Sustainability Committee

Regular Meeting (Remote)
July 9, 2026 - 6:30 P.M.
Virtual Format Only; Zoom Meeting ID: 309 653 9930
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3096539930

AGENDA

Call to Order & Roll Call

1) Food Waste Reduction Program Presentation by USA Waste & Recycling Food Waste Specialist Nicholas Malouin

2) Public Audience
   a. Participants may address the Committee virtually and have five (5) minutes to speak
   b. Written comments can be emailed to fbarrueco@simsbury-ct.gov. Comments will not be read into the record, but forwarded to the Committee via email

3) Approve Minutes
   a. April 9, 2026 Regular Meeting
   b. May 7, 2026 Regular Meeting
   c. June 4, 2026 Regular Meeting

4) New Business
   a. July Newsletter
   b. Charrette Planning

5) Old Business
   a. New England Smart Energy (NESE)
   b. Simsbury Public Schools Carton Recycling & Food Waste Discussion

6) Chair(s) Report

7) Ex-Officio Reports
   a. Board of Education
   b. Planning Commission
   c. Recycling Committee
   d. Economic Development Commission
   e. Town Manager's Office

8) Open Forum

Adjourn

Sustainability Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2026 - 6:30 P.M.

Attendees:
Jami Lewchik, Chair (At-Large Member)
Bayard Faithfull, Vice Chair (At-Large Member)
Brian Burkhart (At-Large Member)
Shawn McLaughlin (At-Large Member)
Michael Schulitz (At-Large Member)

Nick Criscitelli (Ex Officio Member, Planning)
Joe Daly (Ex Officio Member, Recycling)
Charmaine Seavy (Rotating Ex Officio Member, EDC)
~~Steve O'Brien (Ex Officio Member, BOE)~~

Mark Scully (Public)
Kim Haidenger (Public)
Jenn Weymouth (Public)

Marc Nelson (Town Manager)
Chris Petron (Town Liaison)

Agenda/Minutes:
1. Call to Order
    a. Motion – Jami Lewchik @ 6:32 p.m.
2. Roll Call of Voting Members and Declaration of Quorum
    a. Quorum identified
3. Approval of Minutes
    a. March 2026 Regular Meeting minutes
        i. Motion – Brian Burkhart, 2nd – Jami, all are in-favor
4. Public Audience Comments
    a. No public audience comments
5. New Business
    a. Waste Working Group Updates

i. Jami discussed being on-plan to forward updated plan to Board of Selectman before end of year.
ii. Jenn Weymouth discussed how the previous plan is being resurrected and updated. Not creating a new plan from scratch.
iii. Joe Daly updated that he is actively researching additional actions and goals that fit into the working group goals and objectives.

b. Michael Schulitz announced that he is relocating due to work and is resigning from the Committee.
c. Zoning public opinion process updates
    i. Jami discussed that there is a consulting group helping the Zoning Board with their process to collect public feedback on potential zoning updates.
        a) At recent Zoning meeting they set up stations for small groups to engage with consultants
        b) One group was dedicated to collecting input on sustainability
d. EV speaker event April 27, 2026
    i. Mark Scully discussed the session and that Barry Kresch will be the keynote speaker
        a) The presentation component of the event will be short. Will spend more time on Q&A so residents can have their questions addressed.
    ii. Jami Lewchik will be the moderator
e. Sustainability Fair planning
    i. Joe Daly announced that he has the new date stickers and wants to distribute them to sign holders so they can get the correct date affixed.
    ii. Jami communicated that the sign permit has been approved. It includes permission to post at all seven schools.
    iii. The group quickly reviewed 2024 and 2025 attendance numbers so everyone has an idea of what to expect.
f. NE Smart Energy Campaign
    i. Jami discussed that the normal rate for a home energy audit is $75 but she is trying to negotiate it down to $50 for event attendees/Simsbury residents.
        a) March 31 was expiration date for $0 audits.
    ii. Nick Criscitelli recently went through the audit process and shared his personal experience. He expects to see a measurable reduction in energy costs/bills.
g. Newsletter
    i. Shawn McLaughlin shared that he is working on a 3-month communication plan.
    ii. Goal is to have a forward-looking plan that can help with the review and approval process and improve timeliness and consistency of postings.

