

Waste Reduction Advisory Committee (WRAC) Meeting
September 9, 2026, 8:00am – 9:30am
Minute Taker: Debby Galef
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present: 'Folakemi Alalade, Dailey Brannin, Tucker Dammin, Tian Feng, Debby Galef, Brian Goldberg, Tracie Gordon, Eric Herman, Debby Knight, Elka Kuhlman, Emily Lee, Carlie Peters, Suzanne Shaw, Meera Singh, Helen Snively, Rob Vandenbeelee, Stephanie Wasiuk, Monica Yudron, Jenna Zwanger

Members Absent: Sugandha Karmacharya, Ashan Rodriguez, Ting Zhang

Staff present: Lena Johnson, Mike Orr

Public Present: Amy Waltz

1. Housekeeping

June 2026 Minutes approved

Richard Nurse has resigned from the WRAC

2. City Updates

Free Store: A smashing success! The venue was great and the aftermath and cleanup were simpler and faster than in the past. Emily collected comments from volunteers, which can be helpful for future free stores.. Some future suggestions are for more than one per year, perhaps in different neighborhoods, and having smaller events, with just one or two items. Brian mentioned MIT's Open Space swaps. WRAC volunteers could perhaps become involved and help out. 41 kitchen bins were distributed during the Free Store. A further benefit, for the city, is that such events count towards DEP points, which can lead to grants.

Pop-Up Recycle Center events: these have been very successful. They'll continue through October and then restart in April. Funded through participatory budgeting. Electronics disposal has been the most popular.

3. Discussion

Zero Waste Ordinance Changes: The City Council unanimously passed the new Zero Waste Master Plan at their summer meeting! The changes will take effect in six months (February 3, 2027). Mandatory compliance will begin on August 3, 2027. In the meantime, there'll be a lot of focus on educating the public. Neighborhood associations may be a good place to proselytize:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9ac5ec58c97c439388e42601f2e554a5>. Recycling Works will be helping the city to set up restaurants and large buildings for food waste diversion. A WRAC food waste diversion subcommittee is also working on this to aid Deb Albenberg.

4. Closing

Upcoming Outreach events:

Danehy Park Day, a very Cambridge event: Sept. 19

Cambridge Science Festival at MIT: October 4

volunteers requested for both - respond to Lena

Contact Brian re MIT swaps

Somerville has a rat costume - maybe Cambridge could borrow it?

October meeting will be all remote

