

## Comments From Hartford Councilperson John Q. Gale

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John Gale <johngale@jqglaw.com>

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To: DEEP RecyclingProgram

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Dear DEEP: My comments are as follows:

1. Are there any model programs, best practices, or innovative concepts that the Coalition should consider, that could provide a scalable solution in any of the Focus Areas, listed above? The Coalition is interested in hearing about approaches that are conceptual, implemented on a pilot basis, or implemented at scale, whether here in Connecticut or in other jurisdictions in the United States or other countries.

### Hartford:

1. Has entered into a pilot program with Simple Recycling, a textile recycler. The program ran into issues, in part due to lack of public awareness and hence participation. Future programs may need to be more focused at first to build up buy in, before expanding to a larger community.
2. Along the same lines, Hartford is currently exploring recycling compostables. We are discussing a focused pilot program targeting neighborhoods where greatest participation is expected.
3. Instituted a plastic bag ban for all retail; the state then adopted something similar. We were pleasantly surprised that, unlike the textile recycling, the public immediately understood the ban and changed behaviors. Pre-Covid, we saw all persons beginning to carry their own bags everywhere.

John Gale personally,

4. Would like to see bottle and can deposits increased in scope and deposit amount. Nips should be at 25 cents; others at 10 cents minimum. The deposit should be imposed on more products than are presently covered.
5. Would like to see a consumer recycling program for mattresses and tires, meaning that consumers could bring used products to a central location and be paid a deposit for the return. This deposit should be in the \$25 or higher range to insure robust participation.

2. For any solution identified in Question 1, what are the barriers that need to be addressed in order to advance any of these solutions at scale in Connecticut?

a. Are there different implementation considerations for full or partial “subscription” towns versus towns that provide for curbside collection of trash & recyclables?

b. Is it necessary or beneficial for the solution to be implemented on a statewide, multi-town, or other regional basis, or can it be implemented successfully town-by-town?

3. For any solution identified in Question 1, please describe the types of implications or benefits that the solution provides with respect to:

- a. Sustainability- environmental benefits,
- b. Reducing costs

4. Would you be interested or willing to present to the Coalition or a Coalition working group on solutions you've highlighted, or is there another speaker or organization that would be helpful for the Coalition to hear from on this topic?
5. DEEP can play an important role in advancing sustainable materials management solutions, including: issuing RFPs for long-term energy contracts to support anaerobic digestion facilities; providing grants for collection trucks powered by compressed natural gas (CNG) or electricity through the Volkswagen settlement; employing different approaches to permitting innovative technologies; and streamlining permitting processes. Are there things that DEEP should do differently in its approach to any of the above roles/functions, that would better support sustainable materials management in Connecticut?
6. Are there any solutions that you would like the Coalition to know about that do not fit within the Focus Areas above?
7. Are there any aspects of the Focus Areas, listed above, that the Coalition should *not* consider (and if so, why)?

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