6. Reports from Ex-Officio Boards
    a. Economic Development Committee (Charmaine Seavy)
        i. No updates to report
        ii. Invited all members of the Sustainability Committee to attend EDC meetings

b. Marc Nelson (Town Manager)
    i. Introduced himself and spoke highly of the Committee and the Town's interest in continuing the support.
c. Planning Commission (Nick Criscitelli)
    i. The PC has been focused on the budget process for the past couple of meetings. No additional updates.
d. Recycling Committee (Joe Daly)
    i. Joe has been looking into solar activity and food scraps activity in West Hartford.
    ii. Spoke about the upcoming tour of the recycling facility tour (aka Murphy Road) and how seeing the facility will help this committee promote and educate the town on recycling.
    iii. Swap Shop at the Bulky Waste Facility is open for the season.
    iv. Jenn Weymouth suggested that the Town works to make sure what's happening at the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is communicated out to the Sustainability Committee.
e. Board of Education (Shawn O'Brien)
    i. Gave an update on the RFP for solar installation at the High School.
        a) Vendor selection is on-going. Team is negotiating the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).
        b) There is a short window for construction - BOE requires a summer installation. Due to the delay in executing a contract/PPA it's looking like the project may move to summer 2027.
        c) Marc Nelson offered to reach out to TOS Legal and check on status.

7. Open Forum
    a. Bayard Faithfull gave a Sustainability Fair update (late arrival to meeting - provided his update at this time)
        i. Also addressed the sign project and the stickering.
        ii. Flyer will be ready no later than Saturday
        iii. He will issue a sign-up sheet for volunteers
        iv. Marc Nelson will look into offering incremental volunteer Town manpower
8. Adjournment
    a. Motion – Bayard Faithful @ 7:29 p.m., 2nd - Brian Burkhart, all are in-favor.

Sustainability Committee

Regular Meeting
May 7, 2026 - 6:30 P.M.
Zoom (Virtual Format)

RECEIVED
TOWN OF SIMSBURY, CT
2026 MAY 14 P 4:18
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

MINUTES

Members Present: Bayard Faithfull, Vice Chair; Brian Burkhart

Other Attendees: Stephen O'Brien, Board of Education Ex-Officio; Joe Daly, Recycling Committee Ex-Officio; Nicholas Criscitelli, Planning Commission Ex-Officio; Franklyn Barrueco, Management Specialist; Chris Petron, Department of Public Works Project Administrator

Vice Chair Faithfull called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Mr. O'Brien was introduced to the Committee and Management Specialist Barrueco introduced himself as the Committee's new staff support beginning next fiscal year.

Quorum was not met for approval of the April Regular Meeting Minutes.

Sustainability Fair Recap

Vice Chair Faithfull reported that the Fair's attendance set a new record of 1,200 people, there were 35 different organizations present, and praised the collaboration with the Simsbury Public Library. He thanked all the volunteers and staff that attended as well as the Sustainability Committees of Avon and Bloomfield. Specialist Barrueco noted how excited he and Town Manager Marc Nelson are to work with the Committee. He mentioned that Manager Nelson thoroughly enjoyed the Fair, and although it wasn't the best weather, there was a great turnout.

Administrator Petron noted that there was a good marketing campaign and subject matter. Member Burkhart also noted that turnout was great in the beginning. He mentioned that he enjoyed talking to Bloomfield regarding their tree giveaway program. Susan Van Kleef, a member of the public, noted that there were more children present than in the past. Vice Chair Faithfull said that the passport initiative, led by Library Head of Children Services Stephanie Prato, was wonderful and generated interest for kids and their families. He also noted that Business & Career Center Coordinator Cyn Thomas created a separate leaflet for children and the event was better marketed towards kids and families.

Vice Chair Faithfull recalled the experience he had talking to a representative from New England Energy Solutions regarding a solarize campaign. Mr. Daly suggested to expand on the passport initiative. Vice Chair Faithfull spoke about the usefulness of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data for the solar maps and the solar capacity of Avon, Bloomfield, and Simsbury. Specialist Barrueco mentioned that the Town Manager is focused on pursing the renewable energy efficiency objectives laid out by the Selectmen. Mark Scully, a member of the public, noted that it would be interesting to connect with Bloomfield on how they achieved so much commercial solar.

Member Burkhart mentioned that a few months ago the Committee was interested in organizing a charette for business owners on solar energy. He asked if this was still something the Committee was interested in. Vice Chair Faithfull said that this was going to be addressed in the Fall and that currently Chair Lewchik is working on the waste issue with businesses.

