

Recycling & Sustainability Committee

Annual Report

January 17, 2023



Organics Drop Off Center - Brunswick Landing, Rec Dept

Committee Charter

- ✓ Develop a plan to assess Brunswick's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- ✓ Study and develop recommendations for the sustainable management of Brunswick's solid waste & recycling programs
- ✓ Study and develop recommendations about living sustainably in Brunswick, including management of the Town's facilities and government operations

Other Notable Details

- 9-member Committee
- Focus on Solid Waste Management, Energy & Sustainability with related Public Education
- Charter last updated in 2007 ← *due for an update*

2022 Goals & Accomplishments

1. Support Council/Staff finalize 10+ year solid waste & recycling contract with ecomaine
Achieved. Town entered long-term agreement effective July 1, 2022.
2. Support staff in implementation of the DEP Organics Recycling Grant to expand recycling of residential organics. (Grant goal is to double estimated volume, from ~200 to 400 tons/year)
Great progress! Curbside subscriptions up 44%, second drop off center established at the Rec Center. We estimate residents are recycling ~100+ tons/year more organics. Participation continues to grow.
3. Support development of an updated baseline GHG emissions profile for the Town
4. Actively research & support applying for grants/funding opportunities that reduce emissions, mitigate the impact of climate change, and build a more sustainable community
The Town was recently awarded a \$50,000 state grant to complete GHG Inventory and Emissions Reduction Plan. GPCOG and Bowdoin College will be assisting in the effort.
5. Improve our public education and communications efforts

Good progress. Actively publicized Organic initiative in community forums and media; Sustainability webpage built; Spoke and/or tabled at numerous public events, including the Senior Expo.

2023 Draft Goals

1. Improve Brunswick's solid waste & recycling education programs
2. Standardize & report on the Town's solid waste management metrics
3. Develop long-term recommendations regarding potential adjustments to the Town's solid waste management contracts for disposal, recycling and collection services.
4. Support the Town's development of a Climate Action Plan through recently awarded grant
5. Develop recommendations to facilitate the Town's conversion to electric and low emission vehicles, including the development of supportive infrastructure
6. Organize and support direct services to help Brunswick residents implement energy conservation measures and convert to renewable energy

Feedback? Questions?

