1. FS_Sustainability_Committee_Agenda_2021_10_07

   Documents:

   FS_SUSTAINABILITY_COMMITTEE_AGENDA_2021_10_07.PDF

1.I. FS_Sustainability_Committee_Agenda_Packet_2021_10_07

   Documents:

   FS_SUSTAINABILITY_COMMITTEE_AGENDA_PACKET_2021_10_07.PDF
Greenwich Sustainability Committee
October 7, 2021
11:00 A.M.
Virtual Meeting
https://greenwichct.zoom.us/j/89766250735?pwd=TmJkN2UzNU5WVDBSRLdndGeGZ4QT09
Meeting ID: 897 6625 0735
Passcode: 8821249
Dial-In: 1 646 518 9805

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Minutes
   • Approval of September 10, 2021 meeting minutes

3. Energy Management Advisory Committee – Allison Walsh and Peter Schweinfurth

4. Pollinator Pathway Mural Update – Pat Sesto

5. Discussion of GEAC Climate Resolution - Jill Oberlander

6. Sector Updates
   • Waste Reduction: Greenwich Food Waste Initiative
   • Food Systems: Greenwich Food Alliance and Growing Together CFSA Food Systems Summit

7. New Business/Next Steps / Upcoming Events and Projects

8. Adjourn

Proposed Next Meeting: November 4, 2021, 11 AM

"The Town of Greenwich is Dedicated to Diversity and Equal Employment Opportunity"
Greenwich Sustainability Committee
October 7, 2021
11:00 A.M.
Virtual Meeting
https://greenwichct.zoom.us/j/89766250735?pwd=TmJkN2UzNU5WVDBSRUtLdndGeGZ4QT09
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Proposed Next Meeting: November 4, 2021, 11 AM

"The Town of Greenwich is Dedicated to Diversity and Equal Employment Opportunity"
MINUTES - DRAFT
Sustainability Committee Meeting - VIRTUAL MEETING
September 10, 2021

Attendance: Committee members: Jill Oberlander, Co-Chair; Sarah Coccaro; Elizabeth Dempsey; Julie DesChamps; Scott Falciglia; Ali Ghiorse; Isabelle Harper; Myra Klockenbrink; Uring Searle; Joan Sequin; Silvina Skverer; Svetlana Wasserman. Other: Janet Stone McGuigan

1. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at 11:06 a.m.

2. Minutes. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes from the July 1, 2021 meeting were approved.

3. Sustainable CT Update. Ms. Coccaro reported that the Greenwich application for Sustainable CT recertification was submitted on August 24th with documentation of actions accruing over 1300 points. This represents three times the actions points documented in the 2018 submission. Actions initiated by the Planning & Zoning Commission and/or the Planning Department accounted for 20% of the total actions. Greenwich should be notified of the result at the end of October. Next steps: Ms. Coccaro will work with Ms. Calcano to prepare a press notice for release after Greenwich receives the results from Sustainable CT, which release will identify the Greenwich Sustainability Committee’s top priorities in the upcoming years.

4. State of Sustainability Report. The Committee agreed to carry over the action step from the July meeting, with a goal of publishing the report by September 17th. The Committee discussed the timetable for updates, agreeing to target January 1 and mid-June. Next steps: Ms. Searle will finalize the report and will work with Ms. DesChamps and Ms. Calcano to develop a press release announcing the report, along with an explanation of the process used to develop it. Ms. Oberlander will work with Angelina Kaether to publish the report on the Sustainability Committee webpage.

5. Sector Updates. Ms. Klockenbrink updated the Committee on the work of the Land and Water sector, and concerns raised by the presence of beech leaf disease in area trees. In addition to the impact on canopies and tree coverage, Greenwich can expect to see more invasive species taking root. An increasing array of needs and pressures on Greenwich parks and protected open spaces, coupled with existing staffing level caps, exacerbate these concerns. The Committee agreed that more public education on all of these issues is needed.

6. Business Outreach. The Committee agreed to take up Ms. Skverer’s agenda item out of order. Ms. Skverer reported on her efforts to establish a business outreach sector, including her conversations with Heather Burns from the CT Sustainable Business Council and her outreach to Marcia O’Kane from the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce. The Committee discussed various “certifications” that could be awarded, including recognition of building enhancements, employee health, etc. Ms. Ghiorse and Ms. DesChamps talked about the Greenwich Food Waste initiative. Next steps: Ms. Skverer to work with Ms. Oberlander and others from the Committee.
to establish a blueprint on how to proceed. Ms. Klockenbrink to circulate a draft “seal of approval” for consideration at the October meeting.

