Sustainable Westport Advisory Team

Sept 3rd 2020, 7-9pm
Zoom

Current Version of This Deck: http://bit.ly/SustWestPpt

SUSTAINABLE WESTPORT

Agenda

1. Check-In / Welcome
2. Public comment
3. Approval of Minutes
4. To-Do List from last meeting
5. Special Items
    a. Structure update
    b. Roles in 501c3
    c. Climate Action Plan
6. Team Member Updates
    a. Review of overall progress & priorities
    b. AWARE & ENGAGED COMMUNITY
        i. Template for submitting social media ideas - Diana
    c. PROGRESS TRACKING
        i. Land & Natural Resources
            1. Food waste update
        ii. Transport
            1. Drive Electric Week – Dawn
            2. Anti-idling– Peter B
        iii. Energy
        iv. Buildings
    d. LEADER DEVELOPMENT
    e. TOWN COUNSEL AND COURAGE
7. Wrap-up and Agree action list

SUSTAINABLE WESTPORT

1. Check-In + Welcome

4
3
2
1

Name

How's it going? 1-4 rating plus a word

Any Sustainability upsides from COVID

SUSTAINABLE WESTPORT

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of minutes - July 2020

circulated as separate doc

(Dawn-July, Tony-June; Peter-May; Sara-April; today?)

4. To-Do List from July Minutes

- Harold to circulate a reading list, including both national and local sources
- Sustainable Westport to think about connections between Equity and Environment
- Conduct Desegregate CT analysis of Westport
- Set up future meetings with Ashley and begin coaching process
- David to report back on learnings from the Sustainable CT training
- Tony to update on license agreement and Exec Team/Board on 501c3
- On Hold
  - Quiet Communities
  - Tree Ordinance

5. Special Item(s)

a) **Structure Update**
b) **Roles in 501(c) 3**

Peter

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5 c. Climate Action Plans

Examples of what others have done

Town of Fairfield

Category	Subcategory	Status
Energy	Conservation	In progress
	Renewables	Included
Food		Included
Water	Drinking Water	Included
	Wastewater & Stormwater	In progress
Waste		In progress
Natural Environment	Parks & Open Spaces	Pending
	Wetlands & Coastline	In progress
	Forests & Uplands	Included
Built Environment	Homes	In progress
	Buildings & Facilities	In progress
	Landscaping	Pending
Air		Pending
Transportation	Automobiles	Included
	Biking & Walking	Included
Financial	Purchasing	Pending
	Investing	Pending
Education & Outreach		Included

- Written by Sustainable Fairfield Task Force – "a group of citizen-volunteers working in cooperation with Town officials and other stakeholders"
- One page for each of the seven categories completed so far
- Mix of qualitative and quantitative goals

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Town of Fairfield

Renewable Energy

In 2005, the Town pledged to reduce its municipal energy usage and to obtain 20% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020. A 2014 aerial survey of Fairfield homes indicated that approximately 5,000 Fairfield homes have rooftop solar potential. With current incentives and market conditions, "going solar" has tremendous economic benefits for Fairfield residents.

Benefits of clean renewable energy:

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to climate change
- Reduction of toxic emissions from burning of fossil fuels
- Improved air quality and public health
- Improved energy stability and security
- Money savings on electric bills

Progress to date:

- Completed 32 solar energy projects on Town buildings
- ~30% of Town's electricity comes from renewable sources
- 400 Fairfield homes have gone solar
- Four Town-wide solar programs
- First commercial C-PACE projects
- 2 microgrids (1 built, 1 in design), first Town in CT with microgrid
- Fuel cell provides green power and heat for wastewater treatment plant
- Town saves $2.8M/year on energy costs
- Annual savings projected to rise to over $3.2M in 2018

Riverfield Elementary solar system (2016)

2020 Plan Goals:

- 40% of Town electricity from renewables
- 5 large-scale clean energy projects (>500 kW each)
- 500 residents with solar power at their homes, including low-income
- Support state renewable policies (incl. wind, geothermal)

Long Term Goal: 100% of energy in Fairfield (Town, business, residents) from renewable sources by 2050

