



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wellesley 3R (Reduce Reuse Recycle) Working Group Achieves EPA Food Recovery Challenge “Endorser” Status

Group is first Town government organization in New England to receive this designation

NOVEMBER 24, 2015 (Wellesley, MA) – The Town of Wellesley is receiving national recognition for work to improve sustainable food management practices and provide resources to help others reduce food waste generation. This week, Wellesley 3R (Reduce Reuse Recycle) Working Group, a collaborative of the Town’s Natural Resources Commission, Department of Public Works, and Sustainable Energy Committee, became an official “Endorser” of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Food Recovery Challenge (FRC). The group is the first municipal organization and one of only 20 Endorsers in the New England region to be recognized as a community leader in this effort.

The Food Recovery Challenge (FRC) aims to reduce the environmental impact of wasted food through its life cycle from the farm to disposal. According to EPA research, 40% of what is grown in the US is never eaten, wasting an estimated 25% of our potable water and 4% of our power while 1 in 7 people are food insecure.

Wellesley 3R Working Group was formed by the Town to explore waste management issues by researching and addressing options to Reduce (e.g. buy less), Reuse (e.g. donate excess edible food) and Recycle (e.g. promote composting and anaerobic digestion). To become an FRC Endorser, throughout the past year Wellesley 3R Working Group has worked to educate organizations and businesses about the environmental costs of wasted food by hosting:

- A Food Waste Management Summit in June with representatives from Needham, Natick, Dedham
- An Anaerobic Digestion (locally manufactured natural gas from food waste that is used as a renewable source of power generation) event in October with representatives from Needham, Natick, Newton, Lexington and Sherborn
- A Food Recovery Challenge webinar and discussion attended by school officials who are now working to develop a project-based learning pilot program on food waste
- A tour of Jordan’s Farm and its anaerobic digester in Rutland, MA
- A tour of Deer Island and its anaerobic digester
- A tour of food waste collection at the recycling facility in Sherborn, MA
- A Garbology 101 seminar highlighting the business model of the Wellesley RDF

Another event, **GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT: Solutions for Reducing Food Waste**, is planned for December 8, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Wellesley Free Library. The program will feature a screening of the food waste documentary, *Just Eat It*, followed by a presentation by Ashley Stanley, founder of the Boston food rescue group Lovin’ Spoonfuls.

With the FRC Endorser designation, Wellesley 3R Working Group is eligible for awards and grants to support the Town of Wellesley’s commitment to reducing its carbon footprint.

For more information on the Food Recovery Challenge, go to <http://www2.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-challenge-frc#what>