7. GHS Liaison: Isabelle Harper. The Committee agreed to take up Isabelle Harper’s agenda item out of order to accommodate her school schedule. Ms. Harper and the Greenwich High Environmental Action Group are developing a climate emergency resolution and are working to obtain comprehensive buy-in from like-minded organizations and groups. Ms. Harper explained the draft resolution and stated that virtually every other country has similar resolutions already in place. The Committee agreed to both consider it and to propose modifications that would help ensure its passage. Ms. Harper stated that her group would like to see a draft finalized in the next 2 to 3 months. Next Steps: Ms. Oberlander will distribute the existing draft resolution and will reach out to Ms. Harper with some additional comments.

8. Review GSC Committee List and Statement of Purpose. Held over to next meeting.

   - Pollinator Pathway mural to be discussed at the upcoming RTM meeting.
   - Ban on Gas Leaf-Blowers: Ms. Oberlander asked whether the Committee was interested in taking up the issue of requiring all-electric leaf blowers. The Committee recommended starting this discussion with Town Departments first, before raising it town wide. Next steps: Ms. Oberlander will reach out to Parks & Recreation Director Joseph Siciliano to begin discussions about a pilot project.
   - Upcoming Events: Screening of Sacrifice Zone; September 28th discussion on waste justice; September 18th coastal clean-up; September 25th community bike fest.
   - Committee recommended inviting new Energy Management Advisory Committee Chair Peter Schweinfurth to an upcoming meeting. Next steps: Ms. Oberlander to follow up with Ms. Walsh and Mr. Schweinfurth.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7th, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Jill K. Oberlander
Co-Chair & Recording Secretary
**GREENWICH FOODWASTE INITIATIVE**

**PREVENTION**

*Save the Food Campaign*
The Greenwich Conservation Commission and Waste Free Greenwich teamed up with Save the Food, a national consumer campaign designed by NRDC and the Ad Council. Using creative co-branded materials, a publicity campaign will be mounted to increase awareness and promote simple lifestyle changes like making shopping lists, freezing food and using leftovers to reduce household food waste.

*First Selectman's Food Saver Challenge*
GFWI features the Food Saver Challenge, a pilot program in collaboration with the Office of the First Selectman, for area restaurants and hospitality businesses to take small steps to reduce the amount of food going to waste in Greenwich. Participants implement measures to prevent food waste, rescue surplus food and/or recycle food scraps and report on their progress. Businesses that complete the challenge will be recognized by the First Selectman. The challenge is designed to reduce the amount of food sent to incinerators, while helping to relieve hunger by donating wholesome, edible food to local receiving agencies.

*Reducing Food Waste in Schools*
GFWI will focus on Greenwich Public Schools and local independent schools to implement rescue programs for surplus food and expand the use of sharing tables. GFWI aims to eliminate barriers to composting in school kitchens and cafeterias and explore innovative food scrap recycling solutions.

*Food Waste Education Events*
Waste Free Greenwich has hosted several panel discussions, as well as screenings of documentaries such as *Just Eat It*. GFWI aims to expand food waste-related programming and outreach for the Greenwich community.

**RESCUE**

*Food Rescue Expansion*
GFWI will prioritize the expansion of rescue networks and partnerships in Greenwich in coordination with Food Rescue US, promoting and facilitating rescue opportunities and identifying potential surplus food donors. The Food Rescue US network in Greenwich currently includes the following food donors and receiving agencies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>Receiving Agencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aux Delices</td>
<td>Boys &amp; Girls Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobs Bread</td>
<td>Community Centers Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Catering</td>
<td>Kids In Crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kings Food Markets</td>
<td>Neighbor to Neighbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raphael's Bakery</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Something Natural Bakery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound Beach Pizza</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stop &amp; Shop</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Crust Bagel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Foods Greenwich</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RECYCLING**

*Food Scrap Recycling Program Growth*
The municipal food scrap recycling program in Greenwich was launched in June 2021. In its first year, more than 36 tons of food scraps were collected, and over 3% of Greenwich households participated in this volunteer, drop-off program. GFWI aims to increase the tonnage diverted and residential participation. GFWI will prioritize expansion of drop-off sites and strengthen community outreach efforts through publicity and events.

*Infrastructure Development*
GFWI will extend the work of the First Selectman’s Waste Management Committee to investigate local and regional collection points for food scraps in collaboration with neighboring communities and West Cog. The initiative will also continue to explore the potential installation of an in-vessel commercial composter at Holly Hill Resource Recovery Facility, as well as unit-based pricing mechanisms and a municipal co-collection system. Waste Free Greenwich will stay informed about state-wide developments through the Town’s participation in CCSMM and incorporate them into the GFWI.
GREENWICH FOOD WASTE INITIATIVE

NUMBER OF FOOD INSECURE AMERICANS
1 OUT OF 8

FOOD WASTED BY THE AVERAGE PERSON MONTHLY
28 POUNDS

ANNUAL COST OF FOOD WASTE TO THE AVERAGE FAMILY OF FOUR
$1800

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL GREENHOUSE GASES Emitted BY UNEATEN FOOD
4%

BACKGROUND

Up to forty percent of the food we produce in the United States goes uneaten. When food is wasted, all the resources used to get food from farm to fork – water, energy, labor, cropland and financial capital – are lost. Most waste occurs among consumers, restaurants, grocery store and institutional foodservice, and 95% of that food is disposed in incinerators and landfills, where it generates harmful pollutants and greenhouse gases.