Approach: Leverage federal and state incentives. Use power purchase agreements for Town solar projects. Use community outreach and community solar for residents.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Clean Energy Action Plan (2014)
Lead: Sustainable Fairfield Task Force
References:
www.energyinformative.org/benefits-of-solar-panels

Fairfield, CT Sustainability Plan

Food

Our food system is very complex. The average plate of food travels 1500 miles; much food is treated with pesticides with unclear effects on human organs; over 4 million tons of food is wasted annually in the U.S.
But in recent years, farmers' markets, CSA's, and other outlets for local farmers have shown strong growth in response to consumer demand. The USDA estimates that locally-sourced food sales to restaurants, retailers and regional distributors have tripled.

Progress to date:

- Multiple Farmers' Markets: June – October-Weekly
- Farm to School Network provides local produce during growing season
- Stop & Shop, Whole Foods and Trader Joe's have increased local food access
- Restaurants like BGood promote local food sources and have local beers

Benefits of local food infrastructure:

- Local food is fresh and tasty
- Local fresh fruits and vegetables are more nutritious and support community health
- Supports farmers and builds local economies
- Local food systems generally mean less energy, emissions and food miles associated with our food
- Local food supports genetic and ecosystem diversity
- Local food helps preserves undeveloped land.
- Adds value to the community
- Growing veggies at home is more cost effective than buying and helps lower income families gain affordable access

Many of Fairfield's restaurants serve food from local

2020 Plan Goals:

- More residents growing some sort of food at home
- More restaurants sourcing local produce/ingredients when available
- Encourage schools to have productive school gardens
- Deeper food rescue program
- Free classes on composting, square foot gardening, raised beds
- Baseline survey and compare with surrounding/similar towns
- More community garden plots
- Work closer with "Farm to School"

Long Term Goals: Increase local food production, working farm, residents growing more food, local food access at grocery stores, schools, hospitals, universities, restaurants, Increase CSAs . More diversity in farmers' markets – honey, herbs, and seeds.

Approach: Educate the community on benefits of local food and food rescue. Establish guidelines for grocery stores and restaurants on food sourcing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Seven Generations Ahead Food Rescue US National Farm to School Network
https://www.usda.gov/documents/3-Infrastructure.pdf http://www.worldwatch.org/globetrotting-food-will-travel-farther-ever-thanksgiving

sources Fairfield, CT Sustainability Plan

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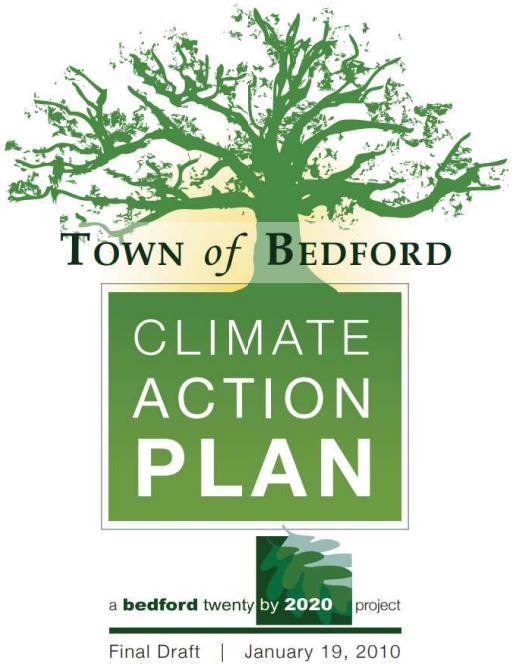
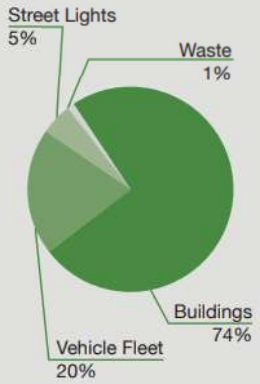
Bedford 2020



- It's comprehensive – 123 pages!
- Created by Town-appointed Energy Advisory Panel of 9 people, took 2 years to do
- 4 sectors - Energy, Transport, Waste & Recycling, Land & Water Use
- Includes foundational education
- Focuses on "co-benefits" – beyond environmental, other positive impacts (economy, jobs, quality of life, etc.)
- Highly quantitative in goal-setting where possible
- On version 2 now! Bedford 2030…

