

DRAFT
Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2018, 8am – 9:30am
City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave, Council Chambers

Minutes taken by Meera Singh

Members present:

Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Martha Henry, Susy Jones, Janet Mosley, Laura Nichols, Michael Pappas, Meera Singh, Matthew St. Onge, Quinten Steenhuis, Mary Verhage, Kristen Watkins

Members absent:

Ilana Bebachick, Joel Dashnaw, Debby Knight, Anne Sherman

Staff:

Meryl Brott, Michael Orr

Members of the public present: Judy Nathans, Helen Snively

Housekeeping

March and April minutes were approved

No public comment.

City Updates

- Status of curbside compost expansion

April – May 2018 – 108 tons less trash = 10% decline in trash

95 tons of compost - misses going down, tonnage going up

Door to door outreach is now complete – 30,000 doors were knocked on for canvassing. 2000 more emails were added during the canvassing to receive monthly e-newsletter

Need to better understand operations before considering expansion to buildings with 13+ units. Not in Fiscal Year 2019 city budget.

- Status of mattresses and other divertables

The budget hearing was on May 8.

Small business recycling proposed to begin in fall 2018.

Mattress recycling will probably go into effect in Spring 2019. # 1 in item searches on GROIR. Landfills may start charging.

City will receive DEP grant, good for three years, for mattress recycling. No charge to resident for curbside collection, but a permit will be needed. Collection and recycling done by UTEC, an excellent organization which employs at-risk youth/young adults.

Maybe eventually furniture recycling too.

Mike – there is State legislation around mattresses but status unknown.

- Other DPW Programs

Meryl Brott, Recycling Program Manager reported:

- Results of the annual Go Green Challenge. The schools winning first, second and third places were the Morse, Peabody and Tobin Montessori, respectively.
- The “Go Green at Home Challenge” was a new addition this year, and the entire Morse School community participated.
- The first quarterly recycling report for the schools was created (Jan – Mar 2018). Previously they were monthly.
- There were several requests this spring for recycling center tours and classroom presentations.

Debby asked if Commissioner could come to the June RAC meeting. Mike will check.

Janet, reporting for analytics subcommittee: whether city can/should? purchase trash bins for residents so all have a standard size – reduce the amount of waste people can throw away.

At the last RAC meeting there was a discussion, resulting in a recommendation to Commissioner that there be further study to guide the way forward.

Mike referred to the HDR study and recommended another consultant be hired to recommend a quantitative study.

Janet asked for RAC members to send in their inputs for the letter to Owen.

Councillor Kelly talked about considering automation of bins in the future.

Judy Nathans – Somerville gave 95 gallon trash bins to all residents - much too large. They also may contain too many pounds, which is something consideration of volume doesn't capture.

Martha – are we going to recommend a standard size?
RAC seems to be generally in favor of this.

- Discussion on Fixit Clinics

Matthew raised the question of fixit clinic participation. Some haven't been too good.

Mike – wondered if August was a good time to have a Fixit Clinic.

Martha – wondered if a regular schedule for fixit clinics would encourage more people to come – e.g. weekly on Sat afternoons (Martha) or monthly (Mike).

Mike likes the idea of a citywide yard sale – modeled on Somerville's.
Suggested the Saturday after Labor Day.

We should consider getting a replacement of RAC member Joel Dashnaw from Save That Stuff or Casella.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 AM.

Hello Teachers!

Thank you for all you do to involve your students in protecting natural resources!

It's time for the "Go Green Challenge" and to share how your class is protecting the environment!

Please complete the Challenge worksheet on the reverse and hang it proudly outside your classroom. Look for an email with links to resources mentioned, and feel free to work on checking off more items after hanging the sheet. It's ideal to complete it with your class, but not required.

WIN A TROPHY! GET FREE PENCILS!

- The **top three schools** with the highest percentage of classrooms that have completed their Challenge worksheets and hung them outside their classroom will each **receive a trophy** made from recycled materials.
- **Every classroom** that completes the Challenge worksheet and hangs it outside their classroom **will get pencils made from recycled newspaper**.

Complete and hang your sheet outside your classroom before April break. Results will be tallied between April break and Friday, May 4, so leave it up through May 4.

Have any questions, need any help, or want a presentation? Please contact Meryl Brott, Recycling Program Manager, DPW, mbrott@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4836.

Thank you!





Go Green Challenge 2018

Please complete and proudly hang outside your classroom before April break. Leave up through Friday, May 4. Put * next to actions taken for the first time. Thanks for all you do!



In our room, we proudly...

