

Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Agenda

May 13, 2026, 8:00am – 9:30am

Hybrid Meeting

Minute taker: Dailey Brannin

Members Present: Dailey Brannin, Tucker Dammin, Tian Feng, Debby Galef, Brian Goldberg, Tracie Gordon, Eric Herman, Sugandha Karmacharya, Debby Knight, Elka Kuhlman, Emily Lee, Richard Nurse, Carlie Peters, Ashan Rodriguez, Suzanne Shaw, Meera Singh, Helen Snively, Rob Vandenbeeke, Stephanie Wasiuk, Monica Yudron, Ting Zhang, Jenna Zwanger

Members Absent: Olufolakemi Alalade, Dave Demme,

Staff present: Meryl Brott, Lena Johnson, John Nardone, Mike Orr

Public Present: Courtney Forrester, Tamene Tedla, Amy Waltz

1. Housekeeping,

April 2026 minutes passed

2. Meet & Greet with Commissioner Nardone

- Started off working as engineer for city
- DPW runs waste, city bldg. maintenance, fleet of city vehicles, streets/sidewalks, parks, forestry, cemetery!
- City Council committee hearing on May 26 regarding new ordinance, full city council to vote in June? Earliest it's passed is June, earliest in effect is December. Non-compliance fines could be as high as \$300/day
- Members welcome to attend and speak on their own behalf
- Composting in city buildings and public areas
 - Seeing where they are with recycling contamination before adding composting
 - Piloting restricted access bins
- 2, soon to be 3 compliance officers
- More education needed for mandatory composting
- Many benefits to city for composting and recycling, including lower costs

3. City Updates

- Busy April:
 - Earth Day at Main Library: Finished Compost giveaway
 - Perfect amount of compost - very enthused takers
 - Get Rid of it Right App – spreading the word
 - Mobile Recycle Center at Tobin School
 - 50 ppl for the first hour, 50 for the rest
 - Biggest categories – plastic bags, scrap metal, and electronics
 - Busy for the first hour, but ppl were patient
 - Acted as promo for the Recycle Center
 - Next one is 104 Fulkerson St, behind Kennedy/Longfellow School, 5/20/26, 4 - 7:30
 - Fixit Clinic in library maker space was a great success
 - GLSD and CORE tours
 - 1+1=3 in terms of energy production
 - Food waste produces 4 times the energy that the human body does
 - Both places – super impressive, employees are proud, technologically complex

- New great how-to-recycle video starring Sughandha!
- Outreach events upcoming
 - **Ports Arts Festival: Saturday May 30, 2026**
 - **Mayfair: Sunday May 31, 2026**
 - **Fresh Pond Day: Saturday June 13, 2026**
- Sub-committee meetings; Mike to schedule these for May 19.

4. Other news

- News from MassDEP and State Legislature
 - Possible statewide food waste ban.
 - 2028 for all commercial, 2030 for all residential
 - Environmental Bond Bill in State House; voting in House today!
 - Omnibus bill
 - Paint EPR
 - Bag ordinance: no more retail “reusable” plastic bags, only paper or compostable
 - No black plastic
 - Passed in Senate already, going to House now/today
 - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Commission Report

5. Closing

- Action Plan/Decisions
 - Subcommittee meetings on May 19 – food waste reduction and commercial waste reduction (restaurant and retail)
 - Go to Health & Env committee meeting May 26th and comment
 - City council meeting late on – public comment
 - Outreach events for the rest of May and June
 - Reach out to city rat czar Dave Power to invite to future RAC meeting
 - Reach out to Carlie about attending and organizing a summer social
- Announcements
 - Free Store – will talk about in June meeting - to take place at Reservoir Church on Rindge Ave. on a Saturday in late August
 - June meeting, last before September, will be hybrid

Chat:

Suzanne May 13, 8:00 AM

can other people online hear anything?

Suzanne May 13, 8:28 AM

Thank you!

Richard Nurse May 13, 8:31 AM

Technically the material used to make the compost bins can be modified to include an additive that may discourage rodents chewing the bin wall.

Suzanne May 13, 8:44 AM

I think they said the off-set \$3.5M annually in electricity use and send back some to the grid

The director at GLSD said she would share the powerpoint--it she did, could you share it out to this group?

Suzanne May 13, 8:56 AM

Great video!

Brian Goldberg May 13, 9:01 AM

Thank you for the great highlights. Quite a month! I need to leave to attend a 9am meeting.

Richard Nurse May 13, 9:10 AM

MayMay 31. The Rotary Club of Cambridge will have a stand featuring the the microplastic (really micropolymer issue as rubber tyre dust is >30 % of particles)issue.

Meera Singh May 13, 9:24 AM

Could you pls explain the "the reach out to the rat czar" point ?

Suzanne May 13, 9:25 AM

I need to drop, thanks all!