



State of Connecticut

Environmental Review Checklist

Last Updated 02/25/2020

Instructions for Use:

The Environmental Review Checklist (ERC), as defined in Sec. 22a-1a-1(9) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA), is intended to assist state agencies in (1) determining whether a proposed action or category of actions requires public scoping, or (2) in recording an agency's initial assessment of the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of a proposed action at the completion of public scoping.

For the purposes of CEPA, an Action is defined in Sec 22a-1a-1(2) of the RCSA as an individual activity or a sequence of planned activities initiated or proposed to be undertaken by an agency or agencies, or funded in whole or in part by the state.

Completion of the ERC is only *required* as part of a sponsoring agency's post-scoping notice in which the agency has determined that it will not be preparing an EIE (Sec. 22a-1a-7(d) of the RCSA).

In all other instances, the sponsoring agency has the option to use this form or portions of it, in conjunction with the applicable Environmental Classification Document (ECD), as a tool to assist it in determining whether or not scoping is required and to document the agency's review. This can be especially useful for an agency administering a proposed action that is not specifically represented in the ECD or which may have additional factors and/or indirect or cumulative impacts requiring further consideration.

Even if an agency ultimately determines that public scoping is not necessary, as a matter of public record OPM highly recommends that the agency internally document its decision, and its justification.

In completing this form, include descriptions that are clear, concise, and understandable to the general public.

Note that prior to reviewing a proposed action under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA), Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), Section 16a-31 requires agencies to review any proposed actions for the acquisition, development or improvement of real properties, or the acquisition of public transportation equipment or facilities, and in excess of \$200,000, for consistency with the policies of the State Plan of Conservation and Development (State C&D Plan).



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PART I – Initial Review and Determination

Date: July 18, 2025
Name of Project/Action: Regional Composting Facility and Recycling Infrastructure - Proposed site upgrades at the Ridgefield HRRRA Regional Transfer Station
Project Address(es): 55 South Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877
Affected Municipalities: Town of Ridgefield
Sponsoring Agency(ies): Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
Agency Project Number, if applicable: N/A
Project Funding Source(s)/Program(s), if known: Materials Management Infrastructure (MMI) Grant Program
Identify the Environmental Classification Document (ECD) being used in this review:
☒ Generic, or ☐ Agency-Specific
☐ An environmental assessment or environmental impact statement is being prepared pursuant to NEPA, and shall be circulated in accordance with CEPA requirements.
☐ The proposed action requires a written review by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NATHPO). Include SHPO/NATHPO reviews as an attachment, or indicate the status of those reviews: *Indicate status of SHPO and/or NATHPO review.*

☒ Based on the analysis documented in this Environmental Review Checklist (ERC), and in consideration of public comments, this agency has determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for the proposed action is not warranted. Publication of this document to the Environmental Monitor shall satisfy the agency's responsibilities under [Section 22a-1a-7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies](#) (RCSA).

Completed by: Michael T. Looney, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner

Note that prior to commencing a CEPA review, Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 16a-31 requires state agencies to review certain actions for their consistency with the policies of the State Plan of Conservation and Development (State C&D Plan). Completion of this ERC assumes the agency has determined this proposed action to be consistent with the State C&D Plan.

PART II – Detailed Project Information

Description of the Purpose & Need of the Proposed Action:

DEEP has been seeking to fund innovative and impactful solid waste management infrastructure projects at the municipal and/or regional level that will support the state's Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS) and divert materials from the waste stream in keeping with the State's waste management goals and established integrated hierarchy of waste management methodologies. The Materials Management Infrastructure (MMI) Grant program seeks to build upon the successes of the Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Grant Program and advance facility and infrastructure projects that will assist municipalities and regions, as well as the State as a whole, in reducing municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal costs and increasing in-state self-sufficiency in waste management. The proposed action represents a critical new asset in the southeastern Connecticut regional waste management portfolio that will help greatly in meeting the state waste management objectives above.

Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action will renovate the existing Regional Recycling Center at the Town of Ridgefield Transfer Station to enable the designation of collection areas for construction & demolition (C&D) and municipal solid waste (MSW) bulky waste materials, establishing a new regional Reuse Exchange Shop for reusable bulky waste and C&D, the expansion of programs for food scraps, cooking oil, plastic film, existing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for e-waste, mattresses and paint, planned EPR programs for cylinders and tires, and housing a plastic film baler and bales to support new regional plastic film collection points within the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA) region.

