

LATEST NEWS

Weston Power Choice: Awaiting DPU Approval



Weston Power Choice is still alive! The Town submitted its aggregation plan for [Weston Power Choice](#) to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) on October 29, 2020. While we certainly wish we could accelerate this process, it is still sitting in the DPU review pipeline. Once the plan is approved, the Town will select an electricity supplier and, in close cooperation with SWAG, inform the community on next steps.

Pay-As-You-Throw: Implemented and Moving Forward



compost bins.

SWAG helped the Town's Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) implementation by staffing an information table at the Weston transfer station on September 25th and October 2nd. During the preceding months, SWAG shared a steady stream of resources on reducing waste through composting, reusing and recycling. After some initial challenges, the PAYT program is now running smoothly. While it's too early to determine the program's impact on the town's waste volumes, the transfer station has seen a noticeable increase in food waste going into the

Weston Ahead: Continues to Make Headway



The Town is working hard to make progress on the goals set in [the Climate Action & Resilience Plan](#). Efforts completed/underway include: launching Pay-As-You-Throw at the transfer station, replacing all street lights with LED's, conducting a Tree Survey with residents about interest in tree protections, pursuing a zero-energy bylaw, evaluating the feasibility of moving Town Hall from oil to electric heat, upgrading HVAC systems at the schools for health and energy efficiency, and much more.

compost bins.

Weston Plant Pollinator Alliance (WPPA): Display Garden Installed, 2nd on the Way



Are you interested in learning more about native plants, wild pollinators, and actions you can take at home to support at-risk species? The Weston Plant Pollinator Alliance (WPPA) [website](#) is a comprehensive resource highlighting local native pollinator conservation efforts. The first WPPA public pollination preservation [display garden](#), installed last May at the Concord Rd. entrance to the Weston segment of the Mass Central Rail Trail, contains examples of beneficial native plants anyone can add to their yards to support at-risk pollinators. The WPPA continues to interface with local groups and organizations to increase pollinator resources and habitat in existing gardens throughout Weston, including a second public display garden planned for Spring 2022 installation.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIONS

- **Interested in driving Impact in your Community?** [SWAG](#) is always looking for passionate volunteers. Join our monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month and find out which topic(s) excite you. Meeting information can be found on the SWAG website .
- **Annual Weston School-Wide Clean Up Day: November 11th from 9-11 am.** Bring your family and help [pick up trash around the school grounds!](#)
- **National Recycling Day: November 15th.** Check out the [SWAG calendar](#) for presentations on recycling and reducing waste during November!
- **Creating a More Energy-Efficient House: November 16th.** Hear three local residents describe how they cut their use of fossil fuels and saved money. For meeting details, register [here](#).
- **Land's Sake Farm Environmental Education: Sign-up for Winter Programs!** After-school programs have started this week but there are still a few spots left in the Tue K-grade 2 and Thu grade 3-6 programs. [Sign-up](#) quickly to secure your spot!

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

Did you know food waste accounts for approximately 25% of the average household's trash? By removing food from the waste stream, Weston residents can significantly reduce their total waste, and carbon footprint, and create nutrient-rich compost to aid healthy plant growth.

Earlier this year, SWAG launched a campaign to help residents reduce their food (and other) waste streams. And it resonated! Here are two residents who creatively incorporated composting into their daily life.



Jeff Barz-Snell

Tell us about yourself

I moved to Weston from Salem in 2018 with my wife and three children. We live in the parsonage next to the First Parish Church, where I currently serve as the Minister.

What are you showing in the picture?

Clementine and I are next to a Green Cone Food Digester, which we installed in our yard last April.

How is a Green Cone Food Digester different from a backyard composter?

It's an aerobic digester designed to break down all food. You don't put leaves and grass in it, but you can compost vegetables, fruit, meat, fish, eggs, coffee and even bones. No mixing or turning of material is needed. The only requirement is a sunny location with good drainage.

What spurred you to take this action?

I've been involved in environmental work for many years. During a presentation last spring on Trash and Recycling given by the MetroWest Climate Solutions group, the presenter mentioned she used a Green Cone. I was curious.

Are the results what you expected?

Yes, it works very well and has little or no smell, since most of the unit is buried in the ground. It did not attract vermin or other animals this summer, which is an important consideration around here.

Do you see a noticeable reduction in your trash?

Definitely. We dump 3-4 lbs of food waste into the digester every 3 days or so. It can accommodate up to 2.3 lbs per day. Since we don't have a garbage disposal it has made a big difference in the amount of trash and associated odors we bring to the transfer station. Your trash pick-up service will thank you as well!



Marc van Zadelhoff

Tell us a about yourself

I live on 44 Silver Hill Road with my wife and three daughters ages 14, 12 and 10. I run a SaaS software company and when not working, I enjoy spending time with my family, woodworking and doing outdoor sports.

What are you showing in the picture?

It's a compost bin I made from repurposed wood. The wood was originally used for a wheelchair ramp, which was built for my father before he passed away 2 years ago. I repurposed it to make a compost bin for our yard. My mother was super happy to see it go to great use.

What spurred you to take this action?

I was inspired by my wife who works in corporate sustainability and by the fact that we were throwing away a significant amount of compostable food materials. The great thing about composting is once you do it, you have much less smelly trash and amazing, reusable materials for planting.

Are the results what you expected?

The compost bin turned out as I expected. It's actually the second one I've built so I was able to use my first experience to improve on this model. Particularly satisfying was that one of my neighbors saw it and asked me to build one for her! I love woodworking so I'm now building one for her family.

Do you have any recommendations for others who want to emulate your action?

Keep it simple and keep in mind that doing something is better than doing nothing. These bins are pretty easy to construct yourself or you can ask a handy neighbor to do it for you.