

**New London Waste Reduction Committee (WRC)
Meeting Agenda**

Thursday, June 20, 2024

10:00 AM Whipple Hall

(Note change to Whipple Hall)

Call to Order and Introductions:

Introductions

Review and accept 05/23/24 meeting minutes

Old Business:

1. Update: Compost Phase II – Liz and Maureen
2. Update 3rd Styrofoam collection day - October 26, 2024 (Correct?) - Joy

New Business:

1. Recycle newsprint and other paper products; should the WRC prepare a funding proposal?; regional cooperation
2. Plastics – recycle plastic pots, etc.
3. Colby Sawyer College – general update
4. Survey
5. KRSD update –
6. Other items – Roundtable discussion

Next Meeting and Adjournment: Thursday July 26, 2024

Dates of Note:

June 22, 2024: NL Strawberry Festival on the Green; booth opportunity

June 27, 2024: Town Community Gathering at 8:30 AM CSC; should WRC share information?

New London Waste Reduction Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 23, 2024 at Whipple Hall

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerry Coogan, Chris McKee, Gerry Gold, Joy Kubit, John Ellis, Maureen Prohl

MEMBERS ABSENT: Liz Meller.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Helm, Selectman; Anna White, AmeriCorp participant assigned to Colby-Sawyer College; Sarah Peabody, student, Colby-Sawyer College.

MEETING MINUTES: Minutes for meeting of March 21, 2024, unanimously approved.

PROJECTS:

Food waste composting project: Maureen reported a total of 175 home compost buckets received from Renewal Compost, of which 161 have been assigned to participants. New participants can sign up on the WRC webpage on Town website; Maureen or Liz Meller will deliver the bucket. Participants bring their compost buckets to the Transfer Station where they empty into large bins (or "totes") provided by Renewal Compost. Renewal collects compost weekly from those bins. Chris asked if Renewal could collect twice weekly if the Town program were enlarged. Maureen will ask Renewal to explain their capacity and interest in an expanded compost project.

Nancy reported that April compost collection was 1,200 gallons using 4 totes at a monthly cost of \$665. By weight that amounts to about 3-tons removed from landfill stream in April. The annual cost is about \$8,000 from the WRC budget of \$12,000.

Maureen also reported on the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) April 16-17 conference where she and DPW Director Bob Harrington were on a panel explaining New London's successful food waste composting project. Their topic, "How to set up a municipal food waste collection program," was well-received but with many questions as participants wondered if other communities would be so receptive. Maureen observed that a 2019 Master Plan survey of New London residents found 68 percent in favor before the program began. Also the New London collection, now with 161 participants, remains modest in scale but significant in terms of weight of food scraps diverted from the waste stream. SEE: www.nrrarecycles.org/news/getting-food-waste-out-trash-through-diversion-or-composting

Joy reported that WRC's home compost demonstration on New London Cleanup Day, May 11, was a smaller than expected but enthusiastic group. Majestic Terhune of UVLSRPC was the presenter.

Jerry said he has been talking with Brett Pare, KRSD Facilities Director, to discuss District-wide interest in waste reduction. Brett is also talking with the Center for Eco-Technologies to set up a pilot project in a KRSD school.

Polystyrene Collection: Joy reported that the April 27 polystyrene collection filled seven "supersacks" for delivery to Gilford, NH, for "densification." Additionally, five foam coolers were donated to the Newport food pantry for their local deliveries. The unused eight

2024 DRAFT May 23 Minutes WRC Waste Reduction Committee

super sacks are stored at DPW for future use. Joy suggested a 2024 future collection day of either October 5th or 12th or November 2nd.

Paper recycling: A discussion of possible separation of newsprint from general waste paper returned to past issues of difficulties of paper contamination/quality control at the Transfer Station and also whether Hannaford's front door containers for paper recycling were being used in great volume, and where that mixed paper was going. John agreed to talk with local Hannaford store manager Peter Monigle.