☐ Reduce

- ☐ Print double-sided
- ☐ Minimize margins and font size on documents
- ☐ Had a paper-free day
- ☐ Discussed ways to reduce single-use plastic (skipping straws, only taking the utensils you really need, etc.)

☐ Reuse

- ☐ Collect and use scrap paper
- ☐ Encourage reusable water bottles and using fountains
- ☐ Use old materials to make something new
- ☐ Learned about donating textiles for repurposing

☐ Recycle

- ☐ Have a recycling bin next to each trash can
- ☐ Have a sign or label showing what to put in recycling
- ☐ Watched the video about how recycling gets sorted
- ☐ Created recycling signs and posters
- ☐ Invited Meryl to our class to learn about Zero Waste

☐ Compost

- ☐ Reviewed how we compost in the cafeteria and at home
- ☐ Watched the video about sorting cafeteria items
- ☐ Completed a "Get Rid of It Right" worksheet or quiz
- ☐ Played the Waste Sorting Game on the DPW website
- ☐ Collect paper towels and snack scraps to compost in the cafeteria or our worm bin

☐ Save Energy

- ☐ Draw shades to keep the room cooler/warmer
- ☐ Turn off lights when they're not needed
- ☐ Turn off the smartboard when not in use
- ☐ Have a power strip for our printer/computer/monitor and turn it off at the end of the day

☐ Enjoy Nature

- ☐ Spend time in the CitySprouts school garden
- ☐ Have a plant and/or animal in our classroom
- ☐ Have pictures of animals and nature in our classroom
- ☐ Promote safe walking and biking to school

Here's what else we're doing! _____

Grade: _____ Classroom #: _____ Teacher(s): _____ School: _____

March 2018

Dear Students,

It's time for the "Go Green Challenge!" The Go Green Challenge is an opportunity to look at ways you are helping protect the earth at school, and to see if you can do even more.

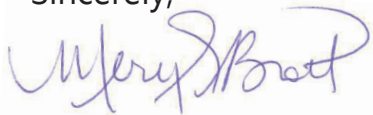
Review the Go Green Challenge sheet and check off the actions your class is doing, or has done. After filling out the sheet, hang it outside your classroom. Be proud of what you are doing, and "challenge" yourself and your classroom to do even more. Everything you do makes a difference.

There are many things you can do to help the earth at home, too. Bring the "Go Green at Home Challenge" home and mark what actions you are already doing. Then select a couple new things that you would like to try to start doing. Bring the sheet back to school. Your class can then look at all the ways you and your classmates are helping the environment at home too.

Thank you for every action you take to reduce trash, prevent pollution, save energy, and protect natural resources. You are making a difference!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you again for your efforts to protect the earth.

Sincerely,



Meryl Brott, Recycling Program Manager
Cambridge Department of Public Works
147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
mbrott@cambridgema.gov
617-349-4836



Thank you!





Go Green at Home Challenge 2018



We pledge to reduce our trash, prevent pollution, conserve energy and protect natural resources.

We will: (check what you will do or already do)

☐ Reduce

- ☐ Minimize disposable plates, cups, etc.
- ☐ Use a sponge or rag for wiping up spills
- ☐ Skip the straw
- ☐ Use cloth napkins

☐ Reuse

- ☐ Use reusable water bottles and mugs
- ☐ Use old materials to make something new
- ☐ Bring reusable bags when shopping
- ☐ Put clean clothing in clothing donation boxes, even if torn/stained
- ☐ Donate good-condition items
- ☐ Use scrap paper for notes and lists

☐ Recycle

- ☐ Review what to put in recycling
- ☐ Recycle all our empty containers and clean paper and cardboard
- ☐ Watch the video about how recycling gets sorted (search YouTube for Casella Zero-Sort Recycling Facility video)
- ☐ Look for products with recycled content
- ☐ Use the "Get Rid of It Right" tool on the DPW website (CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle)

☐ Compost

- ☐ Compost our food scraps
- ☐ Play the Waste Sorting Game on the DPW website (CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle)

☐ Save Energy & Water

- ☐ Draw shades to keep the room cooler/warmer
- ☐ Turn off lights when not needed
- ☐ Have a smart power strip for TV/computer/printer
- ☐ Turn off the car engine when parked or waiting
- ☐ Walk, bike, carpool, take the T or bus
- ☐ Take shorter showers
- ☐ Minimize letting the water run while handwashing
- ☐ Turn off water while brushing teeth

☐ Enjoy Nature

- ☐ Spend time outdoors
- ☐ Have plants, a garden, or adopt a tree
- ☐ Promote safe walking and biking to school

☐ Other

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Signed:

Student's Name

Grade

Parent/Guardian Name

Thank you!
Every bit helps
protect the earth!



