



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 30, 2022
7:30 P.M.
Zoom Meeting

**SUBCOMMITTEE
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Melissa Eusden
Tiana Veldwisch

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m by M. Eusden.
The meeting is being recording and closed captioning is available.

**Public
Participation**

None.

**Review of
Wakefield waste
reduction
accomplishments**

1. Polystyrene ban to eliminate polystyrene packaging and cooler sales from Wakefield businesses.
2. Plastic bag ban and utensils only upon request from Wakefield businesses.
3. Curbside composting with Black Earth Compost: 406 Wakefield households participating and collection of 189 tons of waste.
4. NexTrex program for plastic bag recycling – enough bags were collected to earn Wakefield 1 bench which will be installed at a schoolyard soon.
 - a. There is interest to do this again but requires a collection partner.
5. Pumpkin collection after Halloween – composted via Black Earth Compost.
6. Single-stream cardboard box collection now available at Nahant facility.
7. Recycling Day event hosted by Rep. Lipper-Garabedian with collection of textiles, household items, and more, plus awareness raising of recycling issues.

**School waste
reduction
initiatives**

Preparing Greenwood school to begin composting in October via Black Earth Compost pickup. Still requires bin for kitchenette and signage for bins. Also need a staff volunteer to coordinate. Aiming to have BEC staff do an all-school assembly to teach students and staff about composting. Greenwood is a pilot program for composting, and if it goes well, committee will seek to bring composting to other schools in town.

Committee is trying to resume recycling practice at Galvin Middle School for recyclables in the cafeteria. We now have a staff volunteer who will raise awareness through announcements. Something is impeding recycling of paper from classrooms, more investigation needed.



Waste reductions at the High School will be considered once student committee member(s) join.

Review of short- and long-term goals for committee

Short-term goals:

1. Increase compliance with plastic ban and polystyrene ban through enforcement by town health inspector. Get the word out to residents and potentially set up ways for residents to report noncompliance concerns.
2. Resume recycling at the Galvin Middle School.
3. Composting at Greenwood Elementary School.

Long-term goals:

1. Composting at ALL Wakefield elementary schools.
2. Recycling at larger residential buildings, which are currently not required to provide recycling services and to which the towns recycling service contract does not apply. Possible approaches include a) making recycling part of a dumpster contract, b) a bylaw requiring recycling service for new construction, or c) a central recycle dropoff in town.
3. Assess and promote better waste management practices of businesses in town, such as with a "green business certificate" to reward businesses making sustainable choices. Assess through a survey.
4. Push for reduction of waste by consumer such as through tips and education.

Next Meeting

The next regular Waste Reduction Subcommittee of the Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, at 7:30pm.

Committee Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiana Veldwisch

Attachments: -