



# TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

10 FRONT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 778-0591 • FAX 772-4709

[www.exeternh.gov](http://www.exeternh.gov)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Monthly Meeting**

The Exeter Sustainability Advisory Committee will in the Wheelwright Room,  
Exeter Town Offices at 10 Front Street, Exeter on **Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.**

1. Call SAC Meeting to Order/Welcome
2. Public Comments
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Action Items
5. Single-use plastic document for Exeter - Kristen Murphy  
presentation slides to SB
6. Sub-committee
7. Other Business: - Pumpkin compositing this year at Laney & Lu 06 Nov 2022. Free coffee.
8. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Tuesday 6th December 2022 at 7pm

*Chetana Palmer*  
*Sustainability Advisory Committee*

Posted Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Exeter Town Website [www.exeternh.gov](http://www.exeternh.gov) and Town Office kiosk.

**TOWN OF EXETER  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 4, 2022**

Meeting was called to order by Chetana at 7:01pm

**Members present:** Chetana Palmer, Chris Zigmont, Adam Dumville, Nina Braun, Stacey Rogers, and Jackie Ojala

**Staff and Select Board Member Present:** Kristen Murphy, Conservation & Sustainability Planner  
Niko Papakonstantis, Select Board Representative

Motion by Adam, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris to **approve meeting minutes from September 6, 2022**, as presented. Motion passes, unanimously.

#### Sub-Committee Follow Up

- Amending the **SAC Charge** – Nina & Jackie
  - Nina presented the proposed changes that were sent out to the committee
  - Kristen suggests changing ‘publicize’ in item 3 to ‘promote’
  - Discussion of sustainability definition. Committee agrees to use the 1987 official definition and relation to the town of Exeter.
  - Niko suggests reviewing Energy Committee’s charge as an example
  - Jackie & Nina to incorporate discussion and send the updates to the chair to be shared prior to the next meeting
- Define **top 3 action items** for this year (summarized below, finalized version to be shared) – Adam & Chris
  - Audit of CIP budget proposals – checklist/template for this
    - 8/22 select board meeting shows energy efficiency is a part of the discussion for public safety building
  - Help with implementation of single-use plastic ban
    - Prioritize getting a public water fountain
  - Support and promote water conservation measures
  - Chris to finalize these items and send them to the chair to be shared prior to the next meeting

#### Single Use Plastics

- Present document at 3 November select board meetings, beginning 11/7
  - Kristen is working on the Presentation. Stacey, Chris, and Chetana to review
    - To include: Why this policy (impact of plastics), outreach, origin, outline, FAQs
  - Communication updates from last month;
    - Nina reached out to Sr Center but no response yet
    - Adam reached out to TEAM

- Concerns that numerous vendors would back out of festivals due to financial concerns
- Open to working with the committee
- Water fill stations are a must
- Recycling bins in Swasey Parkway
- Kristen to contact someone at the Chamber of Commerce who organized Chilly/beer fest as an example of an event using composting
  - Possible workshop with Chamber of Commerce about sourcing compostable items
- Reach out to Mr. Fox for materials for parks and rec to have for people applying for permits

#### Pumpkin composting event

- Unsure if we will do it again at Laney & Lu or direct the town to the transfer station
  - Chris to check with girl scouts to see if they are interested in volunteering if we held the event
  - Chetana to check with Jenn at Laney & Lu if we find someone to staff the event
  - Jackie to update the poster as needed for distribution
  - Start planning for the event for 2023 earlier if there is a good turnout this year

With no additional business, Chetana motioned, and Chris seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:22pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Ojala

*"To do good, you actually have to do something."  
Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia*