Municipal GHG Emissions



Sector	GHG emissions (tonnes CO_2e)	Energy equivalent (MMBtu)
Buildings	4,000	64,611
Vehicle Fleet	1,056	13,466
Streetlights	251	2,118
Waste	53	
Total	**5,360**	**80,194**

NOX, CO and VOC emissions, while energy used in buildings is primarily responsible for emissions of SOX and PM10.

e. Municipal Emissions Inventory

In the base year 2004, the Town of Bedford's government operations generated 5,360 tonnes of CO2e. The Town's buildings were the greatest contributors, emitting 74% of the total. The vehicle fleet contributed 20%, streetlights contributed 5%, and waste contributed 1% of the government emissions.

Government operations emissions in the Town of Bedford constitute about 2 percent of the community's total greenhouse gas emissions. This is not unusual; local government emissions typically account for around two percent of community levels. As a minor contributor to total emissions, actions to reduce government operations energy use will have a limited impact on the Town of Bedford community's overall emissions levels. However, as previously mentioned, government action has symbolic value that extends beyond the magnitude of emissions actually reduced.

f. Conclusion

In passing a resolution to join the Communities for Climate Protection campaign, the Town of Bedford made a formal commitment to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases. This inventory lays the groundwork for those efforts by estimating baseline emissions levels against which future progress can be demonstrated.

The Bedford Climate Action Plan proposes that we reduce GHG emissions by 20 percent below 2004 levels by 2020. This means the community needs to reduce and prevent annual GHG emissions of 55,190 tonnes of carbon dioxide based on 2004 emssions. Assuming a standard growth rate of 2%, by the year 2020 the 20% target will have grown to 158,062 tonnes of needed emission reductions. However, many scientists believe that far greater reductions, closer to 80 percent worldwide, will be necessary to stabilize the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This will require a global commitment and response that does not currently exist. However, local municipalities all over the world are demonstrating strategies that effectively reduce emissions, increase economic vitality and livability. Bedford's plan proposes that we begin now, by undertaking local actions that are feasible, impactful and that provide multiple benefits for our community.

Municipal Energy Measures

Community Scale Renewable Energy

Renewable energy - energy generated by natural resources - contributes little or no greenhouse gasses (GHG) to the atmosphere, reduces unhealthy by-products of burning fossil fuels and helps us reduce the need to import energy fuels from overseas. Renewable energy sources include: solar, wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal.

If the Town of Bedford purchased 100% renewable energy from conventional sources, such as those currently available through your utility, the cost would amount to over $215,000 annually. The Town of Bedford , working with the Bedford 2020 Coalition and its partners, should commence a study to identify all available renewable energy assets in the community as well as opportunity sites where RE projects might best be implemented to bring this cost down. In addition, the study would include potential finance options. The results of this study could allow us to move toward increasing renewable energy production locally, bring down the incremental cost of using renewable energy, and ultimately move to 100% renewable energy use in town-owned buildings by 2020.

Total Cost: $215,532 annually ($0.10 per kWh additional cost)
Payback: Not available
Co-Benefits:

Scope
100% RE Purchased

Annual Reductions
CO_2e: 803 Tonnes in total Community Emissions and 15% reduction in TOB total Emissions and 75% of 20% by 2020 goal)
Energy: N/A
NOx: 2,145 lbs
SOx: 9,044 lbs
CO: 2,246 lbs
VOCs: 252 lbs
PM10: 1,981 lbs

Energy Efficiency Retrofits of Existing Town Owned Facilities

Town owned buildings account for 74% of total municipal energy use and the resulting GHG emissions attributed to Town operations. Many measures can be applied to existing buildings to improve their efficiency, including using efficient lightbulbs and fixtures, increasing insulation, replacing windows, and upgrading HVAC systems for 15-40% energy savings.