EV Speaker Event Recap

Member Burkhart reported that approximately 25 people attended the event. He believes that many of the attendees already owned electric vehicles (EV) so it was difficult to determine how many attendees were EV-curious. There was a wide-ranging overview of different topics and there were a multitude of questions; attendees seemed to enjoy their time there. Vice Chair Faithfull asked what questions were asked. Member Burkhart mentioned that attendees asked about available EV models from the major auto manufacturers, charging, adaptors, pickup trucks, and questions about batteries, their lifetime, and range.

NE Smart Energy Campaign

Vice Chair Faithfull reported that the landing page has been approved by the Town Manager and the letter scheduled to go out to residents is currently being reviewed by Eversource which should take two to three weeks.

Newsletter Updates

Vice Chair Faithfull said that the next newsletter will be focusing on energy efficiency. When the letter gets approved, the newsletter is ready to be distributed as well. Any other ideas for future topics, please send them along to the Chairs.

Reports from Ex-Officio Members

Recycling Committee - Mr. Daly spoke about the 2nd scheduled trip to the Murphy Road modern recycling center located on Christian Lane in Berlin. He mentioned his invitation to the Selectmen on April 20th and to Department of Public Works staff. He went through the list of attendees and explained how he has heard from the public that they would appreciate a reference or guide to recycling. He suggested working on a Simsbury specific pamphlet or guide to assist with recycling

decision making. He noted that numbers aren't used on plastics anymore, its now a shape based, and feels as though that message hasn't been communicated to the public.

Board of Education - Mr. O'Brien mentioned that the solar panels for Latimer Lane and the High School are still in negotiations. There has to be an interconnection agreement. He said that it's looking like this will start in the Summer of 2027. Mr. Scullly mentioned if the project doesn't start until that time, the Town will not receive the tax credits. Mr. O'Brien said he will bring this up at the next Board of Education meeting. Vice Chair Faithfull mentioned the carton recycling program in Simsbury Public Schools and asked for an update on how the program is working.

Planning Commission – Mr. Criscitelli mentioned, looking at the Planning Commission's next agenda, there may be a sustainability impact on Open Space and there will be more to come on that after the meeting.

Open Forum

Mr. Criscitelli mentioned how "balcony" plug-in solar energy (solar panel where you can plug into an outlet) was approved by the General Assembly. He suggested covering this in an upcoming newsletter. Vice Chair Faithfull and Mr. Scully discussed solar access rights. Mr. Scully briefly spoke about the Committee's presentation on thermal energy networks and the conditions appropriate for a network in the North end of Town.

Adjourn
Vice Chair Faithfull adjourned the meeting at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Franklyn Barrueco
Management Specialist

RECEIVED
TOWN OF SIMSBURY, CT
2026 JUN -8 P 4:59
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Sustainability Committee

Regular Meeting (Remote)
June 4, 2026 - 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Members Present: Jami Lewchik, Chair; Bayard Faithfull, Vice Chair;

Other Attendees: Stephen O'Brien, Board of Education Ex-Officio; Joe Daly, Recycling Committee Ex-Officio; Nicholas Criscitelli, Planning Commission Ex-Officio; Charmaine Seavy, Economic Development Commission Ex-Officio; Franklyn Barrueco, Management Specialist; Marc Nelson, Town Manager

Chair Lewchik called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Quorum was not met for approval of the April and May Regular Meeting Minutes.

New England Smart Energy (NESE) Update: Mailing, Landing Page, and Town Events

Vice Chair Faithfull updated the Committee that the letter has been approved by NESE and Eversource with final approval by Town Manager Nelson scheduled tomorrow. The letter is scheduled to be sent out on the 15th of this month. The Committee discussed Town events that NESE could table at four or five times a year. The Committee discussed events at the Simsbury Public Library, the 3rd Annual Sustainability Fair, and Simsbury Celebrates as potential opportunities.

Vice Chair Faithfull mentioned that NESE is offering $5,000 to towns, in the form of a grant, to educate and promote energy efficiency with a dedicated staff member. Manager Nelson informed the Committee that the Board of Selectmen has the authority to apply for and receive grants. The Committee discussed adding the link to the NESE-Simsbury landing page under the Committee's Town webpage.

