



# TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 14, 2023  
7:00 P.M.  
Zoom Meeting

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melissa Eusden, Chair  
Tiana Veldwisch, Vice Chair  
Robin Greenberg, Clerk  
Steffin Spears  
Julie Smith-Galvin, Town Council rep  
Lillian Guinther  
Amy Leeman, School Comm. rep

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Christina Olivieri  
Chris Lewis  
Joe Conway, DPW rep  
Ann Waitt, DPW rep proxy  
Sharon Daly, WMGLD rep  
Nate Chines, Youth Council rep

### ----- TOPICS OF DISCUSSION -----

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m by M. Eusden.  
The meeting is being recording and closed captioning is available.

#### Public Participation

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#### Approval of Minutes

Approval of the November 2023 meeting minutes was tabled for another meeting due to lack of quorum.

#### ESC 2024 Initiatives

ESC's 2023 accomplishments include: Opt-in approval at Town Meeting, expansion of waste reduction, expansion of food rescue to Dolbeare School, generating the GHG Inventory, promoted the creation of a town Climate Action Plan, supported and organized unique collection events like candy wrappers recycling and pumpkin composting, organized a field trip to the recycling facility, and hosted education events including the EV Showcase.

The committee had a brainstorm session on potential 2024 initiatives. Discussion included:

- Expansion of food waste collection program
- Another EV showcase
- Development of Climate Action Plan. It would support efforts on town building facilities
- How can we support EV ownership for non-homeowners and where to charge? How increase EV charging stations in town?
- Restore efforts to encourage recycling at multifamily buildings which would support renters.
- Launch Green Business program and promote



- How reduce driving to schools? Anti-idling? Does bus fee push more residents to drive to schools creating traffic and times of idling?
- Reevaluate how youth participate with ESC, increase addressing their issues/goals
- Promote special recycling drives like black plastic
- Pollinator gardening education – create mini gardens in town?
- Invite town arborist to talk about trees, planting opportunities
- Science (STEM) curriculum – ESC education subcommittee is already working with Joanne Marks, MS/HS STEM coordinator, to promote climate education
- Could WEF grant fund something in the schools?

Subcommittees for 2024 were discussed:

- Building Efficiency might go into Climate Actions Plan subcommittee as getting building to change might be done through CAP
- Green Business program is currently under Waste Reduction. Could it be separate subcommittee as the program is more than just about Waste Reduction?

ESC might have a retreat at the Americal on a weekend morning to organize initiatives/subcommittees.

**Waste Reduction Subcommittee**

M. Eusden shared that the candy wrap collection was a success. Box was full. She hopes that schools will expand composting since it is in the current budget. She will talk with facilities.

Regarding the Green Business program, local businesses have responded with interest in program.

**Student Liaison**

N. Chines and another student started a Green Team (MA state program). They hope to get more interested in their club. They want to promote why they want compost and recycling at the school.

**Building Efficiency Subcommittee**

R. Greenberg will reach out to WMHS project to get update on their LEED scoreboard, sustainability features, etc.

**GHG Inventory / Green Communities Subcommittee**

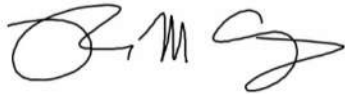
M. Eusden is talking with A. Waitt, as town administrator for Green Communities. They are looking into MCPP's Net Zero Playbook. It was noted that the DPW's hazmat guide includes some climate resilience material. Their next meeting is Tuesday @ 8:30am.

**Community Education Subcommittee**

T. Veldwisch, shared that the subcommittee is brainstorming 2024 topics. i.e. compost facilities tour. Their social media posts continue to be wonderful variety topics. Ideas for ESC's activity at the spring STEM night are welcome.

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| <b>School Committee Liaison Update</b> | No updates   |
| <b>DPW Liaison Update</b>              | Liaison not available  |
| <b>Town Council Liaison Update</b>     | J. Smith-Galvin said that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan may be voted on by the Council in January. The Energy Park has been approved by legislators and signed by Governor Healey. The land transferred was approved on Monday with conditions to the WMGLD. |
| <b>WMGLD Liaison Update</b>            | Liaison not available  |
| <b>Student Liaison</b>                 | There are three student liaisons joining ESC in 2024.  |
| <b>Opt-in Next Steps</b>               | M. Eusden has introduced the town building inspector with training opportunities related to the Opt-In Stretch Code.   |
| <b>Next Meeting</b>                    | The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 7pm.   |
| <b>Committee Meeting Adjournment</b>   | J. Smith-Galvin motioned to adjourn. R. Greenberg second. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.  |

Respectfully submitted,




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Robin Greenberg, Clerk

Attachments: -