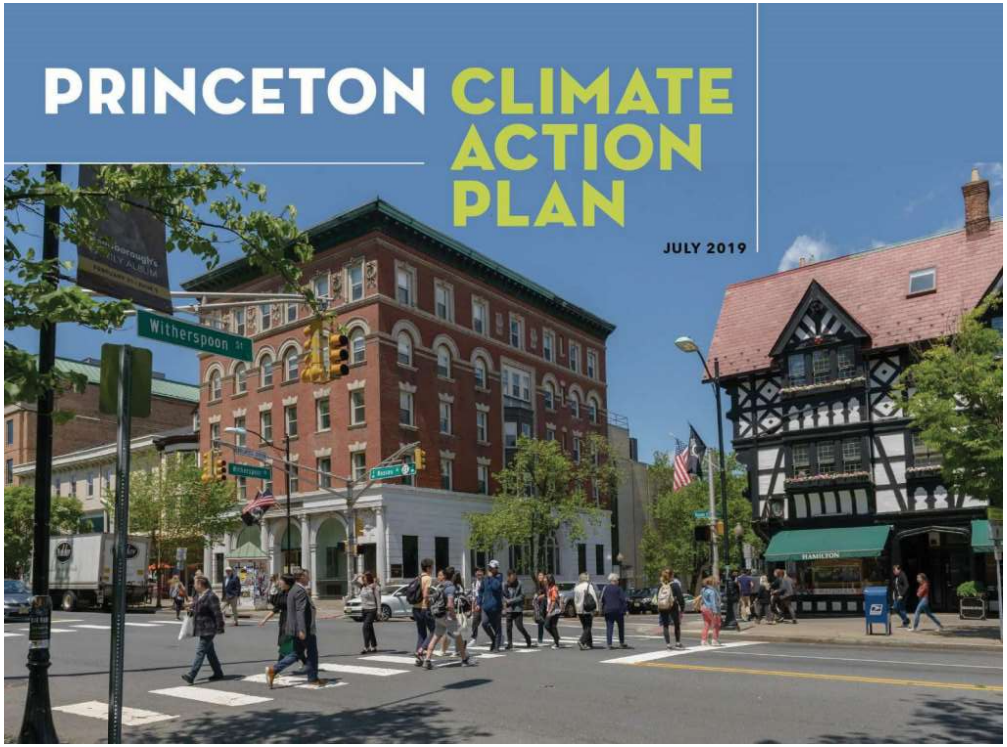
The CAP recommends that the Town of Bedford carry out the energy efficiency retrofits and upgrades that were recommended in the 2009 NYSERDA Energy Audit of the exisiting municipal buildings and facilities.

Cost: $166,885
Payback: 4 years
Co-Benefits:

Scope
100% of 39,620sq/ft of Town of Bedford building space

Annual Reductions
CO_2e: 177 tonnes (3.3% reduction in total TOB emissions, 4.4% reduction in TOB Building Emissions and 16.5% of 20% by 2020 goal)
Energy: 260,525kWh
14,191 e/therms
$: $42,231
NOx: 498 lbs
SOx: 1,103 lbs
CO: 333 lbs
VOCs: 44 lbs
PM10: 247 lbs

Sustainable Princeton



- Developed over 16 months using subject matter expertise from the community, analysis, modeling, stakeholder input and community engagement
- Two versions – 100+ pages and a 8 page exec summary

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Detailed version

PATHWAYS TO PRINCETON'S GHG REDUCTION GOAL

The Climate Action Plan Emissions Reduction Strategies (CAPERS) team modeled a number of scenarios to estimate their potential to achieve the goal of 80% reduction in emissions by 2050 based on 2010 levels.

Since emissions from the built environment and transportation are the largest sources of Princeton's emissions, the team focused on combinations of strategies in those sectors.

Emissions Grow with Population

Princeton's population continues its current growth of 1.47% per year until 2025; growth to 2050 follows DVRPC projections of 0.25% per year.

