

9/5/18 Notes

Carolyn Lattin, Hilary Bialek, Caitlyn McCormick, Anndy Dannenberg, Conni Melia (recycling program manager working with Waneta), Waneta Trabert, Joana Canedo, Kathryn Tessier, Andy Gluck, Becka Smilie, Marcia Cooper, Janhavi Wadhvari

Next Meeting: 10/4/18, 4pm, location TBD

School Connections **GOALS FOR THIS YEAR:**

- 1) Develop Green Team at each school (As of 9/18, we have active teams or a champion at Burr, Mason-Rice, Peirce, Underwood, Williams, Bigelow, Brown and NNHS)
 - a) Contact Lincoln-Eliot to learn more about their effort/champion
 - b) Attend Green EXPO and drum up interest
 - c) Post School Connections info regularly on GN website
 - i) Possible to post school videos? Parental permission concerns....
 - d) Post School Connections info regularly on social media
 - i) Hilary B: Facebook group of Newton Parents
 - ii) Other?
- 2) Develop relationship with School Committee
 - a) Marcia will invite Matthew Miller to join us on 10/4
 - b) Advocate for School Recycling policy
 - c) Advocate for Green Wednesday policy
 - d) Study viability of applying for Mass DEP grant; how can we get there? (Green Teams at each school)
- 3) Explore developing standards-aligned curriculum
 - a) For Waneta to take into KG classrooms
 - b) For assemblies (similar to Understanding our Differences or Creative Arts and Sciences)
- 4) Examine how we can support not only recycling and composting, but also waste REDUCTION in schools

Individual Green Team **GOALS FOR THIS YEAR:**

Underwood: Recycling is well-established school-wide so move focus to "Reduce"

Other teams: If you have set a goal for this year, please let me know!

Detailed Notes:

Great kickoff meeting for the year!

Suggestion that we ask **School Committee** to issue a policy around “Green Wednesday” to promote awareness among students, faculty and staff. Also, push them to pass a policy requiring schools to recycle! More on School Committee below.

Suggestion that we post the Underwood and Peirce School videos on the GN website. Andy says parent permission is secured. Becka will contact parents for permission to post. Both videos are on NewTV, so already publicly available.

School survey: All schools have now been surveyed. We completed 9 school surveys last school year. Waneta’s staff and intern completed remaining schools (21 total) over the summer. YAY!

In meetings with Liam Hurley (Asst Superintendent, Chief Fin’l and Admin Officer), David Stickney (Dir of Facilities) and Joe Crossen (Facilities Mgr - supervises all custodians), Waneta was encouraged to move away from “report card” concept. Necessary to avoid making Facilities look bad, as we need to partner with them to move forward.

Data analysis is incomplete. Seeking an intern to assist. Waneta has not been able to connect with interns; Marcia will assist. (Carolyn is also looking.) (Is any funding available?)

One important reminder: bins are not paired and signage is non-existent.

NOTE TO TEACHERS: “studies show” that placing trash and recycling bins side-by-side greatly increases recycling rates. Be sure you “pair” them in your classroom and spread the word!

Signage -- Waneta had signage made over the summer. We will see examples at our next meeting. How will this signage make it into classrooms?

GN SC needs to help develop a green champion and green team at each school. Ex: Lincoln-Eliot is handling food waste; who initiated it? Principal submitted the materials survey -- but who completed it? Who is champion there? How can we learn more about what they are doing? **Bring L-E in to share ideas!** Is anyone available to contact L-E principal to learn more? If he/she is champion, can he/she join us for a meeting so we can learn more about how to support them, how to roll their model out to other schools?

GN SC GOAL for this year: Every school needs a Green Team!

Really good statewide resource: <https://thegreenteam.org/>

Sign up for their newsletter; if schools register their Green Team with the state, they get free recycling bins (what color? Further decreasing our uniformity?)

GN SC will have a booth at the GN

UNDERWOOD goal for the year: focus on REDUCE

School Committee:

Alison Leary may have already emailed SC chair, Ruth Goldman, about recycling policy?

Given our unsuccessful first attempt to get in front of the SC, we need to connect individually with members. **Marcia will invite Matthew Miller to join us on 10/4 to learn about our efforts.**

Mass DEP Grants: [Sust Matls Recov Grant](#)

Grant deadline: June

Available for a variety of projects, including: School Recycling

Requires support from/involvement of School Committee

From the website:

Commitment letter to be signed by: Superintendent, Facilities Manager, Chairman of the School Committee, municipal Fire Chief, Board of Health Chairman (or Health Agent), **and principals from each school** are required for grant activities to begin and to ensure support for the program.

If awarded a grant, your School Committee or District must pass a mandatory School Recycling Policy, further described in the **SMRP Guidance**. See the **Sample Recycling Policy Template** below. An applicant whose policy has been adopted at the time of grant application submittal will be favorably evaluated

Funding also needs to be in place to continue the program after the grant expires.

Grant provides up to \$150k to fund start-up costs, equipment, etc. Arlington received grant. Possible to understand how they used it, what they are doing now?

Green Newton SC role would be **to help create active Green Teams** at each school. <Agenda item for next meeting.>

Additionally, GNSC (teachers) could support Waneta by helping her staff develop curriculum that meets KG or other grade level standards so that they can invite her in to teach KG students about sustainable materials mgmt (reduce, reuse, recy) -- following "Recycling Rhonda" model from VT. Train KG every year, then it will grow thru school. NOTE: 1st grade must be ready to do what KG does, etc., so students see same routine in ea grade level. Program needs to "roll upward" as students age.

Update: Newton swap shop at Rumford is now open, called "Re-Use it Newton". Seasonal, Saturdays. For info about what we can drop off, pick up: newtonma.gov/reuse. Volunteers needed: recycle@newtonma.gov Grand opening 9/15 with Mayor Fuller.

Recycling contamination is high and most of us are confused about what's acceptable. At present, recycling guidelines determined by individual municipalities and haulers. Lack of uniformity results in confusion. State uniform recycling guidelines coming out soon, based on survey of 7/8 MRF. We will receive a citywide mailing shortly. City staff will then conduct "at-cart education" starting 10/1 over an 8 week period -- checking cart contents and leaving feedback ("oops tags") about what's acceptable and what's not. 1st week is "freebie", 2nd will be a warning, 3rd visit if content is still unacceptable, city won't pick up recycling. Fines were not effective.

Cartons (milk, juice, soup) are NO LONGER going to be recycled. Multi-layered packaging contaminates paper with wax lining, food waste, so paper loses value.

SUGGESTION: Create "understanding sustainability" modeled on "Understanding Our Differences" curriculum

This suggestion recalls last year's suggestion that we create special programs similar to Creative Arts and Sciences (or embed ourselves within it?) <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/domain/103>

Hands-on, cross-curricular, culturally diverse learning

This could be a social justice piece, too?

1.5 hours, multiple stations, all grade levels

City "organics" collection pilot

Generally very positive feedback; still generating report

Pay-to-throw option exists

Investigating subsidized system

Clear that interest exists

Pests, odor weren't problematic

Questions is whether or not this is city's responsibility

Green EXPO: 10/14

We will have a School Connections booth -- and will need staffing!

Provide info about us, about state GREEN TEAMS

Waneta and team will provide some data about survey results for us to use at booth