

Comments for various CCSMM working groups

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Thu 10/15/2020 11:30

To: DEEP RecyclingProgram

My comments center around food and organics recycling, increased recycling of materials with known value in the circular economy, and an EPR program for carpeting.

Food Waste Recycling/Organics

Rather than paying grants to WTE biodigesters which produce methane – a ghg with 80x the short-term GWP of CO₂, and take up a lot of land, are expensive and take a long time to build– let's invest that in composting infrastructure across the state and ban the disposal of organics just like LA, Seattle and VT do. This circular process mimics nature's cycles of production, capture and reuse of valuable resources that create no waste or pollution. In addition to jobs creation, we'd have the input (compost) necessary to repair our degraded soils, improve their resiliency to climate change and severe weather (we've losing topsoil faster than we can restore it) and raise the soil's ability to sequester atmospheric carbon. So while addressing the waste crisis, we help solve the climate crisis. Food waste is 25-30% of HH waste and many more organic fill the waste stream. All are compostable. **Would you support incentives for municipalities, farms and private businesses to establish composting farms across the state and mandate the diversion by all producers of all organics to such facilities along with already existing biodigesters? We have food scrap collectors and they're ready to scale up; they already have several times. Our current law has proven ineffective in reducing the amount of food waste going to incinerators. Why are we paying to burn such a valuable material? DEEP recently relaxed some limits and restrictions on composting operations, but they're not enough to bring about the pace and scale of change necessary. We need a dedicated plant at the state level with various models that scale to farms, towns, regional cooperatives and larger facilities in less densely populated regions.**

Carpeting

California is the only state with a carpet stewardship program yet recycling of carpets is now a bustling industry and end product manufacturers are using the materials to make new carpeting or nylon threads (EcoNyl is used in Stella McCartney and Gucci bags; FLOR takes back their carpets and works with recyclers because they want non-virgin materials for their carbon neutral products). **Would you support a carpet stewardship program in CT? Our mattress stewardship program, Bye Bye Mattress, is running successfully yet carpeting has not been discussed since 2014. Why are we throwing away a valuable material?** <http://www.recyclect.com/beyond-the-bin.html#!rc-cpage=200283>

Textiles

Textiles are around 6% of MWS yet all are recyclable (any condition except soiled or wet). We have the infrastructure ready to scale up. Collectors receive \$100/ton (schools, towns, nonprofits) for collecting in donation boxes (not plastic bags at the curb). Used textiles are not waste; they are valuable inputs. **Would you support a ban on disposal of textiles? 40 municipalities in CT already collect used textiles for reuse at their transfer stations. Yet recyclect tells consumers to put textiles in the trash if they're not in good condition.** <http://www.recyclect.com/beyond-the-bin.html#!rc-cpage=200283>

Glass Recycling

Would you support updating CT's bottle bill, which hasn't been updated since 2010 despite our state ranking last with a 50% redemption rate? **Would you support increasing the bottle deposit to 10 cents from 5 to help raise redemption rates to keep valuable material out of the blue bin?** <https://www.courant.com/opinion/op-ed/hc-op-alderman-bottle-bill-0215-20200215-6tbscvjvpvehlaze2g6o2ychei-story.html>

Part B: DEEP lists glass recycling markets in our state on its website, yet glass from the blue bins is crushed and trucked to be landfilled or, as of last session, being explored as a component in cement from a CT producer. Why aren't we recycling our glass if these markets are available? **If it's a matter of source separation, would you support a bill mandating that glass be source separated for recycling? Surely we have existing and new businesses interested in collecting the glass and taking it to the recycler for a fair fee, just like food waste is being collected now. Glass doesn't have a listing on recyclect.**

I strongly recommend the appointment of a waste czar to oversee the creation of a circular economy in CT so waste is eliminated. It's a great way to solve problems and create jobs and tax revenue at the same time.

Thank you.

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