

Maine Climate Council Materials Management Task Force

February 16, 2024

12:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Hybrid meeting held in person at the Deering Building, Room 101, 90 Blossom Lane, Augusta, ME 04330 and via Zoom (not recorded)

Please refer to [MMTF webpage](#) for additional information about the Task Force.

Present (in person and via Zoom):

- Co-Chair: Melanie Loyzim, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Co-Chair: Cynthia Eisenhower, UMaine/Sen. George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions (present via Zoom)
- Staff/Facilitator: Megan Mansfield-Pryor, Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future
- Maine Climate Council Intern: Ansley Grider
- Invited Attendees Presenting (in person):
 - Laura Marston (GoGo Refill owner)
 - Lisa Rodrigues (SHARECenter Executive Director) accompanied by guest Peter Geiger (SHARECenter Board Chair)
- MMTF Members In attendance (in person):
 - Alex Zipparo (Island Institute)
 - Sydney Harris (Upstream, member and presenter)
 - Maya Faulstich (Youth Rep)
 - Greg Williams (Agri Cycle)
 - Jamie Garvin (ecomaine)
 - Heather Steeves (Goodwill, member and presenter)
 - Hillary Lister (Athens)
- MMTF Members In attendance (zoom):
 - Cindy Isenhour (UMaine, Co-Chair)
 - Teddy Lyman (DOE)
 - Josh Bossin (GearShare)
 - Reed Miller (UMaine)
 - Victor Horton (MRRA)
 - Susanne Lee (UMaine)
 - Shania Cohen (NEWMOA)
 - Julianne Beecher (Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) Fellow)
 - Lane Gould (BGS)
 - Mark Draper (AWS)
 - Mike Carroll (MRC)
 - Carla Hopkins (DEP)

- Ben Chesler (Roux Institute)
- Vanessa Berry (NRCM)
- Sarah Nichols (Clynk)
- Abbie Webb (Casella)
- Travis Peaslee (LAWPCA)
- Members of the public and partner organizations attended via Zoom, but not are not listed individually.

Meeting Minutes

- 12:30p.m. to 12:40p.m. Welcome and approval of January meeting minutes.
- 12:40pm: Presentations and Q&A on Reuse, Repair, and Refillable (10 minutes each):
 - Maine GearShare – Josh Bossin -- Outdoor Gear and Repair nonprofit, keeps materials out of landfill, saves money, has value (emotional and economic), working with brands on third-party repair, looking to scale up. See opportunities for better design to prolong product lifespans.
 - SHARECenter – Lisa Rodrigues – 30-year-old nonprofit offering reused resources for schools, senior center, libraries, food banks, universities, etc. Collect goods (that might have otherwise gone to landfills) and distribute out to groups. SHAREcenter is devoted to diverting waste from landfills, a circular economy, reducing waste, addressing climate change, and STEM programs in schools (education), and saving people money (economic).
 - Upstream – Sydney Harris -- National NGO (with roots in Maine), focused on reusable packaging and food service. Products have high GHG emissions, always reduced through reuse: average reuse is 300 times and 60 times less CO2 emissions. Reuse is growing (1150% increase in reuse as service), but needs policies and incentives, including community-scale grants.
 - Goodwill - Heather Steeves – Nonprofit providing jobs while keeping material out of Maine’s landfills (50 million pounds). Outlet stores keep transport down, also have refurbishing program for electronics, phones, plus upcycled furniture, cleaning cloth from old clothes, recycling material, and career development services, disability services, brain injury clinics, AmeriCorps, including for their own employees.
 - GoGo Refill – Laura Marston – the state’s first refill shop, located in South Portland and Brunswick. Help people in communities make less trash (200K less packages due to GoGo Refill) by offering bulk goods, customer refills product only, not taking new packaging. Work with vendors that take packaging back. The end goal is for reuse to be the norm, not the exception. “Think big and start small” is the motto.
 - Presentations followed by Q&A.
 - Equity is needed in reuse and refill to ensure lower-income people can access products; need policies to scale up those options so they are cheaper all around. GoGo Refill strives to keep pricing comparable to chain stores for that reason.
 - There’s a need to educate people about how to identify high-quality goods to reduce waste.
 - Opportunities for like-minded organizations were noted as a potentially beneficial route to economies of scale.
 - There’s a benefit to being inclusive in hiring, which helps to expand labor pool in a tight market.

- 1:55pm: Break
- 2:10pm: Community Resources Discussion – Repair Cafes, Swap Shops, Tool Lending Libraries, Yard Sales, etc.
 - Discussed various examples of successful programs.
 - Discussed need to measure emissions; tools to quantify CO2 and identify gaps in knowledge for measuring reductions from reuse. Makes sense to look to Europe as they have done some of this work already (see International IRP, WRAP in the UK, repair café CO2 reduction calculator).
- 2:40pm: Open Policy Discussion on Reuse, Repair, Refill & Proposed Policy Recommendations. Discussed policy ideas, funding avenues, incentives, need to work with schools and need systemic changes on multiple fronts. Touched on storm debris reuse, will circle back at future meeting.
- 3:25pm: Discussed Opportunity for Maine Emissions Inventory Presentation by Stacy Knapp, Maine DEP and decided to invite her to present at March meeting.
- 3:30pm: Meeting Adjourned

Reminders:

- Detailed informal meeting notes including timing of discussions are provided in the [February MMTF folder](#), which is accessible to all members and to the public upon request.
- Reach out to Megan Mansfield-Pryor (megan.mansfieldpryor@maine.gov) for any additional input.