

**CTDEP Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee**  
**Subcommittee Meeting - May 22, 2007**  
**Solid Waste and Recycling Database Management Systems**

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**Attendees:**

Jim Hogan, WeRecycle; Susan Hemenway, BRRFOC/TROC; Steve Changaris, CT Chapter, NSWMA; David Westcott, DEP; Steve Williams, Town of Chester- representing CRERPA and Judy Belaval, DEP.

Eric Freidenfeld (Covanta) and Hugo DelRosso (NE Lamp Recycling) were both on vacation that week and unable to attend.

**Discussion:**

For those that were not at the first meeting – there was a quick overview of the current status of and issues related to solid waste data management in Connecticut.

The meeting was basically opened to elicit comments on the proposed changes to solid waste reporting requirement that would eliminate current duplicative reporting i.e. no longer require municipalities to report tonnages to DEP that are already reported to DEP by solid waste facilities and amend facility reporting requirements so that they would not have to report to each municipality but only to DEP and DEP would aggregate that data and provide that info to individual towns. Towns would have the opportunity to amend data they believe to be inaccurate. The success of these amended requirements would depend on haulers accurately reporting the town of origin of MSW and recyclables they deliver to CT solid waste facilities. If confidentiality is an issue – that would need to be addressed as well – but that does not appear to be a legitimate concern at this time.

Issues Discussed Included:

- The high variability of brush that is reported recycled/composted by towns – and how that is counted in recycling rates.
- Confusion on the part of some towns regarding which material types should be reported on their annual recycling report.
- The necessity of quarterly reporting versus annual reporting. The issue of solid waste generation seasonality was brought up. Also, if annual reporting – would need to stagger by facility type so that data entry resources would not be deluged all at once.
- DEP needs to use diverse methods to track actual recycling rate – one method will not get you complete info.
- Whether it is necessary to track “every ton” recycled – i.e. some states are using other measures (besides tons recycled) to assess the success and effectiveness of a town’s recycling program. DEP has considered this and this will be reflected in amended municipal annual reporting requirements.
- Increased document destruction because of HEPA and whether DEP tracks the paper that is shredded by the various shredding companies operating in CT – If those companies recycle the paper through a CT solid waste facility than it is being tracked, if not DEP needs to require reporting by those companies.
- Shredded paper currently finding its way to recycling is lowering the quality of paper collected for recycling – since shredded paper is generally an unknown mix of paper grades.

- Haulers need to be on board – and need to report accurately – need education for both the trash hauling company and the drivers – on the importance of providing accurate info when going over the scales in solid waste facilities.
- Solid waste facilities need to make it easy for haulers to report estimated percentages from each town when delivering single loads containing waste or recyclables from more than one town.
- Everyone agreed that both facility and municipal solid waste and recycling reporting needs to happen electronically – and the sooner the better. Although DEP is starting to work on that, facilities need to petition DEP to make that happen sooner rather than later for solid waste and recycling data
- DEP needs to have solid waste and recycling data available on the DEP website.
- This subcommittee will probably only be meeting for a limited amount of time. This will allow members to serve on other SWAC subcommittees in the future.