

Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management Meeting

Meeting Minutes

November 23, 2020 Unit Based Pricing Working Group via ZOOM

Present: See Attachment A

Next meeting: December 9, 2020, 9:00am

Prepared by: Elizabeth Moore, DEEP

I. Call to Order and Announcements

Meeting started at 9:00am.

Co-chairs Katie Dykes, DEEP Commissioner and Elinor Carbone, Mayor of Torrington provided welcoming remarks, introductions, housekeeping rules and an overview of the Unit Based Pricing Working Group as part of the CCSMM initiative process.

II. Committee Reports

Gabrielle Frigon, CT DEEP presented an overview of the previous UBP Working Group meeting conversation on November 9, 2020.

A panel composed of the following representatives presented before a facilitated discussion on unit based pricing options, experiences and best management practices:

Jim Bunchock, Solid Waste Coordinator, Southold, NY presented on Southold, NY Pay As You Throw Experience

Will Cronin, Recycling Coordinator, Middletown, RI presented on Middletown, RI Pay As You Throw Experience

Chris Nelson, CT DEEP also provided a brief update on the work of the CCSMM Extended Producer Responsibility Working Group and noted the implementation of packaging EPR as a complementary program to unit based pricing. He encouraged municipalities to think about how these programs together can maximize opportunity to reduce costs and optimize materials management services.

III. Roundtable

There was opportunity for Q&A of the panelists. Questions focused on: the sizes of the bags involved in the program; the RFP process for bag design/ artwork; opportunities to provide further unit based pricing instructions through design; bag price increases; program implementation impact on volume/ waste generation; and experiences with negative community responses to unit based pricing initiatives.

Gabrielle Frigon, CT DEEP shared the intent for the group to apply a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis for implementation of unit based pricing options and emphasized the importance of environmental justice considerations in any implementation process.

Three poll questions were asked of the group, including:

1. Putting politics aside, what part of UBP implementation do you see as the most challenging?
2. How would you prefer UBP was implemented in CT?
3. How would you prefer the financial aspect was handled?

The top answers suggested: attendees found public buy-in the most challenging aspect of implementation; statewide legislative mandates, allowing for municipal/ regional implementation was the preferred strategy for implementation; and the preferred method for handling the financial aspect was split between a municipality or quasi-public oversight/ implementing authority.

Members discussed waste-to-energy facility led, statewide mandates and regional program implementation options. The difficulty of educating and reaching residents was noted, especially in providing broader messaging about the cost of waste programs. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Connecticut Council of Small Towns were suggested as partners in bringing unit based pricing programs to the state as well as sources of educational materials.

Members also discussed opportunities to gather public support through partnerships. Education departments were suggested as supporters as well as disseminators of information, but COVID-19 was noted as a complicating factor for current educational campaigns. Other suggestions included media campaigns, a unified messaging system and partnerships with public works departments and SustainableCT.

Co-collection and organics collection options were also discussed. Organics collection was noted as a potential driver of unit based pricing implementation in combination with cost savings.

Other discussion included next steps, including upcoming meeting dates and opportunities to participate in a CCSMM communication campaign.

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.

No public comments were received.

V. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 11:31am.

Attachment A.

Attended	User Name (Original Name)			
Yes	Chris Nelson - DEEP (Chris Nelson)			
Panelist Details				
Attended	User Name (Original Name)			
Yes	Elinor Carbone - Torrington (Elinor Carbone)			
Yes	DaveAldridge			
Yes	Will Cronin - SPEAKER (Will Cronin)			
Yes	James Albis - DEEP (James Albis)			
Yes	Jim Bunchuck (Jim Bunchuck)			
Yes	Pamela Roach (PamelaRoach)			
Yes	Pamela Roach - SCRCOG (PamelaRoach)			
Yes	JohnPizzimenti			
Yes	Jennifer Weymouth - DEEP (Jennifer Weymouth)			
Yes	Elly Moore - DEEP (Elly Moore)			
Yes	Katie Dykes - DEEP (Katie Dykes)			
Yes	Terri Christenson - Harwinton (TERRICHRISTENSON)			
Yes	Jennifer Kleindienst - Middletown (Wesleyan) (JenniferKleindienst)			

