



MINUTES

Thursday, January 9, 3:45pm - 5:00pm
Newton Free Library - 3rd floor rear arc area
(330 Homer Street, Newton)

Attendees: Joana Canedo, Heather Tausig (GN SC/NSHS), Margaret Ford (Green Newton/Students for a Greener World), Jordan Schwartz (Brown Middle School), Erwin Chuk (Williams), Maggie Needham (NNHS student) Andy Gluck (Underwood teacher), Brid Martin (Pine Village Preschool), Kate Esbenshade (NSHS student), Coral Lin (NNHS student), Allison Kelley (Pine Village Preschool), Anna Potz (Pine Village Preschool/2020 Zervas), Jenn Martin (Zervas, Safe Routes to School), Andrew Thompson (NSHS teacher, Green Newton), Marcia Cooper (Green Newton), Dinny Starr (resident interested in green issues in Newton), Christina Perez (Mason Rice/Brown), Julie Winsett (Countryside), Anndy Dannenberg (NNHS), Jen Devlin (NNHS teacher, parent of children at Underwood, Bigelow, North).

1. Welcome and Introduction (5 min)

2. Schools: Sharing Experiences (20 min)

Underwood. [TerraCycle](#) - nonprofit organization out of New Jersey. Partner with large companies to recycle materials that you don't normally recycle. Underwood has been a part of the [Cliff Bar Terra Cycle program](#) for three years. TerraCycle sends labels. Check for 2019 for \$200. Either use for garden or an Australia fund. Difficult to get into. But then into for life. Sign up here: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades/clifbar>.

Pine Village Preschool - signed up Boston and Newton schools for [MassDEP The Green Team](#) for a pilot to see how it can run out into other schools. Approved to do her internship program for her own schools. Interested in developing curriculum in English and Spanish for toddler, preschool and pre-K. Curriculum around recycling and saving the planet. Including identifying books. Private schools CAN apply for the Green Team. Green Team usually works with schools grades K-12.

Zervas - reached out to Whitsons about reusable cutlery but were told there was not sufficient time for washing. Most schools do not have a dishwasher. Underwood breakfast program uses reusable silverware, which is washed at school. Idea from group: encourage those who bring school lunch to bring cutlery as well. Maybe add reusable cutlery and water bottle to the school supply list. PTOs could gift schools with reusable cutlery.

Green Team - Partnership between after school program and 5th grade teachers - more manageable and sustainable.

Just Think expo at NNHS - Safe Routes to School participated in the PTSO event. focus on anti-idling. Students very responsive.



Newton South - concerns about car culture. See article published on [school's magazine](#). Enforcement?

Newton South Sustainability Expo - Feb 12 an all-day in school field trip for 280 kids in global program on climate change. Hearing from alums, policymakers, etc. on different approaches.

Newton North - Dec 9 Climate Strike, Climate Advocacy Group promoted a pop up swap at North (went well - then donated leftovers to Cradles to Crayons and others); going to State House to lobby; trying to do fundraisers for Australia; hoping to get compost bins at North. Anndy Dannenberg - resistance to having food waste in the building. Waneta will give NNHS more outdoor composting bins and is discussing organic collection from the cafeteria.

Update on Textile recycling? Not yet, a lot of players (Parks & Rec for snow plows, principals, etc.)

NextGenVoices - NNHS is organizing a local government day the Thursday after Feb break (Feb 27). Invite local officials and then ask questions about sustainability. Advocacy event during lunch.

Student Council for greater Boston area - Coral is part of this Mass Dept of Education environmental group. Working on civics education outline for 8th graders. The group needs more information on climate and environment since history teachers teach the civics curriculum and may not be familiar with climate and environment work.

Countryside - meeting tonight and will present about student Green Team. Finished up textile recycling project the week before Winter Break. Took to Goodwill place at Rumsford Ave, who were not very receptive.

3. School Committee Meeting (20 min)

Monday, January 13th, 7pm. Meeting is open for 30 minutes for public comment. Three presentations - PTO Equity, Update on Transportation, Update from the [School Sustainability Working Group](#). School Committee does not respond to public comments while they are happening but might address them during their presentation. Physically being there is important to express the importance of sustainability. Liam, Joana and Waneta will present. Idea to all wear green. Signs are good, too. Arrive by 6:55 to get on the list to speak. Get through as many as they can. Can leave after you comment. Two people can go up together.

