



Regional Recycling Task Force Meeting
Thursday, April 11, 2024
10:30 a.m.

Brookfield Town Hall
100 Pocono Road, Brookfield, CT 06804
Room 209

MINUTES

In Attendance

J. Baum called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. In attendance were K. Galbis (BE), K. Hebert (BE), A. Dinho (BW), D. Ongaro (BK), F. Capodilupo (DA), J. Kearns (KE), R. Osborne (KE), S. Von Holt (NM), A. Miles (NE), P. Silva (RE), J. Patterson (RX), S. Stauffacher (RX), R. Byrnes (SH), P. Oberg (AAW), T. Maloney (EcoWorks CT), J. Heaton-Jones (HRRRA), T. Thornton, and J. Baum (HRRRA).

Approval of Minutes

Motion by A. Dinho, second by A. Miles to approve the minutes of March 21, 2024, as presented.

Vote: All in favor.

EcoWorks CT

Tricia Maloney presented information regarding EcoWorks CT, a creative reuse center in North Haven, CT. EcoWorks helps the community to reduce and reuse waste while providing educators, artists, and other community members access to low-cost art supplies by recovering materials that were originally destined for disposal. Tricia shared the material "wish list" the center is accepting. Contact information for EcoWorks CT is 203-498-0710 or ecoworksct@gmail.com.

Recycling Billboard Contest – Awards Ceremony

T. Thornton shared the Recycling Billboard Contest is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24th at 5:30. T. Thornton will bring ribbons to distribute to the contest coordinators for the local municipal awards ceremony.

Repair Café – Update

P. Silva provided an update on the potential regional Repair Café at Abbott Technical High School. A meeting is scheduled for May 7th to review the possible location.

CT Recyclers Coalition – Recycling Education Sessions

J. Baum shared the CT Recyclers Coalition (CRC) presented two recycling education webinars. The next webinar will be held on April 24th on recycling glass and metal. The webinars are free for CRC members, or \$30 per session for non-members.

J. Heaton-Jones requested feedback on the sessions. A discussion ensued regarding questions, new information learned, and suggestions.

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BRIDGEWATER | BETHEL | BROOKFIELD | DANBURY | KENT | NEW FAIRFIELD | NEW MILFORD
NEWTOWN | REDDING | RIDGEFIELD | ROXBURY | SHERMAN | WESTON | WILTON

Household Hazardous Waste Events

J. Baum shared the first HHW drop-off event of 2024, was held in Danbury on April 6th. A total of 890 cars came through the event. The next event is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th in Newtown.

Municipal Recycling Program Updates from Recycling Coordinator/Representative

- P. Silva shared the Town of Redding will be hosting a litter clean-up day on April 20th.
- R. Byrnes announced the Town of Sherman is hosting a litter clean-up day on April 20th.
- S. Stauffacher shared the Town of Roxbury is hosting a litter clean-up day on April 20th and collecting E-waste.
- A. Dinho shared the Town of Bridgewater is hosting a litter clean-up day on April 20th and a bulky waste drop-off event April 22nd-April 27th.
- S. Von Holt announced the Town of New Milford police explorers are doing a litter clean-up and municipal employees were collecting nips off the roads on April 6th.

Items to be raised by members

J. Baum requested members share local annual events with T. Thornton so that T. Thornton can plan accordingly to attend them.

J. Patterson shared two unique programs:

- Pact collects empty cosmetic containers that are too small to go in single-stream. Collection bins can be found at local cosmetics stores, such as Sephora and Ulta. According to the [Pact website](#), "Pact is committed to finding the highest and best use for the materials we collect and to being radically transparent about where stuff goes. What happens to beauty packaging we collect? This is the general hierarchy—best possible outcome to least favorable — that Pact prioritizes."
 - *Upcycled: mechanically recycled into another product of equal or greater value e.g. new packaging*
 - *Downcycled: mechanically recycled into another product of lesser value e.g. warehouse pallets, flowerpots*
 - *Molecularly recycled: e.g reduced to a state material that can then be used to build something else.*
 - *Waste-to-energy: packaging that cannot be used in any other way is incinerated."*
- New Morning Market in Woodbury has a collection bin for "[TagBack](#)". Tag back collects produce tags and ties and will sort and separate through their in-house recycling equipment. According to their website, "We reuse material internally, when possible, and sell materials to recyclers. Unqualified or unusable materials are disposed of in the most efficient manner".

Adjournment

Motion by A. Miles second by P. Silva to adjourn the meeting. **Vote:** All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.