# Proposed Ordinance: Single Use Plastics On Town Property

# Impacts of Plastic Pollution

88%

of every piece of plastic ever generated, still exists somewhere

1 Truck EVERY minute



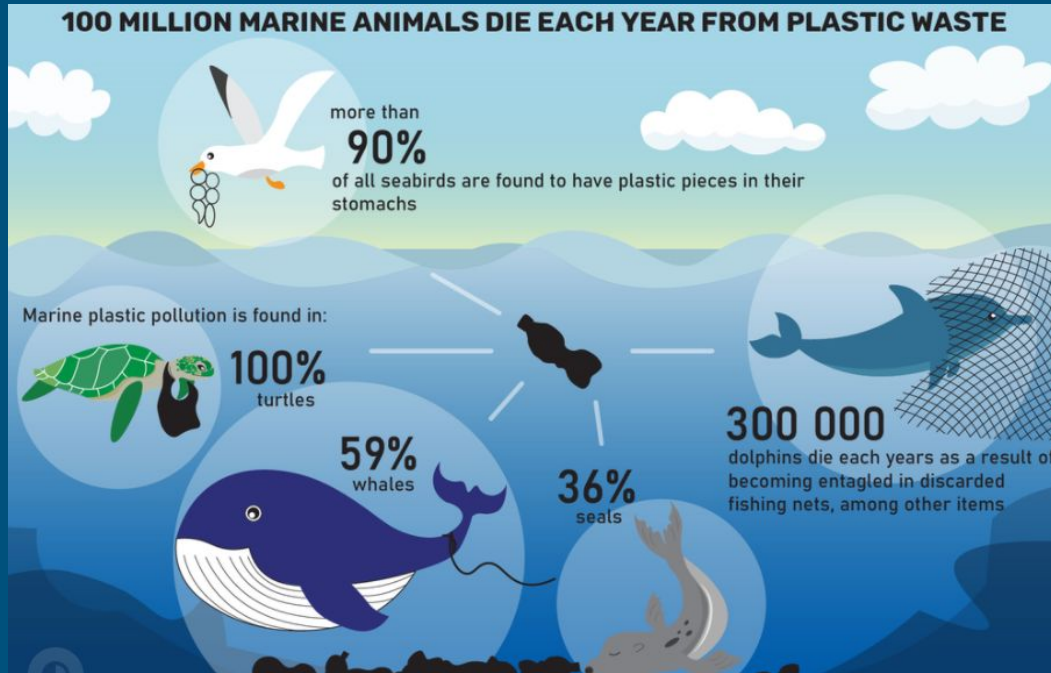
# Impacts of Plastic Pollution

Figure 2: Estimated microplastics ingested through consumption of common foods and beverages (particles (0-1mm) per week)



\* Drinking water includes both tap and bottled water

# Impacts of Plastic Pollution



# *Impacts of Plastic Pollution*

**300  
MILLION**  
TONS OF PLASTIC  
**PRODUCED  
YEARLY**

**50%**  
OF ALL PRODUCED  
PLASTIC  
**ONLY USED  
ONCE**

**8  
MILLION**  
TONS OF PLASTIC  
END UP  
**IN OUR OCEANS  
EVERY YEAR**



# Impacts of Plastic Pollution















The plastics that come into your home every week:

 <b>1</b> <b>PET</b>	 <b>2</b> <b>HDPE</b>	 <b>3</b> <b>PVC</b>	 <b>4</b> <b>LDPE</b>	 <b>5</b> <b>PP</b>	 <b>6</b> <b>PS</b>	 <b>7</b> <b>OTHER</b>
<b>POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE</b>	<b>HIGH-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE</b>	<b>POLYVINYL CHLORIDE</b>	<b>LOW-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE</b>	<b>POLYPROPYLENE</b>	<b>POLYSTYRENE</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
<b>WATER BOTTLES; JARS; CAPS</b>	<b>SHAMPOO BOTTLES; GROCEY BAGS</b>	<b>CLEANING PRODUCTS; SHEETINGS</b>	<b>BREAD BAGS; PLASTIC FILMS</b>	<b>YOGURT CUPS; STRAWS; HANGERS</b>	<b>TAKE-AWAY AND HARD PACKAGING; TOYS</b>	<b>BABY BOTTLES; NYLON; CDS</b>
						

# Impacts of Plastic Pollution

The plastics that come into your home every week

Only 3 are eligible for recycling in Exeter

 <b>PET</b>	 <b>HDPE</b>	 <b>PVC</b>	 <b>LDPE</b>	 <b>PP</b>	 <b>PS</b>	 <b>OTHER</b>
<b>POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE</b>	<b>HIGH-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE</b>	<b>POLYVINYL CHLORIDE</b>	<b>LOW-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE</b>	<b>POLYPROPYLENE</b>	<b>POLYSTYRENE</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
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# Impacts of Plastic Pollution

## DID YOU KNOW?

Plastic cannot be recycled

It can only be downcycled



Unlike glass or aluminium,  
plastic loses quality through  
the recycling process

Plastic can only be downcycled into lower  
quality plastic, clothing, lumber, etc.

⚠ But this process is not infinite,  
so always reuse first if you can!