In Connecticut, over 22% of the waste stream is composed of food scraps. Wasted food presents the greatest opportunity for reduction and diversion and promises solutions to ease disposal costs and environmental impacts. The Greenwich Food Waste Initiative (GFWI) provides a blueprint for on-the-ground actions to address food waste in Greenwich.

OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH

The goal of GFWI is to engage consumers, restaurants, community institutions and retailers to prevent food waste, rescue surplus food to direct to people in need and recycle what's left to help build healthy soil, in accordance with the EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy. The initiative connects people from across the community to build on the impactful projects already underway and identify and implement new approaches.

In conjunction with the Office of the First Selectman, Waste Free Greenwich is charged with the design of the GFWI and will partner with Town agencies and committees, non-profits and other entities for implementation. An Advisory Council composed of stakeholders, business and governmental leaders and other experts, will meet monthly to share and leverage their knowledge, networks and experience to shape GFWI projects.

GFWI is modeled on the Food Matters project developed by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a national environmental organization that works with cities and regions to achieve meaningful reductions in food waste through comprehensive policies and programs. The initiative has its foundations in the discussions and research of the First Selectman's Waste Management Commitment in Greenwich and draws on recommendations of the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM), a coalition formed by CT DEEP and over 80 municipalities to explore ways to reduce the amount of waste generated in our state through innovative solutions.
Proposal for Greenwich Sustainability Committee
Prepared by Silvina Skverer
October 7, 2021

Purpose: To bring the power of sustainable business practices to people and organizations in the Town of Greenwich.

Objective: Form a sustainable business committee that offers a platform to gather a cross-sector community of business leaders and companies seeking to advance sustainability in Greenwich that promotes a thriving economy. This committee will create a stronger case for sustainable businesses, generating greater market demand for sustainable products and services.

The formation of this committee facilitates the collaboration between the private sector and local organizations committed to enhancing our town. This initiative together with educational events provides extra points for the Sustainable CT certification, specifically # 2.3, 2.4, and 2.6.

Benefits
- Collaboration and inspiration
- Accountability
- Community building and peer learning
- Safety and well-being of residents
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Innovation

Goals:
- Expand sustainable practices in the commercial sector in Greenwich
- Educate business owners on the importance of generating healthy, safe and sustainable economies
- Promote local businesses through a commitment to socially and environmentally responsible practices
- Empower local business owners and executives to adopt a more responsible stance towards business operations
- Improve the Town of Greenwich score for Sustainable CT certification

Initiatives that provide additional points for the certification:
- Mapping all businesses in town that are involved in advancing sustainability.
- Encourage businesses to show designations such as sustainable, eco-friendly, women-owned, B-corp, etc.
- Develop a "buy local" campaign. A full campaign with a logo, slogan, and a tagline as proof of the program.
- Encourage partnerships with other municipalities and businesses to participate in events to build community.
- Organize educational events to promote commercial sustainable practices.
- Promote programs from the CT Green Bank such as C-PACE.

Potential Partners:
Connect with partners to share resources and create synergies and alignment with best practices to create value for the Town.
- Greenwich Chamber of Commerce → Silvina Skverer sent an email to Marcia Okane on 9/13 with no response so far
- CT Sustainable Business Council → Heather Burns, CEO of the organization offered her help
- Greenwich Library → I would like to have a meeting to propose an educational event for local businesses: "Is your business Sustainable?"
- Town of Greenwich → Can the Town help promote this initiative?
- Local Nonprofit organizations with programs directly related to sustainable practices → Contact local nonprofits such as Waste Free Greenwich to assess interest
- Local High Schools clubs →
1. Draft Press Release re: the GSC State of Sustainability Report has been created with collaboration from Julie Deschamps. Once SOS Report is voted on and approved and placed on website, press release will go out.