Observed community carbon emissions

Continued Efficiency Trend

Building and transportation efficiency trends continue at historical rates

Pathway to 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050

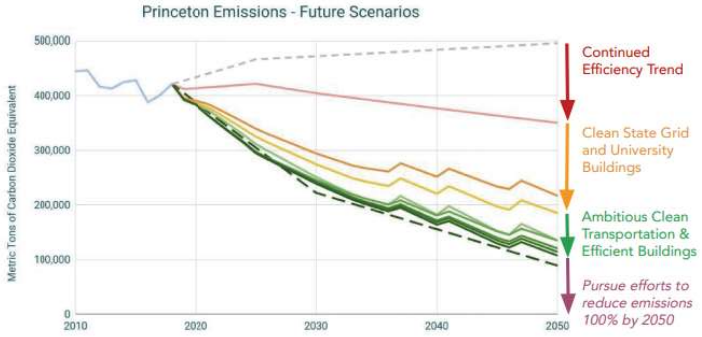


Figure 8. GHG emissions reduction strategy projections. *See Appendix C.*

Clean State Grid and University Buildings

- NJ achieves goal of zero emissions electricity by 2050
- Princeton University meets zero emissions goal by 2046 (excludes transportation)

Ambitious Clean Transportation & Efficient Buildings

- 50% vehicle miles traveled with electric vehicles by 2050
- Residential electricity supply from 100% renewables by 2025
- Reduction in commercial & residential gas usage by accelerated energy efficiency retrofits
- Zero-emission in-town trips (bike, walk, EV) by 2050

LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION | Objectives & Actions, cont

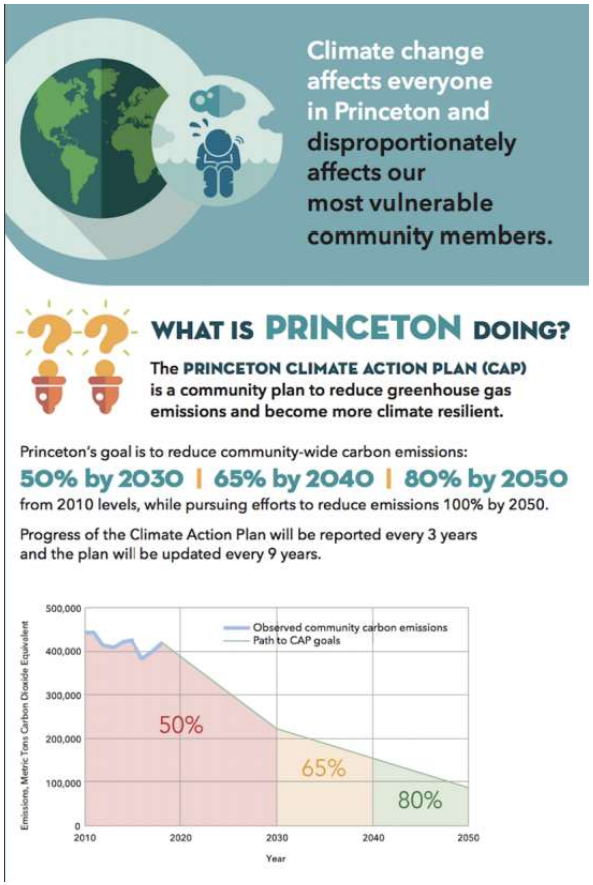
OBJECTIVE 4: Reduce community-wide vehicle miles traveled by switching to public transit, bicycling and walking		Co-Benefits	GHG Reduction Potential	Timeframe/ Status	Leader/ Partner(s)	Lever	Related Plans	Potential Funding Sources
4.1	Develop and implement community-wide, comprehensive Traffic Demand Management (TDM) programs that offer cost-effective and convenient alternative transportation services that reduce travel demand and traffic congestion		Medium	Short-term	PTAC/ GMTMA	Management	Master Plan	
4.2	Improve the user experience, convenience and frequency of TigerTransit, free-B and the jitney systems of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton Theological Seminary, Westminster Choir College of Rider University, and encourage use by students of public and independent schools		N/A	Short-term	PTAC/ GMTMA	Infrastructure, Management	Master Plan	
4.3	Ensure ridership by instituting an intensive and continuous transit information and education campaign (i.e., Transit Princeton) that includes elements such as public wayfinding signs, Wi-Fi enabled, and real-time information about transportation options		N/A	Short-term/ Initiated	PTAC/ GMTMA, SP	Management	Master Plan	
4.4	Require employers with more than 50 employees and new developments that will have more than 50 employees to implement transportation demand management programs		Medium (included in 4.1)	Short-term	PC/ GMTMA, PB	Education, Infrastructure	Master Plan	

Figure 14. The mobility hierarchy prioritizes low-emission modes of transport over higher-emission modes.

