

Seatuck Environmental Association, Inc.
East End Town Oyster Shell Recovery and Recycling Program Expansion
Progress Report
(March 30, 2024 - December 11, 2024)

The following activities were completed in an effort to engage three east end towns to enter into an agreement to launch a sustainable oyster shell recycling and recovery program:

Sag Harbor:

On October we had a phone meeting with Joan Butler and Helen Roussel of Friends of Haven Beach(FoHB) to gather information regarding starting an [Half Shells for Habitat](#) (H4H) oyster shell collection program in the Village of Sag Harbor. We engaged in at least two subsequent zoom meetings with (Joan, Helen and Bob Tyman as well as numerous emails with their group. It is important to note that they are not a 501(c)3. I then met with the South Fork Sea Farmers(SFSF) to discuss expanding H4H shell collection as partners with FoHB. Both groups agree to this. FoHB is currently purchasing buckets and pails through the SFSF..

Southampton:

The Town of Southampton is very interested in recycling waste oyster shells and is currently looking for a suitable municipal shell storage location. I am in the process of investigating the DEC requirements and regulations for working with private carters. This may allow for curing sites that are not on municipally owned.

Riverhead:

In September I met with the Riverhead Town Board coordinator. She arranged an in-person meeting (12/05/24)with Councilwoman Merrifield who is active looking to begin shell recycling in Riverhead Town. I visited her office and discussed shell recycling and H4H practices. Subsequently sent her a draft H4H MOU. The MOU is in review with the town legal department.

I also contacted the Riverhead Rotary and put them in contact with our [Half Shells for Habitat](#), active, shell recycling REACH Rotary partners from Huntington. The groups are currently working together to bring shell recycling to Riverhead. I am sending them bucket information and researching the legal aspects of taking shells from private carters.

East Hampton:

The town of East Hampton's shellfish hatchery, had signed an agreement with H4H to continue shell recycling. I am offering our expertise for oyster shell collection program setup, best management practices and protocols, and regulatory guidance to all East End towns.

I have been informed that Riverhead and Sag Harbor, and likely other East End towns, will submit receipts for shell recycling supplies soon.