoods with cancer in every home on the street, and childhood illnesses that tear at our hearts. We will work to help you and other communities harmed by PFAS.

Cynthia Walter:

For Patsy and others in conservation commissions, states with bottle bills have huge reductions in roadside trash, so we hope NH will get its own bottle bill. I can get you the statistics.