Yes	Paul Kundzins - Torrington (PaulKundzins)			
Yes	Jerry Geci - Litchfield (JerryGeci)			
Yes	Katherine Bruns - West Hartford (KatherineBruns)			
Yes	Miriam Theroux - Rocky Hill (MiriamTheroux)			
Yes	Carl Fortuna - Old Saybrook (carlfortuna)			
Yes	ScottKalb			
Yes	Michael Basham - Greenwich (MichaelBasham)			
Yes	John Phetteplace - Stonington (JohnPhetteplace)			
Yes	Gabrielle Frigon - DEEP (Gabrielle Frigon)			
Yes	Denise Raap - Litchfield (DeniseRaap)			
Yes	DeniseRaap			
Yes	Denise Raap - Litchfield (DeniseRaap)			
Yes	DeniseRaap			
Yes	DeniseRaap			
Yes	DeniseRaap			
Yes	Raymond Drew - Torrington (RaymondDrew)			
Yes	Diane Lauricella - Norwalk Zero Waste Coalition (DianeLauricella)			
Yes	Robert Isner - DEEP (Robert Isner)			
Yes	KristenBrown			
Yes	JaniceEhle/Meyer			
Yes	Carl Amento- SCRCOG (CarlAmento)			
Yes	Yvonne Bolton - DEEP (Yvonne Bolton)			
Yes	Chelsey Hahn - DEEP (Chelsey Hahn)			

Yes	Peter Brunelli - DEEP (PeterBrunelli)			
Yes	Sherill Baldwin - DEEP (Sherill Baldwin)			
Yes	LisaMarotta			
Attendee Details				
Attended	User Name (Original Name)	City	State/Province	Organization
Yes	April Regan	Enfield	CT	USA Hauling & Recycling
Yes	Dave Aldridge - SCRRRA (Dave Aldridge)	Gales Ferry	CT	SCRRRA
Yes	Ashley Zane	Hartford	CT	CBIA
Yes	Pamela Roach	North Haven	CT	SCRCOG
Yes	Pamela Roach			
Yes	John Pizzimenti	Enfield	CT	Murphy Road Recycling LLC
Yes	John Pizzimenti			
Yes	TERRI CHRISTENSON	Harwinton	CT	Town of Harwinton
Yes	Jennifer Kleindienst	Middletown	CT	Wesleyan University
Yes	Paul Kundzins	Torrington	CT	City of Torrington
Yes	Josh Hughes	West Hartford	CT	Capitol Consulting
Yes	James Woulfe	Farmington	CT	The Connecticut Group, LLC
Yes	Jerry Geci	Litchfield	CT	V1191803310016 2
Yes	Katherine Bruns	West Hartford	CT	Department of Public Works
Yes	Miriam Theroux	Rocky Hill	CT	Rocky Hill Town Council
Yes	carl fortuna	Old Saybrook	CT	town of old saybrook
Yes	carl fortuna			
Yes	Scott Kalb - Greenwich Waste Management Committee (Scott Kalb)	Greenwich	CT	First Selectman's Waste Management Committee
Yes	Michael Basham	Cos Cob	CT	Town of Greenwich
Yes	John Phetteplace	Stonington	CT	Town of Stonington
Yes	kevin spinella	new britain	CT	GBA
Yes	Brennan Georgianni	Washington	DC	Plastics Industry Association

Yes	Denise Raap	Litchfield	CT	Town of Litchfield
Yes	Denise Raap			
Yes	Raymond Drew	Torrington	CT	City Of Torrington
Yes	Diane Lauricella	Norwalk	CT	Norwalk Zero Waste Coalition
Yes	Ed Mone	Thomaston	CT	Town of
Yes	Luis de la Parte	Rocky Hill	CT	SACYR ENVIRONMENT
Yes	Kristen Brown	Pawleys Island	SC	WasteZero
Yes	Melissa Biggs	Dayville	CT	DNB Lobby
Yes	Melissa Biggs			
Yes	Janice Ehle/Meyer - RiverCOG (Janice Ehle/Meyer)	Essex	CT	RiverCOG
Yes	Carl Amento	North Haven	CT	SCRCOG
Yes	Liz Connelly	Hartford	CT	Capitol Consulting LLC
Yes	Peter Brunelli	Hartford	CT	CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)
Yes	Karen Weeks	Hartford	CT	The Kowalski Group, LLC
Yes	Michael Bzdya	Hartford	CT	Murtha cullina LLP
Yes	Linda Kowalski	Hartford	CT	The Kowalski Group, LLC
Yes	Lisa Marotta - Rocky Hill (Lisa Marotta)	Rocky Hill	CT	Town
Other Attended				