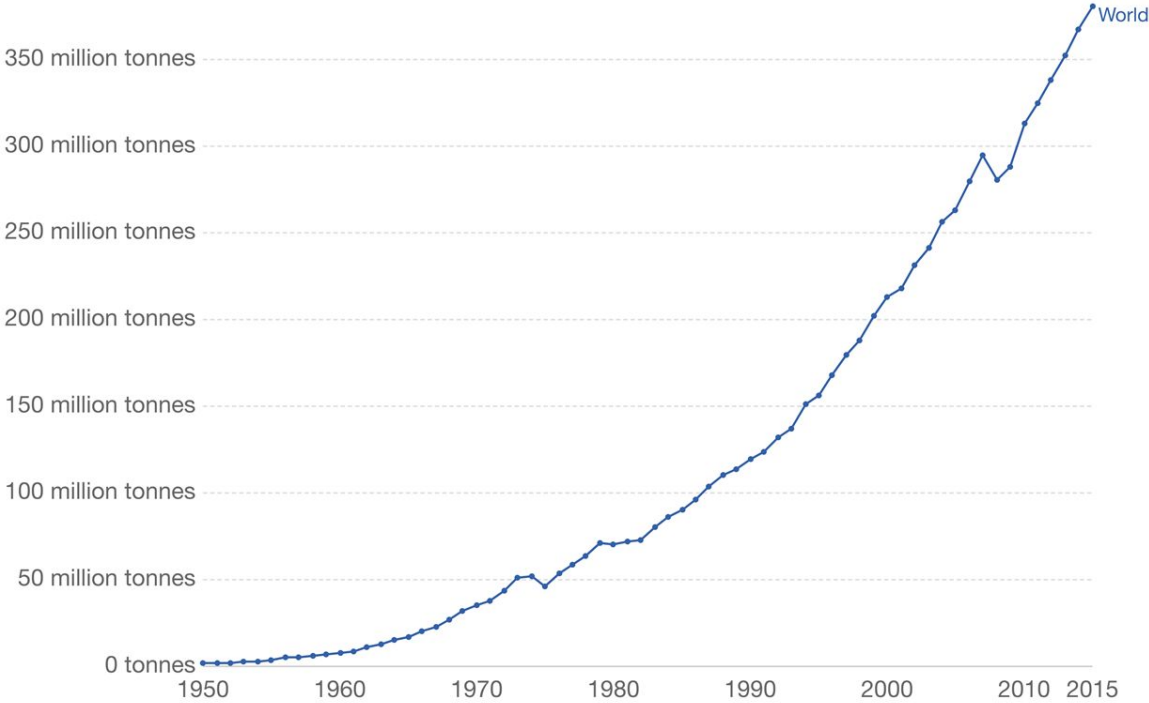


# Our History of Plastics Use

## Global plastics production

Annual global polymer resin and fiber production (plastic production), measured in metric tonnes per year.

Our World  
in Data



Source: Geyer et al. (2017)

CC BY

# *An Opportunity to Change*

CHANGE  
IS AN  
OPPORTUNITY  
TO DO  
SOMETHING  
AMAZING.

~George Couros



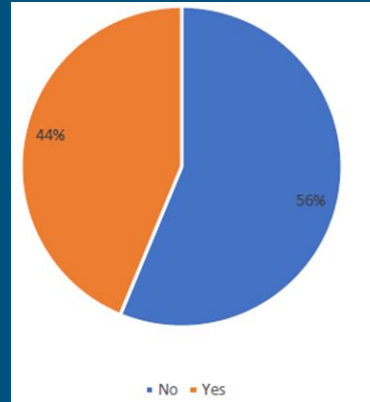
[WWW.TAMARALETTER.COM](http://WWW.TAMARALETTER.COM)

# *Ordinance Development and Outreach*

- Modeled after Portsmouth, Adopted Oct 2019
- Simplified
- Created a Staff and Permittee Survey
- Met with Individuals
- Modified Policy to Address Concerns

# Permittee Results

- Obtained All Permits Issued 2019 – June 2022
- Surveyed Those Issued  $\geq 4$
- Used A Variety of Town Properties
- SUP: Plastic Food Service Products Most Common
- Negative Impact?
- Recommendations