2. Work is underway for a press release re: Greenwich’s anticipated re-certification as a SustainableCT silver level municipality. While application is still under review, we expect to be notified of status by end of October or early November.
Legislation and Advocacy Sector Report
Greenwich Sustainability Committee
October 7, 2021

1. Provided Support for Conservation Dept / Pollinator Pathway / Greenwich Botanical Center Mural in preparation for the RTM vote;

2. Participated in Land and Water meetings and brainstormed on Soil Health articles;

3. Beginning work on potential expansion ideas for P and Z sustainability requirements.
Greenwich Sustainability Committee
Food Systems Sector Report

Diversity, Equity + Inclusion
• Paused

Greenwich Food Alliance (GFA)
• Scheduled the first GFA roundtable; Nov. 5th from 9:00am - 10:15am at Coffee For Good
  • GFA is convened by the Greenwich Sustainability Food Systems Sector (GSC-FSS). The Foodshed Network (TFN) is a convening partner. The Alliance meets six times a year for roundtable discussions, all meetings are made public on the Town of Greenwich website, along with the minutes. The primary focus of GFA is to advance Greenwich’s food system initiatives through leveraging awareness, inspiration, knowledge, and networks. It provides a platform for connectivity; fostering a better understanding of the ways in which members can support each other and overcome barriers. Additionally, the Alliance represents, and gives voice to, a Greenwich food community working together towards a shared vision. The GSC-FSS + TFN prioritize the promotion and elevation of equity, diversity and inclusion for a more engaged, just and sustainable community. We welcome anyone who is interested in food systems.

Waste Justice: Impacts and Solutions for Greenwich
• Supported organizing

Connecticut Food Systems Alliance Steering-Committee (CFSA)
• Network Development Team: CFSA is spearheading a statewide CT Food Action Plan, CT is the only state in New England that does not have a food action plan. TD team is working in conjunction with the Food Action Plan Team. Growing Together: A Four Part Virtual Series About Building and Maintaining a Network, Planning Collectively, and Addressing Our Most Immediate Food and Farm Concerns.

Webinars + Forums + Films
Center for Biological Diversity; Food Justice Festival Truly Texas Mexican, The Ants + The Grasshopper + The Harvest La Casecha, SEED: The Untold Story
Sourcing Matters - UN Food Systems Summit 2021 Action Tracks
UN Food Systems Summit 2021

Prepared by Ali Ghiorse
I. Food Scrap Recycling Program
   A. HH Tonnages: Total: 45.52 tons (91,040 lbs) since July 2020
   B. OG Farmers' Market Tonnages: Filled 104 totes since mid-May; appr. 10,400 lbs or 5.2 tons diverted
   C. Estimated 650 kits sold; ~750 households participating (~3.4% Greenwich households)
   D. Living Hope Church has offered to continue drop site after market closes - day and time tbd

II. Greenwich Food Waste Initiative (GFWI)
   A. Goal: To engage consumers, restaurants, community institutions and retailers to prevent food waste, rescue surplus food to direct to people in need and recycle what’s left to help build healthy soil, in accordance with the EPA’s Food Recovery Hierarchy. The initiative connects people from across the community to build on the impactful projects already underway and identify and implement new approaches.
   B. Structure: In conjunction with the Office of the First Selectman, WFG is charged with the design of the GFWI and will partner with Town agencies and committees, non-profits and other entities for implementation. An Advisory Council composed of stakeholders, business and governmental leaders and other experts, will meet monthly to share and leverage their knowledge, networks and experience to shape GFWI projects.
   C. Current steps:
      1. Developing strategic plan and timeline
      2. Forming Advisory Council
      3. Investigating partnership with Center for Ecotechnology
      4. Applying for CT DEEP’s Sustainable Materials Management Grant

III. Beyond Food Scraps
   A. Textile recycling
      1. Tonnages: total since August 76165 lbs (38 tons)
      2. Raised $6394 for recycling education to date. Funds toward Waste Wizard & marketing.
   B. ReCollect Waste Wizard tool:
      1. Launched in September - 1313 searches last month
      2. The top 10 searches: Paint (147); Furniture (140); Plastic bottle caps (88); Egg shells (81); Plastic bags (42); Battery-disposable (37); Mattress (26); Flooring - carpet & underpadding (21); Shredded paper (18); Television (18)
      3. Available at TOG DPW, Waste Free Greenwich and Greenwich Green & Clean
      4. Spikes in usage correspond with media attention and outreach efforts
   C. The Sacrifice Zone screening & Waste Justice panel discussion:
      1. It’s not too late to watch TSZ! Talking Eyes Media offers rentals for $4: https://vimeo.com/ondemand/thesacrificezone
      2. Panel recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cStI4SbohKc
      3. Stats: 119 registrants for both events; 79 participants for panel; 85 people started watching TSZ, 70 got half way through and about 60 made it all the way through
IV. Upcoming Events
   A. Tuesday, 11/7 @ GHS PAC: Kiss the Ground screening & panel discussion
      1. Organized by Waste Free Greenwich & Food Rescue US
      2. 6:30 doors open (tabling); 7-7:45 screening; 7:45-8:15 panel discussion; 8:15-8:30 Q&A
   B. Composting Initiative with Temple Sholom: Teen Green Team would like to initiate composting system for synagogue; WFG to help with planning and training