Alternatives Considered:

The alternatives considered were a "build" scenario versus a "no-build" scenario.

Public concerns or controversy associated with the proposed action:

On May 20, 2025, the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) published a Notice of Scoping to solicit public comments for this proposed Regional Composting Facility and Recycling Infrastructure in the Environmental Monitor. No comments were received during the public comment period.

PART III – Site Characteristics (Check all that apply)

The proposed action is non-site specific, or encompasses multiple sites;

☐

Current site ownership:

☐ N/A, ☐ State; ☒ Municipal, ☐ Private,
☐ Other: Please Explain.

Anticipated ownership upon project completion:

☐ N/A, ☐ State; ☒ Municipal, ☐ Private,
☐ Other: Please Explain.

Locational Guide Map Criteria:

<http://ctmaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ba47efccdb304e02893b7b8e8cff556a>

Priority Funding Area factors:

- ☐ Designated as a Priority Funding Area, including ☐ Balanced, or ☐ Village PFA;
- ☐ Urban Area or Urban Cluster, as designated by the most recent US Census Data;
- ☒ Public Transit, defined as being within a ½ mile buffer surrounding existing or planned mass transit;
- ☒ Existing or planned sewer service from an adopted Wastewater Facility Plan;
- ☒ Existing or planned water service from an adopted Public Drinking Water Supply Plan;
- ☐ Existing local bus service provided 7 days a week.

Conservation Area factors:

- ☐ Core Forest Area(s), defined as greater than 250 acres based on the 2006 Land Cover Dataset;
- ☐ Existing or potential drinking water supply watershed(s);
- ☐ Aquifer Protection Area(s);
- ☐ Wetland Soils greater than 25 acres;
- ☐ Undeveloped Prime, Statewide Important and/or locally important agricultural soils greater than 25 acres;
- ☐ Category 1, 2, or 3 Hurricane Inundation Zone(s);
- ☐ 100 year Flood Zone(s);
- ☐ Critical Habitat;
- ☐ Locally Important Conservation Area(s),
- ☐ Protected Land (list type): Enter text.
- ☐ Local, State, or National Historic District(s).

PART IV - Assessment of Environmental Significance – Direct, Indirect, And Cumulative Effects

Required Factors for Consideration (Section 22a-1a-3 of the RCSA)	Agency's Assessment and Explanation
Effect on water quality, including surface water and groundwater;	As a permitted municipal transfer station, the facility subject to the proposed action has an existing stormwater permit issued by DEEP as well as an Operations and Maintenance Plan. Provided that these two components are adhered to, no impact on water quality either in regard to surface water or groundwater is expected from the proposed action.
Effect on a public water supply system;	The site of the proposed action has existing access to public water supply, and is not expected to have any impact on that system.
Effect on flooding, in-stream flows, erosion or sedimentation;	As the site of the proposed action is a developed parcel operating as a transfer station, and with no expansion of the footprint of activities proposed under this action, no effects on flooding, in-stream flows, erosion or sedimentation are expected as a result of the proposed action.
Disruption or alteration of an historic, archeological, cultural, or recreational building, object, district, site or its surroundings; A. Alteration of an historic building, district, structure, object, or its setting; OR B. Disruption of an archeological or sacred site;	As the site of the proposed action is a developed parcel operating as a transfer station, and with no expansion of the footprint of activities proposed under this action, no historic, archaeological, cultural, or recreational buildings, sites, or assets are expected to be impacted.
Effect on natural communities and upon critical plant and animal species and their habitat; interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species;	As the site of the proposed action is a developed parcel operating as a transfer station, and with no expansion of the footprint of activities proposed under this action, natural communities; critical plant and animal species and their habitat; and the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species will not be impacted.
Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment;	Given the baseline operations of an existing transfer station, it is not expected that the proposed action would increase toxic or hazardous materials or substances in such a manner as to constitute unreasonable adverse effects on the surrounding environment.
Substantial aesthetic or visual effects;	As the site of the proposed action is a developed parcel operating as a transfer station, and with no expansion of the footprint of activities proposed under this action, no impacts on aesthetic or visual qualities are expected.