Examples of where else Climate Education is being done? Gloucester. Spokane, WA. Oregon, NH. Christina - would Teachers Union make a statement? NNHS student - MA Teacher's Union has made climate education a priority.



4. Climate Education in schools (10 min)

Sub-group formed from GN SC group - 12 members. Discussing petitions, how to strategize communications of the petition and with the School Committee and teachers, etc.

Students created an online petition: <http://chnq.it/VZR9tBh7sq>

Christina working on curriculum entry points - also certain areas with an outcry about talking about climate change in schools. Looking for easy entry points for teachers to align what they are already teaching with climate change. ([See Handout with ideas for starting point](#) of what curriculum could look like). Focus first on getting in the door with content, and then talk about the next step (service-learning, external places of advocacy, climate justice). Start small look far. Looking for feedback from the group, especially the first high school point. Document is online and already shared with those in the sub-group. Joana can share more widely with others in the greater group.

Coral - Suggestion of making it more interdisciplinary - 8th grade civics project.

Maggie - Suggestion to add racial and economic piece.

Christina - start with broader, then layer this in when you add resources and materials.

5. School Connections Vision (10 min)

Review and add suggestions [here](#).

Use the same language to talk about our broad goals for the group so that others understand what we care about and the results we strive for. Talk about incorporating sustainability into the classrooms. Need some language to unite us. NPS has goals, missions, and core values. Examples are in [linked document](#) to agenda. [Boston Public Schools](#), Wellesley, Brookline, Newton. Invite group to look at and collaborate. [Allison read BPS one, likes because it talks about human health]. Heather suggested Allison share BPS, Wellesley, Brookline policy with the School Committee. Jenn will share BPS policy with Margaret Albright who is working on changes to policy for Safe Routes to School.

6. Student essay writing competition for Green Newton's 30th Anniversary Celebration

Marcia - Students Essay Writing or Video Competition for Green Newton's 30th Anniversary Celebration, June 9 at Lasell University.

Competition for high school students at the two schools. Examples of topics:

- How can an education in climate science affect your future goals?
- Choose an element of the Newton Climate Action Plan. Compose a letter to the City Council and/or the Mayor or write an OpEd for the TAB about its benefits
- Choose a climate-related Bill that is being considered in the Massachusetts Legislature and create a testimony to support Climate Action.
- (Resources for legislative priority lists: Mass Power Forward, Mothers Out Front, 350, Our Climate, Sunrise, Conservation Law Foundation, Clean Water Action, MassPIRG, MCAN)



- Interview a city official or state representative about their work on energy issues and write an article about them for the Green Newton newsletter.
- How has the Sunrise Movement or Greta inspired you to get involved in Climate Action.
- Write a book review of a movie/book by Bill McKibben, Naomi Klein, Al Gore, Rachel Carson..... and how it inspires you.

Independent people reading them to choose winners - winning essays will be read at the celebration. Likely receive by end of April vacation. Videos of a few minutes, short essays. Marcia wants feedback from teachers on the suggested topics and how to run. Green Newton will prepare a proposal.

Coral suggested including elementary school students in a similar project.

Marcia - booth at the Newton Farmer's Market. Quilt-like banner in the back of the booth with student comments on why climate message is important?

Christina - idea of "fashion trash".

Joana: idea of digital or hard copy booklet with all the entries

7. Open agenda (10 min)

Heather - Mr. Michael Kozuch (Newton South) is coordinating Earth Day Boston effort. Link here:

<http://www.earthday2020boston.org/>

Maggie - International Lobby Day at MA State House on January 29.

[Project Green Schools](#) is promoting Green Olympics to be held in schools around the country in April 2020

[Redford Center Stories](#) is an environmental storytelling Contest designed for teachers who are ready to empower their middle school students to re-imagine materials use, production and waste in the 2019-2020 school year

[Climate Advocacy Day](#) at the State House - Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 10 AM – 3 PM

Coming up:

[School Committee Meeting:](#) Sustainability Update - Monday, January 13, 2020 @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

[Free Webinar: How Your School Can Benefit from The Green Team Resources:](#) Wed, Jan 29 @ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

[School Connections: February Meeting](#) - Thu Feb 13 @ 3:45 -5:00 pm