Actions in the Land Use & Transportation sector follow a mobility hierarchy which favors infrastructure and community design that promotes low-emission modes of transport over higher-emission modes. Walking, cycling and using the most fuel-efficient public transportation are the modes of transport that produce the fewest GHG emissions.

Promotes Equity | Fosters Economic Sustainability | Improves Local Environmental Quality | Enhances Public Safety and Health | Builds Resilience

Executive Summary



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6) Team Updates

Town of Westport:
Net Zero by 2050

Priority Area
Aware & Engaged **Community**
Efficient, comfortable, well-run **Buildings & Physical Infrastructure**
Reliable, Resilient, Renewable **Energy**
Clean & convenient choices for **Transportation**
Responsible stewards of **Land, Natural Resources & Waste Management**

Sustainable Westport
Group of Volunteers

Sust West Group
COMMUNITY AWARENESS & EDUCATION
Inspiring, Nurturing **LEADER DEVELOPMENT** • *Inspire* • *Attract/Find* • *Onboard* • *Support / Nurture* • *Connect*
PROGRESS TRACK + CELEBRATE – *Help to Measure, Demonstrate, Celebrate*
TOWN COUNSEL & COURAGE *("the green conscience")*

This Month Updates – From Agenda

b. AWARE & ENGAGED COMMUNITY
   i. Template for submitting social media ideas - Diana

c. PROGRESS TRACKING
   i. Land & Natural Resources
      1. Food waste update
   ii. Transport
      1. Drive Electric Week – Dawn
      2. Anti-idling– Peter B
   iii. Energy
   iv. Buildings

Aware & Educated **Community**

Updates this month on:

AWARE & ENGAGED COMMUNITY

i. Template for submitting social media ideas - Diana

Online Ideas – Submission Guidelines

For Admins:

1. Write several drafts
2. Identify the message
3. Work on the first line!—Make sure that the first line is visible in a person's feed without having them to click "more"
4. Front-load the important sentences
5. Identify focal themes:
   - Take-it-Back-Tuesdays
   - Zero Food Waste Challenge
   - Zero Food Waste Tips
   - Environmental Learning Series
6. Include a call to action (when possible):
   - Comment on a post
   - Like a post
   - Link in profile or bio
   - Engage with your website
   - Participate
   - "Double tap if you agree"
   - "Tag a friend"
7. Hashtag—find three or four for visibility and a couple that are unique to you for searchability
8. Fuse your brand voice with an "Instagram tone"—sometimes means taking a more lighthearted, less-preachy or less-aggressive tone
9. Limit emojis but use them sparingly when they work
10. Add line breaks for longer captions (see app Spacie)
11. Cross-promote on other social channels
12. When stuck, keep it brief

The part that I would like to share with our group is what Contributors need to know, which is quite simple and straight-forward really. The main takeaway for contributors is to send an article/event/etc along with a 3-5 sentence summary or bullet points. Why is this important for Westport and how does it fit into Sustainable Westport's messaging are both important questions for the contributor to ask themselves.

Online Ideas – Submission Guidelines

For Contributors:

As a content contributor, you really only need to worry about synthesizing the article/event/message for the Admin who will help write and create the post. That means summarizing what you would like posted in brief sentences or bullets.

1. Identify the message and summarize for the Social Admin or person who will craft the post:
   - Provide 3-5 sentences to summarize
   - Why is the article/event important?
   - Why does this relate to Westport (if/when applicable)
   - Bullet points are great!
2. Provide any links to articles or websites
3. Don't worry about photos—if you have one that you would like used, great but this is easy for an Admin to do
4. Focus in the content/facts of the post…don't worry about the style (Admins and writers can help with that)

Online Ideas – Submission Guidelines

Example of a good Contributor summary:

- David's example from June on the Net Metering/Solar articles is a good example. He sent three articles and then provided the bullet points below, which the Admin can now use to draft a caption. He provided the summary and facts that can now be shaped for the social media audience.