## Event Permit summary (2019 – 2 June 2022)

68

Individual Permittees

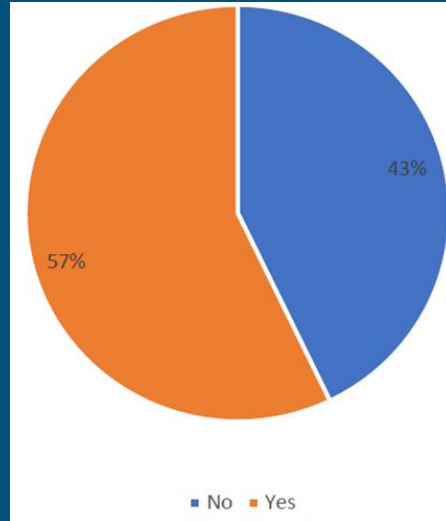
4 or More

Permits During Evaluation Period

PERMITTEE	# Permits
Exeter TV	107
Farmers Market	104
Exeter Parks & Recreation	103
Team	70
NH Society of photographic	61
Prescott Park Arts Festival	59
Exeter Power Yoga	52
Pine St Players	31
Community Arts Initiative of	28
Seacoast Photographers A	20
Pine St Players at Christ Ch	16
Exeter Brass Band	15
Swag on Swasey	15
Main St Art	14
Seacoast Artist Assoc	13
Racial Unity Team	12
Heronfield Academy	11
Exeter Holiday Parade	9
PAGE, BRUCE	9
Assessing	8
Exeter Area Chamber of Co	7
LitFest	7
Exeter Town Office	6
Exeter Historical Society	5
Fiddle Ensemble/ Fiddle Le	5
Seacoast area CROP Hunger Walk	5
Exeter Area Kiwanis Club	4
Memorial Day Parade Com	4

# Staff Results

- Surveyed Those Who Distribute (or work with Distributors)
- SUP: Plastic Food Service Products Most Common
- Negative Impact?
- Recommendations



## 2. What Department are you representing?

- Public Works
- Town Manager & Welfare/Human Services
- Parks and Recreation
- Highway Department
- Fire/EMS/Emergency Management/Health
- EXTV/IT
- Economic Development



# *Individual Meetings & Modifications*

- Amended Title to State DISTRIBUTION of SUPs
- Added An Allowance for Food Safety Requirements
- Exception for Emergency Responders & Human Service Non-Profits
- Elimination of Fine
- Transition Plan Subcommittee To Work With Parks and Rec
- Starting to Explore Potential for Swasey Drinking Water Source
- Clarified Town policy on recycling bins at events

# Draft Policy

## **DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS, FOOD SERVICE PRODUCTS, AND POLYSTYRENE FOOD CONTAINERS ON TOWN PROPERTY**

### 24.00 PURPOSE:

The Town of Exeter recognizes that limiting the distribution and subsequent disposal of single-use plastics through reduction is necessary to protect human health, to preserve the natural environment, and to promote sustainable and ethical practices regarding material waste.

### 24.01 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Section, the following definitions apply:

2401.01 *Human Service Organization*: An organization focused on providing services to people in order to help them stabilize their lives and find self-sufficiency through guidance, counseling, treatment, and/or the provision of basic needs

2401.02 *Reusable Bag*: a bag specifically designed for re-use, capable of being used one hundred and sixty (160) times and has stitched or woven handles. Reusable Bags include woven reusable plastic bags.

2401.03 *Single-Use Compostable Food Service Products*: a bag, bottle, food container, cup, utensil, straw or other similar food service product that is composed of one hundred percent (100%) Polylactic Acid (typically derived from plant-based starch such as corn) and provided by a vendor to a customer for the purpose of transporting or consuming food.

# Draft Policy

*2401.04 Single-Use Plastic Bag:* a bag that is made predominantly of polyethylene plastic derived from petroleum and provided at the check stand, cash register, point of sale or other point of departure for the purpose of transporting food or other goods.

*2401.05 Single-Use Plastic Food Service Products:* a bottle, food container, cup, utensil, straw or other similar food service product that is made predominantly of polyethylene plastic derived from either petroleum or natural gas, and provided by a vendor to a customer for the purpose of transporting or consuming food.

*2401.06 Single-Use Polystyrene Container:* a container or cup composed of synthetic aromatic hydrocarbon polymers that is made from the monomer styrene (often called Styrofoam) and provided by a vendor to a customer for the purposes of transporting food.

# Draft Policy

## 24.02 DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS ON TOWN PROPERTY

No person shall distribute a prohibited single use disposable item at any town facility, town property, town-managed or sponsored event, or activity authorized through special permits issued under the authority of the Town of Exeter Select Board unless otherwise allowed under EXCEPTIONS 24.03.

