

Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management Meeting

Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2023 Increase Reuse & Recycling Working Group Meeting

Present: See Attachment A
Next meeting: July 18th, 1:00pm
Prepared by: Luciana Granstrand, DEEP

I. Call to Order and Announcements

Meeting began at 1:03pm.

Co-Chair Denise Raap, Litchfield's First Selectwoman, provided welcoming remarks, introductions and an overview of the Increase Reuse and Recycling Working Group. Co-chair Ben Florsheim, Middletown's Mayor, was unable to attend the meeting.

Sherill Baldwin, Environmental Analyst, CT DEEP reviewed the meeting's agenda, housekeeping rules and introduced the guest speakers.

II. Presentations

A panel composed of the following guest speakers was presented to share tools and programs to support and incentivize businesses to reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost, as well as how municipalities can help businesses to implement these programs.

Building Reuse Infrastructure in Your Municipality:

Crystal Dreisbach, Founder & CEO, "Don't Waste Durham," presented the organization's mission, practical examples of reuse/recirculation, and ways for municipalities to build reuse infrastructure using what is already in place at the municipal level.

Paul Audette, Sales and Marketing Specialist, Stop & Shop, presented on the chain's Flashfood APP, which was created to sell reduced products (food nearing its best-by date) to address food insecurity and keep food away from landfills and incinerators.

Dawn Sullivan, Chair, Sustainable Westport, presented on Westport's Ordinance no. 46-120 that prohibits the use of expanded polystyrene and single-use plastic food service containers and requires food service businesses to transition from disposable plastic food service ware to compostable and recyclable alternatives.

Infrastructure Apps, Ordinances, Reusable Packaging, and other Resources to Help Businesses

Margie Bell, Co-Founder, Recirclable, Arlington, Massachusetts, presented Recirclable's mission to provide consumers and restaurants the opportunity to reduce waste by offering reusable containers for takeout as an alternative to single-use containers.

Amber Schmidt, New England Zero Waste Organizer, Clean Water Action, ReThink Disposables Program presented services and programs provided by ReThink Disposable to support municipalities and businesses to shift away from the single-use “throwaway” culture.

Heather Billing, Senior Environmental Specialist, Center for EcoTechnology, CT Business Recycling Assistance, provided an update on Connecticut's Business Recycling Assistance Program.

III. Roundtable & Public Comment

Members of the public were asked to use the “chat” or “raise hand” feature to indicate if they wanted to ask a question.

Attendees asked speakers if the programs presented were funded by grants or other funding sources.

Other attendees asked Mr. Audette, Stop & Shop, for the total amounts of food sold through the Flashfood Stop & Shop APP, the final destination of prepared food in-store, and if the chain sends food scraps for animal feed sources in Connecticut.

Additional questions regarding funding sources and whether presenters have seen towns working together to implement regional programs to help businesses reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost were asked.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

The following working group meeting will be held on July 18, 2023. The topic of discussion will be on Textile Recycling and Fast Fashion.

Attachment A

Name	Organization
Robyn Nichols	CRCOG
Chris Nelson	CT DEEP
Sherill Baldwin	CT DEEP
Mara Shulman	Conservation Law Foundation
Janice EhleMeyer	RiverCOG
Christine O'Neill	NVCOG
Mallory Daley	Hughes & Cronin
Jennifer Baum	HRRA
Sam Cardwell	Conservation Law Foundation
Sam Saunders	Town of Ellington
Luciana Granstrand	CT DEEP
Amber Schmidt	Clean Water Action
Anne Hulick	Clean Water Action
Lauren Potter	Center for EcoTechnology
Margie Bell	Recirclable
Linda Orr	City of Torrington
Joe Canino	Sullivan & LeShane

Lori	Martin	Haven's Harvest
Tammy	Thornton	Wilton Go Green
Carl	Amento	South Central Regional Council of Government
DAN	COLLELUORI	City of Stamford
Mary	Isaac	Sustainable Trumbull
Ashley	Zane	CBIA
Alexa	Sosa	Food Rescue US - Fairfield County
Todd	Rolland	Town of Somers
carl	fortuna	Town of Old Saybrook
Bob	Bessel	Town of Canton
Kris	Coperine	NatureWorks
Robert	Isner	self
Rachel	Schnabel	Town of Manchester
Brian	Bartram	Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station
Julie	DesChamps	Waste Free Greenwich
Theresa	Christenson	Town of Harwinton
Jennifer	Dillon	Cheshire Academy
Matthew	Knickerbocker	Town of Wilton
kevin	Spinella	GBA
Joseph	DeNicola	DEEP
Crystal	Dreisbach	Don't Waste Durham
Courtney	Radosavljevic	EyeRecycle
Michael	Stallings	EyeRecycle
Gately	Ross	Sustainable Westport
Johanna	Martell	Sustainable Westport
Sean	Hughes	Hughes and Cronin
Tony	Manfre	south windsor
Brenna	Toman	CT DEEP
Virginia	Bromage	Suffield's Environmental & Sustainability Task Force
Paige	Silva	Town of Redding
Mike	Manfre	Town of Glastonbury
Ian	McDonald	CT Zero Waste Coalition
Christine	Beling	USEPA New England
Russell	Asklof	town of canton
Joe	DeRisi	Town of Hamden
Jennifer	Heaton-Jones	HRRA
Christopher	Antonacci	USA Waste and Recycling
Stacey	Ohlmann Leitch	Groton Public Works
Laura	Pointek	DEEP
Matt	Riiska	Town of Norfolk
Kalyn	Docchio	Sustainable Essex

Anna	Murphy	Town of Suffield
Misty	Beyer	Solid Waste and Recycling
Tiffany	Carlson	Town of Ridgefield
Lily	Keefe	HRRA
Paul	Audette	Stop and Shop Supermarket Co
Dawn	Sullivan	Sustainable Westport
Karen	Weeks	Rome, Smith, Lutz & Kowalski
Brian	Popovich	USA
Ryan	OHalpin	Town of Portland
Elizabeth	Moore	CT DEEP
Jackie	Caceci	Tighe & Bond
April	Clayton	DEEP
Carolyn	Bayne	Darien Advisory Committee on Sustainability
Jennifer	Weymouth	CT DEEP
Krishna	Winston	Middletown Resource Recovery Advisory Commission
Virginia	Walton	Town of Mansfield
Chez	Liley	SMART taskforce
Taylor	Hendrickson	Food Rescue
Jerry	Geci	Litchfield SMART Task Force - volunteers
Lindsey	Y	City of Bristol Public Works
Chez	Liley	SMART Taskforce
Maura	O'Brien	Stop & Shop
connie	mendolia	CTDEEP
sabrina	knoll	Food Rescue US
Natasha	Gaffer	Forever Ware
Heather	Billings	CET
Denise	Raap	Town of Litchfield
George	Stubbs	Don't Waste Durham
Tammy	Thornton	HRRA
Alice	Kosowsky	SW&R Commission