

# Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2021 CCSMM Coalition Meeting via ZOOM

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|---------------|--|
| Present:      | See Attachment A                       |
| Next meeting: | TBD                                    |
| Prepared by:  | Elizabeth Moore and Chelsey Hahn, DEEP |

### **I. Call to Order and Announcements**

Meeting started at 1:32 pm .

Co-chairs Katie Dykes, DEEP Commissioner, Laura Francis, First Selectman, Town of Durham and Matt Knickerbocker, First Selectman, Town of Bethel provided welcoming remarks and an overview of the CCSMM initiative process.

### **II. Committee Reports**

Connecticut Senator Christine Cohen and Connecticut Representative Joe Gresko presented on legislative updates from the environment committee.

The presentation was followed by a question and answers session in which municipal participants, Senator Cohen and Representative Gresko discussed how the work of CCSMM has impacted the work of the environment committee this year as well as topics such as: environmental justice concerns; federal funds and deadlines for federal earmarks; consideration for expanding or eliminating the radius requirement of the organics ban; which bills are most likely to be called to the floor and approved; and opportunities for towns and cities to continue to support these bills as they move forward.

Robert Isner, Director, Waste Engineering Enforcement Division, CT DEEP presented on the Organics Infrastructure Forum held on February 26, 2021 as well as public comments and permitting streamlining updates being considered as a result of the event.

Chris Nelson, Supervising Environmental Analyst, Sustainable Materials Management, CT DEEP presented on a meeting between CCSMM tri-chairs, Council of Governments (COGs) and regional waste authorities.

Carl Amento and Pam Roach, representing the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) spoke about the meeting and non-AD food waste processing and organics diversion in their region, especially around composting efforts. They noted that communication and education are essential to this work.

Sherill Baldwin, CT DEEP presented information about the Sustainable Materials Management Learning Series, the RecycleCT app and new grant program to be initiated in early summer. Sherill also noted that the Green Leaf Schools is promoting carton recycling and encouraged CCSMM members to sign up for the Listserv by emailing [Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov](mailto:Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov).

Chris Nelson also provided additional ways to keep informed, including participation in [Solid Waste Advisory Committee](#) (SWAC) meetings.

### **III. Roundtable**

Members discussed the CCSMM-related programs and efforts that Connecticut towns or regions have underway or planned for 2021.

Lisa Marotta, Mayor of Rocky Hill described efforts in Rocky Hill to develop a Unit-Based Pricing program, specifically for co-collection of food waste. The Town of Rocky Hill has completed informal surveys of residents. Mayor Marotta noted that educating residents is important and suggested a creative marketing campaign as well as noting that the municipality needs to explore creative funding opportunities at the municipal level.

Katie Dykes, DEEP Commissioner noted that DEEP is discussing grant opportunities or incentives for municipalities to adopt Unit-Based Pricing programs rather than a statewide mandate to help offset front-end costs of program development.

Janice Ehle-Meyer, RiverCOG noted that the Town of Essex is working with Blue Earth Compost and releasing a survey to find out how residents want to have food scraps collected. Old Saybrook is working on implementing a food waste container at their transfer station in which collected materials will be brought to a pig farm. Old Saybrook is also looking to do a pilot program for collecting boat wrap and agriculture film and is currently working on a survey to gather information for that study.

Brian Bartram, Salisbury/ Sharon noted that Salisbury/ Sharon is starting a 100-household pilot at the transfer station in partnership with Curbside Compost. Brian Bartram also noted a What's in What's Out campaign with 25 messages of the week. They had them printed out and put around town to educate residents on recycling. They are also collecting textiles again after a break in collection caused by the pandemic.

Jen Heaton-Jones, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA), noted that many towns have reached out to HRRA about glass collection in the HRRA region. HRRA is instituting 12 containers in all 12 municipalities and launching an education campaign. Jen Heaton-Jones noted that the state still doesn't have consistent disposal capacity at Urban Mining and that municipalities need to support the expansion of the Bottle Bill for consistent, predictable feedstock.

Diana McCarthy-Bercury, Branford shared that Branford is also collecting food scraps in a neighborhood as well as collection locations at the transfer station and a credit system for residents who have private hauling subscriptions. Diana McCarthy-Bercury described mailer promotion to improve recycling practices as well as a letter of support for EPR legislation and earth day composting activities in Branford.

Tyra Penn-Gesek, Town Planner, Thompson noted a community mapping project in Thompson found that litter and waste management were key priorities for the town. Thompson is working with CET to encourage organics diversion. Tyra Penn-Gesek shared a photo of the bottle collection of 48,000 nips to encourage the addition of nips to the bottle bill.

The tri-chairs asked for feedback on how to organize additional meetings/ report-outs and discussed the best way to continue to share municipal experiences. CCSMM full coalition meetings will continue to be held on a quarterly basis. To sign on to the CCSMM initiative, reach out to [chris.nelson@ct.gov](mailto:chris.nelson@ct.gov)

The tri-chairs also extended thanks to Senator Cohen and Representative Gresko as well as invited speakers Senator Minor and Representative Harding.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

Members of the public were asked to use the “chat” feature or the “raise hand” feature to indicate if they wanted to make a comment.

Janice Ehle-Meyer, RiverCOG described a rain barrel program as well as composting programs in the RiverCOG region.

Bud McAllister, Partners in Healthy Communities noted plans to start a creative reuse recycling center in New London and wants to work with DEEP. He also discussed a municipal sharing agreement and glass reuse programs in his community.

Frank Gagliardo, CT DEEP wanted to state his support for all of the work of the group and remind all municipalities who are considering demonstration and pilot programs to go to the [pre-application page](#) on the DEEP website for advice on permits that might be needed for these programs. Frank spoke about the O & M plan that West Haven submitted as being an impressive plan and that he hopes it can be used as a model for other municipalities that are considering adding food scraps to their leaf composting program; the outcomes and goals listed in the plan would be beneficial for other communities to be able to review.

#### **V. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:29pm.

**Attachment A - Attendee List**

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