



**Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Friday, November 12, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Via Zoom**

MINUTES

In Attendance

J. Baum called the meeting to order via zoom at 10:31 a.m. In attendance were A. Freitas (BE), A. Dinho (BW), R. Osborne (KE), M. Smith (NF), A. Miles (NE), J. Nabors (RX), P. Palmer (RE), J. Fascitelli (WI) A. Regan (All American Waste), J. Heaton-Jones, HRRRA, and J. Baum, HRRRA.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by A. Dinho , second by M. Smith to approve minutes of September 9, 2021 as presented.

Motion by A. Dinho , second by M. Smith to approve minutes of October 14, 2021 as presented.

Public Education/Transfer Station Visits

J. Baum has been visiting transfer stations to talk with residents about what's in and what's out. To date, J. Baum has spent time at the Ridgefield Recycling Center, New Fairfield Drop-off Center, and the Weston Transfer Station. J. Baum has upcoming visits scheduled for the Wilton Transfer Station and Redding Transfer Station.

Plastic bags, plastic film, and Styrofoam continue to be the greatest source of contamination.

Glass Recycling Program

J. Baum asked the members for feedback on the glass program in the respective communities.

M. Smith stated the New Fairfield Drop Off is still experiencing some contamination, however the smaller holes are helping.

J. Baum shared that during transfer station visits, residents are receptive to the glass separation program and contamination appears to be down.

M. Smith stated that the New Fairfield Drop-off Center has received an increase in permits issued due to haulers increasing curb-side pickup rates and due the New Fairfield Drop-off accepting construction and demolition.

A. Dinho shared that the smaller holes also make it harder to pull out the contaminants.

J. Heaton-Jones suggested that grabbers can help to pull contaminants out.

Plastic Bags

J. Baum shared that during transfer station visits, plastic bags continue to be a large source of contamination. If a resident must bag their recyclables, the recyclables should go in the clear recycling bag.

M. Smith shared that New Fairfield Drop-off has a designated spot to collect plastic bags. The container is located next to mixed recycling container so that residents can dump their bags and dispose of the plastic bag properly. This has helped in reducing contamination.

J. Heaton-Jones announced that shipping materials can be donated to local shipping businesses.

America Recycles Day

America Recycles Day is Monday, November 15th. This is a great day to promote recycling!

Holiday lights- E-waste

Holiday lights can be recycled at the transfer station with electronic waste. They should be placed in the “non-CED” container.

Holiday lights should not be placed in mixed household recycling.

Miniatures

The Bottle Bill includes a 5-cent tax on miniatures. The money is to be returned to towns that sell miniatures at 5-cents per every miniature sold. The funds will go to public education and outreach and to address the litter of miniatures.

Action item: Think of ideas on how to use the funding to present at the December RRTF meeting.

Recycling Billboard Contest

This is the 15th year of the Recycling Billboard contest. The HRRRA is drafting ideas to promote the 15th year. J. Baum will reach out to the coordinators and schedule a meeting for early December. The templates will be ready for distribution in December.

Items to be raised by members

J. Nabors asked why Roxbury is now recycling paper in with the mixed recyclables and not in the separate container as they originally were.

J. Heaton-Jones stated the paper is not 100% clean; there is a lot of contamination and will need to be sorted. The recyclable material goes through the single stream separator.

R. Osborne asked if small cat food cans are recyclable.

J. Heaton-Jones stated anything smaller than 2 inches will fall through and won't get captured.

J. Nabors requested vendors to pick up 5-cent redeemable cans and bottles.

J. Heaton-Jones stated that several towns use local group of volunteers, such as Cub Scouts or environmental groups.

P. Palmer shared the Redding Transfer Station has a gentleman that comes every other month. P. Palmer will share the contact information.

Adjournment

Motion by P. Palmer, second by M. Smith to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 am.