



## MINUTES

### SWG Minutes      May 7, 2024

**Attending:** Brian, Ben, Camille Dave, Ralph, Sharon

**Guest:** Gunnar Heckler, Program Support Associate, Agri-Cycle

Thanks for meeting with me Tuesday. I have the 2023 numbers for Auburn for you along with a list of suggestions to increase the participation in the program.  [Linked here](#), is the basic information folder and printable materials.

I've also included the phone number of Curtis Dimock (207) 333-0224, who oversees the Yarmouth Program and would be happy to discuss their strategy with you! If you have any questions, please let me know!

As a reminder I do think that we are doing a great job at the site especially with the minimal broadcasting, but I love the idea of increasing the participation. Here are the 2023 numbers for Auburn, including your contribution from 2023 and I'd be happy to provide ongoing numbers once we start implementing improvements. I did not include the Liquid Long-Haul Services we conduct in Auburn because it's not the same type of process. If you'd like to know more about that, I can connect you with our Long-Haul Team.

#### Tonnage in 2023

- Total: 361.6 Tons
- Drop off Sites: 12.21 Tons
- Other Auburn Locations: 349.39 Tons

#### Food Waste in the U.S.

- An Average of 43% of food waste comes from the home. According to Recycle Track Systems ([linked here](#))

#### Suggestions

- Advertise the program, and we should have more success!
  - Email citizens about the program.
  - Put a bulletin for the program on the city website.
  - Put an article about the program in the local paper. We're happy to contribute to this!
  - Send a mail flyer to citizens. You can refer to the shareable material to design one, and we are happy to review/provide suggestions.

#### Totes on Sites

- South Main Street: 1 Tote Serviced Friday's.
- Gracelawn Road: 2 Totes Serviced Tuesday's.
- At the sites
  - More signage to advertise where the totes are located.

- Especially at South Main Street, where there seems to be virtually no signage. Could also move the tote to be stand alone to highlight the program.
- Using our signage in the folder above can be a good addition to a more robust kiosk from the city.
- We would recommend using 64-gallon totes. This is to capture more material (as mentioned in our meeting that the bins are often full to the brim at Gracelawn) but also bigger bins make them easier to find.
- Having a site employee rotate the totes so they're not half full, especially if we go to the larger totes.

Gunnar described anaerobic digestion process for Auburn's food scrape waste. Waste from our two drop-off sites is collected weekly or bi-weekly in 36 gallon totes. Auburn is charged for the number of stops made (\$13.00/stop) and the number of totes emptied (\$6.70/tote). Waste is trucked to Exeter, Maine digester which collects methane and heat to generate electricity. This is distinguished from composting which releases methane to the atmosphere and takes longer to process the waste (30 days vs 90-100 days). End products from digestion are a liquid slurry used for fertilizer and solids used for bedding at the farm where the digester is located. Packaging can be separated from the food waste before digestion. Agri-Cycle has some municipal customers (Brunswick) but most of their clients are schools (Bates) and businesses.