### *Prohibited Single Use Disposables:*

1. Single-Use Plastic Bags.
2. Single-Use Plastic Food Service Products.
3. Single-Use Polystyrene Containers.

## 24.03 PRODUCT EXCEPTIONS:

1. Reusable Bags
2. Single-Use Compostable Food Service Products
3. Packaging materials required for food safety reasons added at the site of the business or a processing facility. Examples: wrapping around meats, seafood, lettuce mix or other perishable products.
4. Products where alternatives to prohibited items do not exist.

# Draft Policy

## 24.04 ORGANIZATIONAL EXCEPTIONS:

1. All town departments/vendors may distribute their remaining inventory for 9 months following policy adoption
2. Items used by emergency responders or human service non-profit organizations.
3. Prohibited Single Use Containers brought by staff/customers themselves
4. Exeter Parks and Recreation Department will work with the Sustainability Committee to develop a transition plan.

## 24.05 PENALTIES AND REMEDIES

In addition to any other penalty or remedy permissible by law for violation of this ordinance, the following shall apply:

1. If the Town determines a violation of this ordinance has occurred, a written warning that includes the potential penalties for future violations will be issued.
2. Upon a second or subsequent infraction of this ordinance, the Town interprets this as a direct violation of the vendor permit and cause for refusal to approve use permit.

## *Additional Plans*

- Developing a Source List for Product Alternatives
- Determine Feasibility of Water Station at Swasey
- 2022 Chili Fest as Model for Future Events

## Sustainability Advisory Committee 2022/23 projects proposals

### **One.**

#### **Sustainability Checklist**

As a refinement to the proposal of the subcommittee on projects for the Sustainability committee for the coming year, we put forward for committee review and adoption a municipal project sustainability checklist to help town departments, boards, and committees assess their draft projects and audit existing projects to see if they truly serve the community sustainably.

Taking a cue from LEED System goals and high level metrics, to ask ourselves if we are doing enough, our municipal project/ CIP checklist proposal:

Does this project:

- 1) Reduce contribution to global climate change

What energy alternatives are planned? What have we explored?

- 2) Enhance individual human health

To what standard are we ensuring a healthy environment for users and visitors?

- 3) Protect and restore water resources

What have we designed/planned to manage runoff, to protect the water table, and manage usage?

- 4) Protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services
- 5) Promote sustainable and regenerative material cycles in its execution?
- 6) Enhance community quality of life for

We offer this checklist to be adopted by this committee as a framework to be developed and deployed as recommended above. We recommend the SAC to assert ourselves to

both audit the current 2023 CIP budget proposals going in front of the BRC and the Select Board this month with this drift framework, and to elevate our engagement with Planning, Zoning, Energy, and other boards and committees with an agenda to review upcoming projects and ultimately bake in sustainable planning in future projects. Step one, the most urgent matter, would be a review of capital investments, screening for these sustainable values. We need to ask the question, "are we doing enough?"

## **Two.**

### **Water & Access**

In addition, to complement the single use plastic ban, aid the transition, and ease the impact on residents and visitors, we should prioritize access to drinking water stations in public areas, working with Public Works, Planning, Parks, and outside sponsors to realize expansion of access to potable water in our public spaces. A key short term opportunity but as well as a chance to work on long range planning with the town.

We recommend a permanent subcommittee to drive actionable items and recommendations for water conservation.

## **Three.**

### **Building Code Revision**

We recommend a project to review and potentially recommend revisions to the town building codes to encompass leading ideas in rainwater recapture and use, and water conservation measures.

Additionally we would like to work with the Energy Committee to review building code and/or ordinances to assess use of fossil fuel/ carbon energy for proposed development, and work to update the code language to take a proactive renewable energy stance to ensure development is done in a more sustainable way.





Exeter Sustainability Advisory Committee presents



# PUMPKIN COMPOSTING

**LANEY & LU**  
INSPIRED EATERY



FREE COFFEE FOR THOSE WHO BRING  
THEIR PUMPKINS TO BE COMPOSTED

NOVEMBER 6TH, 2022 @ 9-11AM  
26 WATER ST EXETER, NH 03833

OVER 1 BILLION POUNDS OF PUMPKINS ARE ADDED TO  
LANDFILLS EACH YEAR WHERE THEY PRODUCE METHANE,  
A HARMFUL GREENHOUSE GAS. DO YOUR PART BY  
COMPOSTING YOUR PUMPKINS!



IF YOU'RE UNABLE TO JOIN US, PLEASE  
REMEMBER THAT THE EXETER TRANSFER STATION  
HAS FREE COMPOSTING FOR RESIDENTS