- At present, Net Metering is threatened by a suit from the New England Ratepayers Association (NERA). Unlike its name, NERA's positions and "*regulatory advocacy often align with the interests of investor-owned utilities and the fossil fuel industry*"* By threatening Net Metering, without an economically viable alternative policy NERA's action endanger onsite solar (solar on your home or business) as we know it and the future of a clean energy economy and clean, distributed, resilient, and reliable grid.
- "*Net metering is a billing mechanism that credits solar energy system owners for the electricity they add to the grid*."** This allows solar users to use the grid as a "battery" where they "store" excess production. This provides benefits by reducing the demand for inefficient central generation and decreasing the costs of grid investment. The current economics of behind the meter solar (e.g. small and medium sized "rooftop" solar) work in large part due to this widely adopted and longstanding policy that is regulated at the State, not Federal level.
- For Westport to meet its goal of being a Net-zero Community by 2050, it is critical that Westporters continue to adopt renewable energy. For this to continue and for a sustainable future solar policies must be economically viable and realize the full value of clean distributed generation. Without a currently viable alternative, net-metering is critical to the future of solar. Please help Westport become net-zero and advocate for net-metering.
- *The Energy and Policy Institute ("*a watchdog organization working to expose attacks on renewable energy and counter misinformation by fossil fuel and utility interests*."

- **SEIA.org

Progress Tracking & Celebrating

Updates this month on:

PROGRESS TRACKING

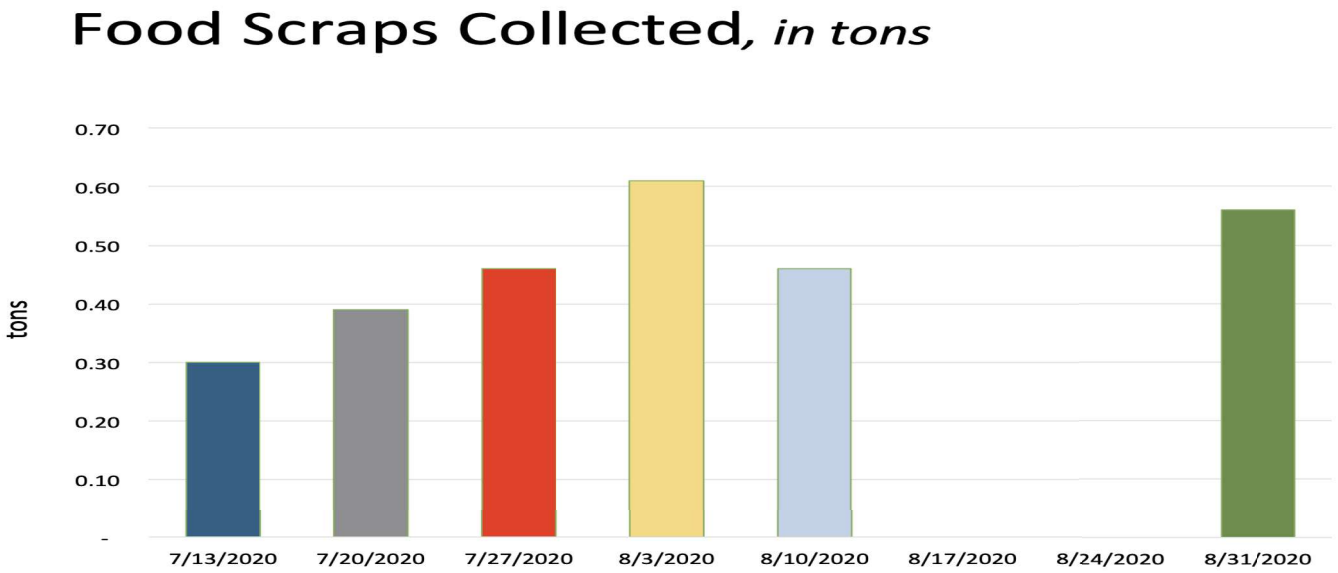
i. Land & Natural Resources
    1. Food waste update

ii. Transport
    1. Drive Electric Week – Dawn
    2. Anti-idling– Peter B

Zero Food Waste Challenge update September 3rd, 2020

- Transfer Station Food Scraps Recycling opened July 6th, closed from August 4-22 (DPW staff needed to clean up storm debris)
  - ZFW Challenge is providing volunteers every Saturday
  - New Recycling/food scraps staff at transfer station: Gilbert
- Over 200 requests for starter kits!
- Over 120 sold/given away: Earthplace selling kits