Plastics garden pots Recycling: Jerry reported that Spring Ledge Farm, which limits recycling of plastic plant pots to only their own plants, will not restrict returns of those plant pots to one day monthly. Their ability to limit customer returns to one day will be tested.

COLBY-SAWYER COLLEGE FOOD WASTE REDUCTION PROJECTS: Anna White, introduced Sarah Peabody as president of the College's Sustainability Club and an intern working with Anna through July to develop a student-led climate change agenda. Anna also reported good results so far with changes in waste signage at the CSC dining hall. Anna said that Abby Massaro of the Center for Eco-Technology has been following the signage project and approves the current solutions. A strong test of dining room waste signage will be with attendees at the Gordon Research Conferences this summer.

WRC Projects with Kearsarge Elementary School: Maureen presented an episode of "Cougar News," the KRES television news-style report on the April 8th student site visit to the New London Transfer Station. Student reporters interviewed facility supervisor Kenny Waldo as he explained how trash and renewables are managed and disposed. The core themes were: Where does our waste go? and What happens to it when we leave?

Joy reported on the KRES Cougar Carnival, May 10th, where a "plastic sort and throw" game in the playground was a happy event for students and parents. The KRES PTO was very pleased. Prizes were provided by NL Recreation director, Putnam Kidder.

A motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 11:30AM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next Waste Reduction Committee meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2024 (6/20/24) Thursday at 10:00AM at Whipple Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Gerard Gold, Secretary, Waste Reduction Committee

Potential survey questions for gauging...

Backyard composting activity

- 1) How many people live in your household?
___ children (under 18)
___ adults
- 2) Have you *ever* composted food waste in your backyard (in New London)?
 - Yes, no
- 3) Do you *currently* compost food waste in your backyard? In no, skip to question 7.
 - Yes, no, sometimes
- 4) How long have you composted at your home?
 - Less than a year, 1-3 years, 3 or more years
- 5) How much of your food waste do you compost in your backyard?
 - Very little, about $\frac{1}{4}$, about $\frac{1}{2}$, all
- 6) What type of composting system do you use at home?
- 7) If you *do not* currently compost, why not? Please check all that apply.
 - I don't know how to compost, I don't have "composting confidence," I don't have enough yard space, I don't have time, I'm worried about wildlife, I tried before and it did not go well, Other (write a response)
- 8) Do you bring your food scraps to the New London Transfer Station drop-off site?
 - Yes, no, sometimes

Food waste generation

- 1) How many people live in your household?
___ children (under 18)
___ adults
- 2) How often do you eat at a restaurant or order takeout?
 - Every day, 2-3 times a week, once every few weeks, once a month, rarely
- 3) In general, do you save your leftovers from a meal?
 - Yes, no, sometimes
- 4) How often do you eat *all* your leftovers?
 - Every time, often, every now and then, never
- 5) Do you buy perishable items in bulk (fruit, vegetables, dairy, etc.)?
 - Every time, often, every now and then, never
- 6) How often do you take advantage of grocery store deals such as "buy two get one free"?
 - Every time, often, every now and then, never
- 7) In your opinion, do you store your perishable food properly? (i.e., fruits and vegetables that are better stored in a refrigerator vs. on a counter, different areas in a refrigerator, etc.)
 - Yes, no, not sure
- 8) In general, do you throw out food once it reaches its "best/use by" or "expiration date"?
 - Every time, often, every now and then, never (unless it is clearly spoiled)

Today's topic: Microplastics from NH Boston Globe 6/13/24

New research from the University of New Hampshire has found that some critical New Hampshire waters are littered with microplastics.

As the name suggests, microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic that have broken down to less than 5 millimeters, or roughly the size of a pencil's eraser. They come from everyday consumer goods, everything from plastic water bottles to food containers, and even clothing that contains synthetic fibers can generate them.

Scientists are finding these microplastics to be pervasive. They've been found in all kinds of animals, in the environment, and in people. A study from May this year even found them in both **human and dog testes**. And there's concern about the **health impacts** these tiny particles could have, although it is considered an **emerging field of study**.

