

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Solid Waste Working Group

Karen Ebel, Chair

PO Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Contact Email: swwg@maillist2.nh.gov

Website: <https://www.des.nh.gov/about/boards-and-committees/new-hampshire-solid-waste-working-group>



Minutes of March 22, 2024 Solid Waste Working Group (SWWG) NRRRA Office 2101 Dover Road, Epsom, NH 03234

Members Present: Chair Karen Ebel, Reagan Bissonnette, Mark Laliberte, Greg Leahey, Freda Paris, Ben Piche, Eric Steinhauser

Members Present Remotely¹: Erica Douglas, Megan Fontes, Steve Poggi, Duncan Watson, Josh Whipple

Members Not Present: Rep. Judy Aron, Sen. Howard Pearl, Adam Clark, Matt Hughes, Colin Kelly, Jim Malley, Michael Wimsatt

Call to Order/Introduction

Chair Ebel called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

Approval of Minutes

Eric Steinhauser made a motion to accept the February 23, 2024, minutes. Reagan Bissonnette seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Presentation on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) 101

Resa Dimino, from [Signalfire Group](#), gave a presentation about EPR Policy in the United States.

- EPR policy structures have varying producer operational and financial responsibilities.
- Types of fees: cost internalization (producer pays) vs. eco-fee (consumer pays).
- Performance measures and examples:
 - Convenience (i.e., all households have access to a collection site within 20 miles).
 - Rates and Dates (i.e., reduce packaging by 50% by 2050).
- Use incentives (via fees in the program plan) to encourage waste handlers to send material to certain markets with better end uses.
- EPR increases recycling rates and establishes more stable funding. Helps businesses meet post-consumer recycled content targets and sustainability goals.
- Producer response to EPR varies by product and the industry.
- Disposal bans are often more effective when paired with supporting EPR policies.

¹ Remote attendance necessary due to logistical considerations.

Solid Waste Working Group

Minutes

March 22, 2024 – Page 2 of 3

Group discussion:

- *What is a “needs assessment?”* It is a gap analysis study that takes a broad look at the system. It looks at what is in place now and what is needed. Needs assessments are only done for packaging because of the complexity. A needs assessment could build on the state’s waste characterization study, should it be pursued.
- *Which wastes should the SWWG prioritize for EPR in New Hampshire?* Resa suggested:
 - Mattresses, batteries, electronics, tires, and paint.
 - Look at existing disposal bans and town challenges with managing the wastes targeted in those bans.

Greg Leahey, [ReSource Waste](#), shared that mattresses are difficult and expensive to breakdown for recycling. There are also health and safety concerns with mattress quality. It’s a good day if 1 out of every 50 mattresses is recycled.

Legislative Updates

To read specific bill language and amendments, search for the bill number on the [New Hampshire General Court website](#).

Chair Ebel shared updates on the following bills:

- [HB 1371](#), [HB 1490](#), [HB 1632](#) – recommended by their respective committees, passed the NH House as part of the consent calendar, and moved on to the Senate for another set of hearings.
- [HB 1145](#) and [HB 1386](#) –passed the NH House and moved on to the Senate for another set of hearings.
- [HB 1649](#) – recommended OTP 5-4 by Division 1 of the Finance Committee with an amendment to change the effective date to January 1, 2027. Sent to the full Finance Committee for review. Final vote in NH House by April 11th.

NHDES and Member Updates

Mike Nork and Paige Wilson shared the following NHDES updates:

- Staff had a kick-off meeting with MSW Consultants to discuss a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for state waste characterization study. The QAPP is required by EPA. It describes how data will be collected, checked, and reviewed.
- NHDES is applying for a \$50M EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant. The application is due April 1st.
 - If awarded, \$5M will go towards supporting a competitive, state grant program focused on waste and materials management. Grants will be solicited from eligible municipalities and non-profits through an RFP process.

Solid Waste Working Group

Minutes

March 22, 2024 – Page 3 of 3

Reagan Bissonnette gave an update on NRRRA:

- Registration is open for:
 - [NRRRA Annual Recycling Conference](#) (June 3-4, 2024).
 - [Food Waste Diversion Workshops](#) (April 16-17) – four, in-person modules.
- Published new resources:
 - [List of NH municipalities with food waste diversion programs](#)
 - [Food waste composting and diversion services](#)

Eric Steinhauser shared that the [Waste Management Council](#) continues to provide feedback to NHDES on their proposed rule changes. A fourth draft of Env-Sw 800 (landfill siting rules) was presented to the Council. NHDES is trying to find a balance between environmental concerns and landfill operations.

Freda Paris is planning to do an audit at Elliot Hospital to determine food waste generated by their nurses' lounge, cafeteria, and patient meals.

Topics for future meetings

Based on Resa's recommendations, the SWWG will continue hosting guest presentations to learn more about EPR for mattresses, batteries, electronics, paint, and tires.

The group should consider how the wastes align with existing disposal bans, NH's 2022 SWMP, and the SWWG Interim Report.

Future meetings, locations, site visits

Next meeting will be April 19th (9:30 – 11:30am) at the DBEA or NRRRA office. Chair Ebel will find a presenter to talk about EPR.

Ideas for sourcing presenters: Mattress Recycling Council, PaintCare, Product Stewardship Institute, and neighboring states (VT, ME, CT, MA).

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 AM.

A recording of this meeting is available at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7184805349235897857>