Food Scraps Collected



Note: closed 8/6/20 to 8/22/20 for storm clean-up

Ultimate goal: 19,000 pounds/week or 9.6 tons/week

*Tonnage is for the week prior to the date. e.g. 7/13/2020 data was the tonnage collected for the previous week.

Publicity

of

Vito Pidalla is a graduate of Chef Raquel Rivera's intensive culinary training program. Rivera, owner of a Pinch of Salt of Bridgeport, provides culinary training for low-income residents for food industry employment and entrepreneurial ventures.


WESTPORT NEWS

Racism: Two views

Grow-a-Row garden initiative aims to help those in need

"Grow-A-Row garden initiative aims to help those in need" in ***WestportNews*** as well as a feature in Dan Woog's ***o6880*** Blog, "Grow-A-Row Sustains Bridgeport."

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Grow-A-Row

- The 2020 **Grow-A-Row** initiative encourages members of the Westport Community Gardens to grow extra produce to donate.
- This growing season, **more than 70 grocery bags of fresh, organically-grown produce** were donated to the FEED program from June 20–August 31.
- In addition to WCG member individual donations, several member-volunteers plant and tend a large Grow-A-Row donation plot exclusively dedicated to growing produce to donate. We hope to expand this donation plot in 2021.

A sample of the fresh produce collected and donated through the Grow-A-Row program in 2020.

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Grow-A-Row

- 115 bags of produce collected over 8 weeks
  - Over 70 bags from Westport Community Garden
  - 50 bags brought directly to Christ and Holy Trinity Church
- Bridgeport Feed Center
  - Distributes fresh produce to families
  - Coordinates meal preparation by local chefs and distributes meals

Challenges & Opportunities

- Increasing Awareness
  - Few events at which to table or present. Ideas? Have been asked to table at Westport Farmers Market
  - Need to market to residents who do NOT go to the transfer station
  - Marketing campaign funding – Sustainable CT match grant eligible
- Logistics
  - NGO Sustainability no longer picking up food scraps for families (students returned to school).
  - Hope to re-start the program for new recyclers in Summer 2021
  - Bug situation at transfer station resolved with increased number of pick-ups by Curbside Compost to twice a week during the summer
  - Residents want more locations to buy compostable bags

6 c ii Transport

Drive Electric – Dawn

Back To School COVID + Anti-Idling - Peter

Back To School | Transport + Sustainability

Buses/Transportation

Parents/guardians should provide transportation when possible. Students should not change seats while on the bus. A supply of masks and hand sanitizer will be kept on all buses.

Students may only ride their assigned buses

Students will be expected to ride the same bus to school in the morning and the same bus to home in the afternoon every day. Face coverings or masks should be in place prior to entering the bus.

Parents are encouraged to drive their children to school each day.

Developing a SW view: At the intersect of transport and sustainability trying to make an opinion piece/thought as positive as possible eg…

- Recognizing the work and the tough choices from so many parties around town
- Recognizing Safety as #1
- Many of us planning within walking distance are aiming to walk as much as possible instead of cars
- Opportunity to do no idling while in line
- Keeping the buses quieter and more spaced out for those who don't have other feasible transport options is a good thing (+ equity angle here to recognize too)
- The rise of the electric car and hybrids and auto-anti-idling in the latest cars - time to upgrade if your lease is up / you can afford to?
- All looking forward to returning to the bus when safe and welcomed to do so

7) Pre-Wrap-up - Small Quick Items

Any?

7) Wrap-up Round-The-(Zoom)Room

All:

Greg

Diana

Tony

Dawn

Steve S

Sara

David

Peter