Newsletters: June & July

Specialist Barrueco reported that the June newsletter was posted on the Town's website. Chair Lewchik mentioned the need to do a social media content calendar. For the July newsletter, Vice Chair Faithfull suggested focusing on the Willow Arms redevelopment project, which contain eighty-one (81) affordable housing units, scheduled to be completed in the Fall. He said that the

project is going to include geothermal, solar, third spaces, and insulation, and that he is going to interview the main developer next week. The Committee discussed adding Mr. Daly's recycling center photos and further discussed July's theme. Manager Nelson suggested mentioning the proposed Nod Road solar project. He informed the Committee that the Town intervened in the proposal to get clarity on a multitude of issues and mentioned the progress regarding collecting the taxes owed on the property. Vice Chair Faithfull asked about timeline and Manager Nelson mentioned that the final decision by the CT Siting Council is due November 16th of this year.

Simsbury Public Schools Carton Recycling & Food Waste Discussion

Vice Chair Faithfull stated that he has been working with Bonnie Anderson, Director of Simsbury Public Schools Nutrition Services and Neil Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent on a grant for "pour-aways" where students can pour out the liquid from their carton and then recycle the carton. He has a meeting with the Assistant Superintendent on ways of improving the program. One factor to consider is that the pour-away has an odor. The Committee discussed an educational campaign, and Mr. Daly suggested his connection with a food waste specialist.

Mr. O'Brien mentioned that all seven (7) of Simsbury Public Schools is enrolled in the program for the last several months. The High School and Squadron have two (2) pour-aways while all the others have one. He mentioned that a High School student created an educational video for the campaign. He noted that the High School and Latimer Lane students have done an excellent job participating in the campaign. He reported that Latimer Lane received a grant to launch a food composting pilot program last month. He said that feedback will be gathered to determine if this is implemented throughout all the Schools. Chair Lewchik asked about key performance indicators (KPIs), Vice Chair Faithfull asked if composting is on-site, and Mr. O'Brien said he will follow up.

Chair Lewchik recognized Mr. Criscitelli to provide his report earlier considering his other time commitment.

Planning Commission Ex-Officio Report - Mr. Criscitelli mentioned that the Planning and Zoning Commissions recently had a joint meeting regarding the zoning regulations update and discussed solar ready homes and the positioning of homes scheduled to be built. Chair Lewchik mentioned the Center for Eco. Tech for further resources.

Charrette Planning

Chair Lewchik spoke about charette planning and mentioned that one of the goals of the Committee was to host a solar roundtable/mini charrette with the business community. The Committee discussed how to connect subject matter experts with businesses interested in solar. Vice Chair Faithfull mentioned that there are traditional Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) or the CT Greenbank can lease your roof and will pay you every month to use your roof.

Chair(s) Report
Vice Chair Faithfull mentioned that Farmington Green Efforts, a group looking for sustainable efforts to connect the Farmington Valley, is going to join the 2027 Sustainability Fair. The Committee discussed regional efforts; like al towns contributing to cutting invasive plants on the Heritage Trail. He mentioned that Homes That Fit (based in Avon) makes zero emission houses. The Committee discussed a potential tour of retrofitted, zero emission houses.

Ex-Officio Reports

Board of Education - Mr. O'Brien reported that the Board of Education continues to work with Green Sky, the solar panels are secured, and the PPA contract is being finalized. Vice Chair Faithfull mentioned smart meters.

Recycling Committee - Mr. Daly mentioned that the Swap Shop is open on Saturdays and provided a recap, including photos, of the tour at the 655 Christian Lane, Berlin CT recycling center; the USA Waste All-American Material Recovery Factory (MRF). In 2023, the facility won a national award for the 'MRF of the Year.'

Economic Development Commission – Ms. Seavy mentioned that her commission is down two members and that Business & Career Center Coordinator Thomas begins as staff support in July.

Town Manager's Office - Manager Nelson reported that Chair Lewchik and Vice Chair Faithfull were given social media permissions to post on the Committee's Facebook page. He also mentioned the success of the Pride Picnic and Pride flag raising ceremony, the Simsbury Performing Arts Center bandshell addition project is nearly complete, the Board of Selectmen 2025-2027 goals discussion scheduled for June 8th, and that he will direct the Deputy Town Manager to apply for the $5,000 NESE grant.

Adjourn
Chair Lewchik adjourned the meeting at 7:41 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Franklyn Barrueco
Management Specialist