University of New Hampshire faculty researchers focused on three critical estuaries: Great Bay, Hampton-Seabrook, and the Great Marsh in Massachusetts.

They found that levels in the Great Bay Estuary, located in New Hampshire's Seacoast, were much higher than Hampton-Seabrook and Great Marsh.

In Great Bay, there were as many as 4,000 pieces of tiny plastic per cubic meter, while there were just 11 per cubic meter in the Hampton-Seabrook estuary, and around 1 per cubic meter in Great Marsh, according to researcher Bonnie Brown.

Estuaries are considered "nurseries of the sea" because they provide nesting and breeding grounds for many species.

Brown is a professor at the University of New Hampshire and the chair of the department of biological sciences. She said the research is critical in establishing a baseline to understand the current state of the region's waterways.

"We needed to know how many microplastics are out there to begin with," she said.

While Hampton-Seabrook and Great Marsh are close to the ocean where

particles can get washed away, Great Bay is further upstream, where the water sticks around for longer.

Knowing where microplastics are most concentrated is just an initial step to understanding their impacts. One of Brown's PhD students is studying whether oysters can purge microplastics from their system.

"What people need to know is that anytime you use some plastic, it is going to go somewhere," she said.

"It does end up in our food and in us," she said.

– Amanda

'What the heck is the state doing?' NH Senate kills action on landfills

By CLAIRE SULLIVAN

New Hampshire Bulletin

Valley News

Published: 06-03-2024 4:00 PM

When Rep. David Rochefort drives into Concord two or three times a week for his work at the Legislature, he sees trucks full of out-of-state trash heading north.

About half of the waste dumped into New Hampshire's six active landfills – located in Bethlehem, Lebanon, Rochester, Conway, Success, and Nashua – comes from other New England states.

A host of bills this session – several sponsored by Rochefort, a Littleton Republican – sought to address the heaps of trash being imported into the state and pump the brakes on new landfill development. The House passed all but one with overwhelming bipartisan support, only for the Senate to shoot down the proposals.

Tom Tower, vice president of North Country Alliance for Balanced Change, said the Senate has killed solid waste reform and landfill legislation.

Privacy - Terms

"Solid waste reform is a critical need in the state of New Hampshire," Tower said, "because presently Massachusetts and other New England states use New Hampshire as its dumping ground."

The spurned legislation comes at an important point for landfills in the Granite State. The Department of Environmental Services is revising its landfill rules, some of which Rochefort described as "ridiculously lax." In Dalton, Vermont-based Casella Waste Systems is trying to build a 147-acre landfill near Forest Lake. And in Bethlehem, that same company won a recent legal battle to expand its landfill there.

Rochefort said he gets many messages from his constituents on the landfill issues.

"One-hundred percent of the messages are, 'What the heck is the state doing?'" Rochefort said. "This is out of control. We don't want New Hampshire to be a dump."

One proposal, House Bill 1632, would have prevented newly permitted solid waste facilities from accepting more than 15 percent of their waste from out of state. It was approved by a unanimous voice vote in the House Committee on Environment and Agriculture and on the House floor, Rochefort said, but died in the Senate.

When other states bring their trash to New Hampshire, they bring their pollution with them.

“For every ton of trash that is imported, it generates also a ton of leachate,” Tower said, referring to the liquids that fester in or pass through landfills, especially after rain. “That leachate contains toxic chemicals.”

Another measure, House Bill 1145, would have required new landfills to be owned by the state. In this public-private partnership, New Hampshire would have owned the land and leased out the operations to a company. This would make it easier for the state to limit the quantities and types of trash coming from out of state, Rochefort said, without running astray of the Interstate Commerce Act.

This isn't an entirely new concept in New Hampshire. For instance, Rochefort said, the state owns Mount Sunapee and leases it out to a ski company.

The Senate sent this bill to interim study, where it may be considered further before the next legislative session.

The one landfill measure that wasn't supported by the House was House Bill 1132, which asked that brownfield sites – areas that have been developed before – be considered as alternative places to put landfills in the public benefit requirement analysis for a site.

