

**New London Waste Reduction Committee (WRC)**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**Thursday, December 5, 2024**  
**10:00 AM Whipple Hall**

**Call to Order and Introductions:**

Introductions

Review and accept 10/24/24 meeting minutes

**Old Business:**

1. Update: Compost Phase II – Liz and Maureen
2. Update: Reflections on the 3rd Styrofoam collection day, Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 to 11 AM; suggestion - conduct a Styrofoam collection day after the Holiday Season, Saturday January 4, 2025 *(suggestion only)*

**New Business:**

1. Waste Reduction Committee – future role and work, new projects, meet every month / every other month, continuation, “sunset
2. Center for Eco Technology – See the power point presentation
3. KRES, New London Update – meeting Jason Hirschhorn, Vice Principal on 12/05 at 1:45 PM; Maureen sent a video about the nuts and bolts of starting an all-school compost project from the Vermont organic recycling summit
4. CSC Update – Ella
5. Other items – Roundtable discussion

**Next Meeting and Adjournment:**

Dates of Note:

WRC Meeting – Thursday January 23, 2025

**New London Waste Reduction Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 24, 2024 at Whipple Hall**

**Call to order:** Jerry Coogan called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jerry Coogan, chairman; Maureen Prohl, Gerry Gold, John Ellis, Maureen Prohl, Liz Meller.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chris McKee, Joy Kubit,

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bill Helm, Selectman; Kenny Waldo, DPW Transfer Station Director; Anne LaVergne, New London resident; Andrew Cockerill, Newbury resident and volunteer with Kearsarge Climate Action (KCA); Ella Dougherty, Americorps/Climate Campus Action Corps member at Colby-Sawyer College.

**MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes for meeting of September 26, 2024, approved.

**PROJECTS:**

**Food waste composting project:** Maureen reported that 23.36 tons of New London residential food waste has been diverted from landfill as of 9/21/24. Also, 172 residential participants are enrolled and have Renewal Compost buckets. Three 3 buckets remain for new enrollees. It was decided to purchase 10 additional buckets from Renewal.

At the DPW Transfer Station there are two new 64-gallon trash totes, not yet in use. This makes for a total of 6 totes available.

Liz observed that more education is needed as many residents are unaware of the food waste collection program. Information is available on the Town website but not read. Some participants are not aware that extra recyclable trash bags are available at the Town Offices. Maureen suggested using a QR code, posted at the Transfer Station and on paper handouts.

**Plastic recycling:** Liz and Kenny discussed the never-ending need to educate residents about #1 and #2 plastics that can be recycled at the Transfer Station: Only bottles, not "clamshell" plastics. Kenny noted that the public learns but always new learners, or forgetters.

**Polystyrene Collection:** "Foam collection day" is November 2nd at DPW main office on South Pleasant Street. Ella Dougherty was introduced to the WRC. She said Colby Sawyer College, at her initiative, is collecting Styrofoam for delivery to DPW. The sources of CSC foam are the cafeteria and the science laboratories.

**Paper recycling:** Kenny said the restart of paper recycling has been popular. Quality control of paper products deposited by citizens requires, as with plastics, a never-ending educational effort by DPW staff: No sneeze tissues; no plastic-coated milk cartons; no paper bags with rope handles and other "contaminants."

**Parking at Transfer Station:** Kenny noted that cars parked in front of the trash drop-off can block disposal by citizens. Discussion suggested signs and painting the pavement with hash-marks as used in many roadside locations.

**Future Role of Waste Reduction Committee:** Bill Helm noted that the 3-year term for the Waste Reduction Committee has been completed with special success establishing a food waste recycling program and initiating semi-annual Styrofoam collections. Much of the broader waste reduction information at today's meeting focuses on public education and would be better shared with the Town's Citizens Committee (SEE:<https://newlondon.nh.gov/cac>). That committee meets monthly, each first Saturday early morning. Further discussion of WRC future role will be discussed at the Committee's next meeting December 5th.

**New Business:**

**Kearsarge Climate Action (KCA) and the Center for Eco-Technology (CET):** Andrew Cockerill, a Newbury resident and volunteer with Kearsarge Climate Action (KCA), said KCA is looking for more volunteers for community education and outreach. He described the recent successes and disappointments of efforts to work with local businesses, especially restaurants, in recycling and composting food wastes. Over the last 12 months CET interventions in NH have led to over 130 tons of wasted food being diverted from landfill. CET offers guidance to restaurants, schools, care homes, hospitals, grocers and all businesses that generate waste.

KCA volunteers assist by linking businesses to technical assistance from CET staff. One priority is to develop local regional composting relationships between restaurants and farms. A longer range goal could be to create a regional composting facility, possibly as a commercial venture serving many towns. Recent successful projects have been launched in New London at Woodcrest, Flying Goose, and Blue Loon. (SEE attached KCA PowerPoint presentation and also (1) [www.facebook.com/KearsargeClimate/](http://www.facebook.com/KearsargeClimate/); (2) CET: [https://wastedfood.cetonline.org/about-cet/..](https://wastedfood.cetonline.org/about-cet/)

**Next steps with Colby Sawyer College waste reduction projects:** Ella Doherty succeeds Anna White as the AmeriCorps/Climate Campus Action Corps fellow at CSC. (SEE: <https://compact.org/current-programs/ameri-corps/campus-climate-action-corps>). Ella will be on campus through July 2025. Her emphasis is on building environmental/sustainability connections between college and community people and projects. She has met with the New London Town Energy Committee on home energy topics and now with the Waste Reduction Committee. The College no longer has an office of Sustainability so Ella is working in support of the student-led Sustainability Club and the Community Service Club and initiating contacts with faculty.

**Adjournment:** Jerry Coogan adjourned the meeting at 11:01AM.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Next Waste Reduction Committee meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2024 (12/5/24) Thursday at 10:00AM at Whipple Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Gerard Gold, Secretary, Waste Reduction Committee