

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN HALL • 525 WASHINGTON STREET • WELLESLEY, MA 02482-5992

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FACSIMILE: (781) 239-1043
TELEPHONE: (781) 654-5004
WWW.WELLESLEYMA.GOV
MARYBETH MARTELLO, PHD
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DIRECTOR

Take Part in the “Wa\$te Wi\$e Wellesley” Community Forum on September 30
Discover What You Can Do to Waste Less, Save Money, and Protect the Planet

September 11, 2020 (Wellesley, MA) – Why is our waste problem growing? Is recycling still viable? What’s happening in Wellesley, across Massachusetts, and throughout the United States to reduce landfill waste?

Discuss these and other questions during “**Wa\$te Wi\$e Wellesley**,” a virtual community forum on **Wednesday, September 30 from 9:00-10:30 a.m.** co-sponsored by the Green Collaborative and the Town’s 3R Working Group (Sustainable Energy Committee, Department of Public Works and Natural Resources Commission). An expert panel will highlight what our town and state are doing and what you can do to waste less, save money, and protect your health while reducing Wellesley’s carbon footprint.

[Register Here](#)

The current scale and pace of waste generation is unsustainable. Municipal solid waste (MSW) includes everyday items from homes, schools, and businesses such as grass clippings, furniture, clothing, food scraps and appliances. Between 2017 and 1990 total municipal solid waste in the US increased by nearly 30% to about 268 million tons. Some estimates suggest that the volume of municipal solid waste produced by countries will rise 70% above 2016 levels by the year 2050. Food waste comprises about 15% of total MSW and the US leads the world in the volume of food waste generated. Americans discard an estimated 40 million tons of food every year. This staggering amount equates to 80 billion pounds of food, \$161 billion, and 30-40% of the US food supply.

Our waste problem adversely affects our health and the environment. The manufacture and use of products, as well as the management of resulting waste via landfills and incinerators create greenhouse gas emissions thereby contributing to climate change. Landfills and incinerators also release toxic chemicals. Toxins make their way into air, land and water for uptake into plants, animals and humans. Toxins bleach coral reefs and disrupt food chains while plastics fill waterways and harm aquatic life.



Departure from current, unsustainable practices to a “Zero Waste” approach minimizes the trash sent to incinerators and landfills. Wellesley’s RDF is a critical resource in leading our community on a path to Zero Waste. This leader in municipal waste management exhibits resiliency and continues to recycle and divert food waste in the face of a difficult international recycling market and a global pandemic. The RDF processes roughly 7,500 tons of municipal solid waste, 5,500 tons of recyclable material and 80 tons of food waste annually. Because of on-site separation of high-quality materials at the RDF, Wellesley is able to sell certain recyclables like cardboard for top dollar.

The September 30 event will examine waste management at Wellesley’s RDF in the context of food recovery and Zero Waste initiatives at local, state and national scales.



Scheduled speakers:

Kirstie Pecci, Director of the Zero Waste Project and a Senior Fellow at Conservation Law Foundation. Kirstie is a former MASSPIRG Staff Attorney actively engaged in waste reduction and opposing the expansion of landfill and incinerator capacity. She is part of the Zero Waste Boston coalition, which advocates for zero waste solutions such as reuse, recycling, redesign and composting/anaerobic digestion in the City of Boston.

Chris Beling, Member of the Assistance and Pollution Prevention Unit in the Office of Environmental Stewardship of the EPA. Chris has worked on food waste issues since the mid-1990’s along with the MA Department of Environmental Protection, the MA Food Association and area grocery stores, starting with diverting food to compost. The Environmental Protection Agency and US Department of Agriculture have set a goal to reduce food waste and food loss by 50% by the year 2030.

Jamie Manzolini, Superintendent of Wellesley Recycling and Disposal Facility. Jamie worked for Boston area civil engineering firms where his clients included CVS, AstraZeneca, and the NE Patriots (Kraft Group). He then worked in the transportation/moving industry for three years before joining the Wellesley RDF in the engineering division where he was responsible for

design/construction & oversight of streetscape and drainage projects, as well as inspections for private and municipal excavation work.

The public is welcome, and the event will be available on [Wellesley Public Media](#).

For more information:

<https://wellesleyma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8625/Wellesley-Green-Collaborative-PDF>

<https://wellesleyma.gov/397/Sustainable-Energy-Committee>

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