



Waste Reduction Committee: 2024 Annual Report

MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 2024:

Linda Libby (Committee Chair, At-Large), Lauren Thomas (District 1), Kristina Grimaldi (District 2), Evan Twachtman (District 3), Nick Benfaremo (District 5), Lissa Bittermann (At-Large), and Susan Parmelee (Staff Liaison).

2024 WASTE REDUCTION COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Monthly Newsletter Recycling Tips** – The Waste Reduction Committee started writing monthly tips to inform South Portland residents of how to properly dispose of difficult-to-recycle items. The items have included paint cans, textiles, alkaline batteries, and more. The committee rotates which member writes the recycling tip each month. The tip is then reviewed by the committee before being submitted to the South Portland Newsletter.
2. **Preparing for the Repair Fair** – The Waste Reduction Committee, in collaboration with the Sustainability Department, has been planning the City's first Repair Fair. A Repair Fair is an event where residents bring their broken or damaged items, and local volunteer fixers do their best to repair the items. The committee has helped the Sustainability Department with planning, advertising, reviewing waivers, and they will help host the event which is set to take place on January 25, 2025 at the Main Library.
3. **Event Tabling** – The Waste Reduction Committee tabled at a few events this year to increase interactions with the public and inform them about proper recycling and food waste diversion options for South Portland residents. The committee tabled at both Art in the Park and the Senior Resource Fair. There was a significant amount of interest and interaction at the Senior Resource Fair. The committee plans to table at this event each year moving forward.

LOOKING AHEAD: GOALS FOR 2025

1. Bringing back a proposal for a Pay-As-You-Throw to the City Council. The proposal is anticipated to take place in the fall of 2025.
2. Working with South Portland Schools on waste reduction efforts.
3. Continuing monthly recycling tips.