Inconsistency with: (A) the policies of the State C&D Plan, developed in accordance with section 16a-30 of the CGS; (B) other relevant state agency plans; and (C) applicable regional or municipal land use plans;	The proposed action is consistent with the State Conservation & Development Plan. The proposed action is also consistent with the Town of Ridgefield's existing Plan of Conservation & Development and consistent with the 2020-2030 Western Connecticut Regional Plan of Conservation & Development.
Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal and regional plans, including impacts on existing housing where sections 22a- 1b(c) and 8-37t of the CGS require additional analysis;	The proposed action is consistent with the Town of Ridgefield's existing Plan of Conservation & Development and consistent with the 2020-2030 Western Connecticut Regional Plan of Conservation & Development. The proposed action will have no impact on existing housing.
Displacement or addition of substantial numbers of people;	No displacement or addition of substantial numbers of people is expected as a result of the proposed action.
Substantial increase in congestion (traffic, recreational, other);	Very minor increases in vehicular traffic during transfer station operating hours could be expected, as the proposed action would slightly increase the volume and type of materials handled at the site.
A substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of the action;	No substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use is expected as a result of the proposed action.
The creation of a hazard to human health or safety;	No hazards to human health or safety are expected as a result of the proposed action.
Effect on air quality;	Given the baseline operations of an existing transfer station, it is not expected that the proposed action would impact overall air quality in such a manner as to constitute unreasonable adverse effects on the surrounding area.
Effect on ambient noise levels;	Given the baseline operations of an existing transfer station, it is not expected that the proposed action would increase ambient noise levels in such a manner as to constitute unreasonable adverse effects on the surrounding area.
Effect on existing land resources and landscapes, including coastal and inland wetlands;	The site subject to the proposed action is adjacent to a wetlands area. However, as a permitted municipal transfer station, the facility subject to the proposed action has an existing stormwater permit issued by DEEP as well as an Operations and Maintenance Plan. Provided that these two components are adhered to, no impact on inland wetlands from site stormwater runoff is expected from the proposed action.
Effect on agricultural resources;	As the site of the proposed action is a developed parcel operating as a transfer station, and with no expansion of the footprint of

	activities proposed under this action, agricultural resources will not be impacted.
Adequacy of existing or proposed utilities and infrastructure;	Given the existing operation of a municipal transfer station on the site of the proposed action, existing utilities and infrastructure are expected to be sufficient for the proposed action. The site is located in an area of Ridgefield currently served by public water and public sewer service.
Effect on greenhouse gas emissions as a direct or indirect result of the action;	The proposed action is expected to have modest but important positive direct and indirect impacts on the emission of greenhouse gases through reduction in solid waste and diversion of materials from the waste stream into recycling and reuse options.
Effect of a changing climate on the action, including any resiliency measures incorporated into the action;	Climate change is not anticipated to have a direct impact on the proposed action.
Any other substantial effects on natural, cultural, recreational, or scenic resources.	None anticipated.
Cumulative effects.	The cumulative effects of the proposed action are expected to be minimal to unmeasurable.

PART V - List of Required Permits, Approvals and/or Certifications Identified at the Time of this Review

HRRA and/or the Town of Ridgefield will need to obtain all necessary local zoning and land use permits or approvals, as well as obtaining building permits for construction work. Finally, upon completion of the proposed action, HRRA will need to submit a revised Transfer Station Site Plan at an A-2 survey level to DEEP for recording.

PART VI – Sponsoring Agency Comments and Recommendations

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is fully supportive of the proposed action as funded through the Department's Material Management Infrastructure (MMI) Grant program. The proposed action will renovate the existing Regional Recycling Center at the Town of Ridgefield Transfer Station to enable the designation of collection areas for construction & demolition (C&D) and municipal solid waste (MSW) bulky waste materials, establishing a new regional Reuse Exchange Shop for reusable bulky waste and C&D, the expansion of programs for food scraps, cooking oil, plastic film, existing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for e-waste, mattresses and paint, planned EPR programs for cylinders and tires, and housing a plastic film baler and bales to support new regional plastic film collection points within the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA) region. These components will accrue waste management and environmental benefits for the region's residents, and the Department recommends that the proposed action move forward.

PART VII - Public Comments and Sponsoring Agency Responses:

No public comments received during project scoping notification period.