The last glimmer of hope for action on trash this session came from efforts to put a moratorium on new landfill permits. House Bill 1620 would have barred the DES from issuing permits for new landfills until 2028.

New Hampshire has enough current landfill capacity to last until 2034, according to a 2021-2022 review by DES, so supporters of the legislation argued a pause six years before that would leave adequate time to carve out more room for refuge if needed.

The proposal was approved by the House and shot down by the Senate, but its fate didn't end there. The legislation was tacked onto another measure, Senate Bill 134, in hopes of keeping it alive long enough to go to a committee of conference to negotiate with senators. But, again, the Senate voted it down.

“It's unfortunate because, you know, the people of New Hampshire want some resolution to this,” Rochefort said. “And the Senate is just kind of sitting on their hands.”

Despite the losses this session, Rochefort called it a “monumental year” for the landfill bills because of the overwhelming support in the House. He thinks the consensus-building in his chamber is a marker of progress to come.

“Every time we have an opportunity to have a hearing and listen to the experts, there's one more person that says, ‘Oh, yeah, I get it,’” he said. “The light bulb goes off.”

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UVLSRPCorner

*Join us every month in the **UVLSRPCorner** to learn more about our projects and the staff behind them! **This month: Food Waste Diversion!***

Through a USDA Solid Waste Management grant, staff at UVLSRPC have promoted food waste diversion efforts throughout the region and plan to host **home composting workshops** throughout the summer. The workshops teach residents about the impact of food waste and provide the stepping stones for residents to learn how they can begin composting at home. **These workshops kick off this Saturday and continue through the end of July.** To learn more about the program and how to attend a workshop near you, visit the UVLSRPC food scrap page [here](#).

As part of the grant, Associate Planner Majestic Terhune also presented at the 2024 Vermont Organics Recycling Conference in April. Her talk, *Composting in NH: Collaborations with VT and Leading New Programs*, provided an overview of food waste diversion efforts in New Hampshire as well as UVLSRPC's work promoting diversion across municipalities, schools, and residents within the UVLS region. The presentation encouraged participants to consider the benefits of food waste diversion across a variety of levels (municipal, institutional, and individual) in addition to staying engaged with communities and organizations to best understand their needs as regulations and interests evolve.

If you would like to learn more about food waste diversion, please feel free to contact [Majestic](#).

More UVLSRPC News

Solid Waste and Household Hazardous Waste Trainings

Next Training on June 20, 2024

UVLSRPC is pleased to present several solid waste and household hazardous waste trainings over the next few months. See the linked flyers for registration information. Contact Vickie Davis (vdavis@uvlsrpc.org) for more information.

- **Thursday, June 20, 1:00-3:00p.m.:** HHW Coordinator Webinar Training Part #1 – *PPE, common high risk and high toxin chemicals, unusual high hazard chemicals*
- **Tuesday, June 25, 10:00a.m.-1:00p.m.:** Operations and Closure Plans Training with lunch – *Enfield DPW with Tara Albert, NHDES*
- **Tuesday, July 9, 8:00-11:00a.m.:** Unlined Landfills Training at New London closed landfill with engineer consultant and NHDES – *very important if your town as an unlined, closed landfill**
- **Thursday, July 11, 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.:** HHW Coordinator Webinar Training Part #2 – *vaping, nicotine cartridges, lithium batteries, PFAS*
- **Thursday, August 8, 1:30-3:00p.m.:** School Chemical Safety Webinar – *inspection strategies for fire inspectors and insurance carriers*
- **Thursday, August 15, 1:30-3:00p.m.:** School Chemical Safety Webinar – *administrator and insurance carriers: roles and responsibilities*
- **Thursday, August 22, 11:00a.m.-1:00p.m.:** Universal Waste Training and Lunch – *Unity Town Hall with Julie Ashton, NHDES*
- **Wednesday-Thursday, August 28-29, 8:00a.m.-4:00p.m.:** Municipal/Institutional Composting – *with Mark Hutchinson and Cat Buxton, Sunrise Farm, White River Junction, VT*