

CCSMM Public Engagement Questions

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To: DEEP RecyclingProgram

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To whom it may concern,

I have some comments. They may not be appropriate for the agenda, but I do not want the ideas to get lost.

Thank you, in advance,

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Are we talking residential only? No matter what CT decides to do, I think you will have more success if it is mandated or incentivized. This is the land of steady habits, and CT residents do not like to change.

Commercial:

Require that all commercial haulers provide recycling as part of the contract. Right now most commercial entities in Westport just don't pay for recycling because it is an added expense. Most recycling ends up in the solid waste stream.

Schools:

Require schools to use a system that encourages recycling, decrease in solid waste. Right now schools pay to have one container/week removed from the premises, regardless of how full it is (for trash and for recycling)

Focus Areas

1. Unit-Based Pricing (UBP)*
 - a. Models for unit-based pricing (container size, sale of bags OR STICKERS*)
 - b. Measures to address common concerns about UBP
 - i. Addressing affordability, impacts on low-income residents
 - ii. Enforcement
 - iii. Voluntary vs. Mandatory programs

- UBP: Westport considers this an added tax to residents. (Westport and Greenwich are the only 2 towns that I know of that do NOT charge residential haulers for dropping off solid waste at the transfer station).
- *I encourage you to consider the option of using stickers on garbage bags for UBP. While harder to monitor, at least you are not asking families to purchase plastic bags, which CT has just banned at grocery stores for packing groceries. Westport's First Selectman says he won't ask residents to buy plastic bags for PAYT?SMART after banning them from the town.

2. Organics

a. Organics reduction/collection/diversion mechanisms

- i. Donation & reduction
- ii. Food scrap collection*
- iii. Leaf and yard waste collection/backyard composting**

b. Development and siting of infrastructure

- i. Anaerobic Digestion (Why isn't the approved anaerobic digester in Bridgeport being built??)
- ii. Composting facilities
- iii. Municipal onsite composting operations

- *Westport has a food scrap collection program (3 months old). Darien's program is in its second year, I believe. I think we would be willing to give a brief overview of the programs (which are similar).
- VT requires separation of food waste from solid waste.
- Perhaps if more towns were to recycle food scraps the price could come down?
- Address the issue of compostable products: in home and industrial composting facilities; anaerobic digestion, in recycling (accidentally)
- **Consider encouraging towns that are geographically close to one another to share composting site, e.g. Fairfield has a leaf composting site that maybe Westport could use (for a fee). Minimize long-distance truck travel.

4. Increased Recycling

a. Measures to improve the quantity of material collected through mixed-stream or other means

b. Specific source-separated programs including

- i. Textile collection
- ii. Glass

- iii. Returnable bottles* Address the value of separating returnables (guaranteed to be a single product-glass, plastic or metal)

c. Measures to improve the quality of recycled materials

- i. Review collection methods
- ii. Should some items be banned?
- iii. Disruption fees?*
- iv. Other

- *Fine haulers that throw recyclables into solid waste. Some states fine towns that allow recyclables to end up in the solid waste stream.

d. Education and Outreach programs

- CT residents want desperately to know what happens to their recyclables. Educate about the process and where recyclables end up.

e. Measures to support new end-market development to attract manufacturers that use recycled content in their product manufacturing, including recycled content standards for glass, plastic film, fiber, polypropylene (including minimum recycled content requirements)

f. Encourage/Incentivize the development and siting of processing plants/end markets