Cambridge Public Schools

Recycling Performance

January – March 2018

School	<i>Enrollment</i>	Total Recycling (pounds)	Total Recycling Per Student (pounds)	% Reports Received
Baldwin	366	14,250	40	100%
Morse	310	10,613	34	100%
Kennedy-Longfellow/ Cambridge Street Upper	565	18,225	32	100%
Amigos	390	12,600	32	100%
Cambridgeport	343	10,350	30	100%
ML King/Putnam Ave Upper	587	16,613	28	100%
CRLS	1,942	51,375	27	100%
Fletcher Maynard	297	7,763	26	100%
Haggerty	253	6,212	25	100%
King Open/Extension	371	9,075	25	100%
Peabody/Rindge Ave Upper	601	13,875	23	92%
Tobin/Vassal Lane Upper	571	12,525	22	100%
Graham & Parks	376	6,300	17	77%

TOTAL RECYCLING: 189,776 pounds *Keep it up!*

Recycling weights are based on weekly reports sent to DPW by the schools.

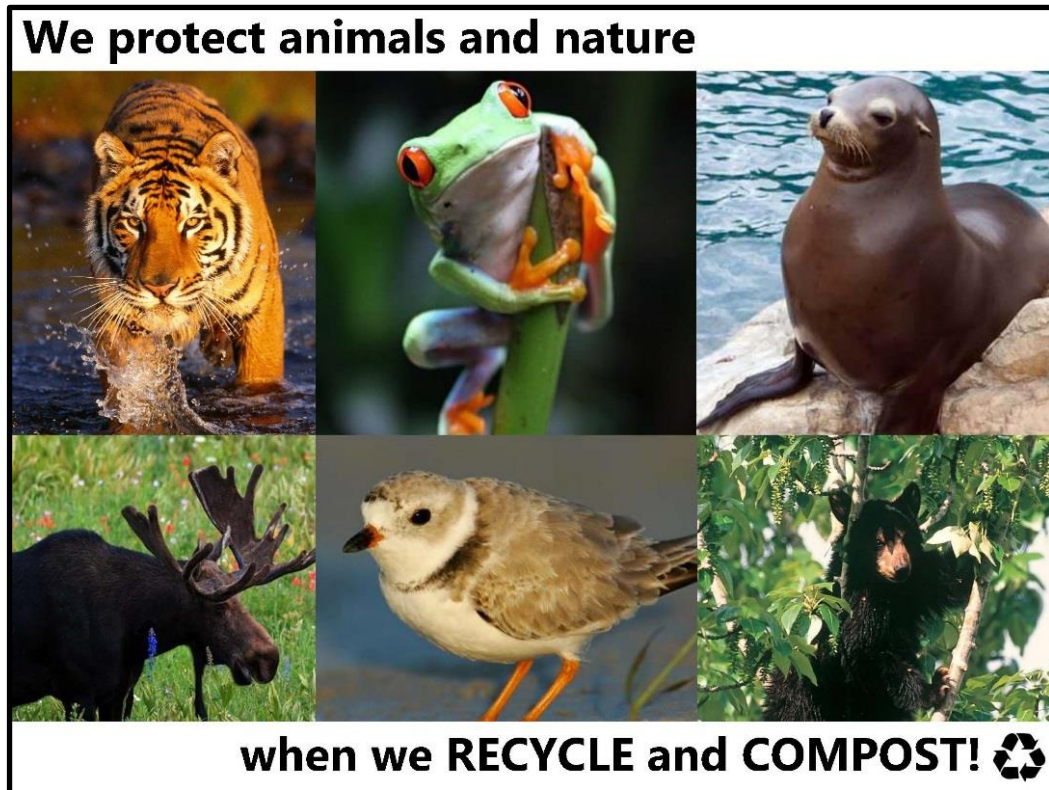
Contact: Meryl Brott, 617-349-4836, mbrott@cambridgema.gov.

Thank you for recycling and composting!

Your efforts protect animals and nature,
curb climate change and save the city money.



Cambridge kids “get rid of it right” and protect animals and nature!



Let's recycle and compost!

Let's reduce and reuse!

Let's donate and properly dispose!

Thanks for caring! Together we are making a difference!



*Have questions about recycling, composting or reducing waste?
Would you like a classroom presentation about these topics?*

Please contact Meryl at DPW: 617-349-4836 / mbrott@cambridgema.gov.