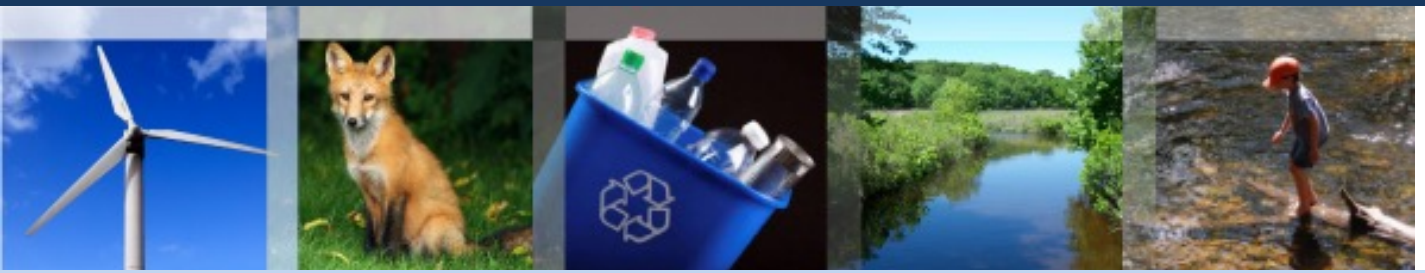
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Katie S. Dykes, CT DEEP

<u>Waste Subcommittee</u>

Co-chairs: Sharon Lewis, Adrienne Farrar Houël

Other members: Rev. Dr. Albert Bailey,

Yolanda L. Stinson

Agenda

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging Materials

James Albis, Director, Office of Policy and Planning, Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance

CEEJAC Meeting Ground Rules

During the discussion, all members should:

- Listen respectfully, without interrupting.
- Listen actively and with an ear to understanding others' views.
- Only have one conversation at a time.
- Be mindful to give others and opportunity to speak.
- Focus on the task at hand rather than the position.
- Avoid off-topic conversations.
- Criticize ideas, not individuals.
- Commit to learning, not debating.
- Avoid blame, speculation, and inflammatory language.
- Avoid assumptions about any member of the workgroup.

CEEJAC Training: Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging

December 5, 2022

James Albis
Office of Policy & Planning, BMMCA

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

What is EPR?

- EPR Programs put the onus of end-of-life management of products on the manufacturers of those products, rather than municipalities
- In the US, typically geared toward difficult to manage products
- CT has EPR programs for electronics, mercury thermostats, paint, mattresses, and gas cylinders

Why Packaging EPR?

- Improve the 3 R's
  - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Shift the burden of recycling to manufacturers
- Create municipal savings of $50 million/year
- Reduce need for new WTE capacity
- Reduce MSW disposal by up to 190,000 TPY
- Legislature introduced SB 115 in 2022; expect a bill to be introduced in 2023

How does Packaging EPR Affect Consumers?

- Collection must be at least as convenient as currently exists
- Possible that more items would be accepted in the blue bin single stream
- More consistent and persistent messaging around recycling

How does Packaging EPR Affect Municipalities?

- Directly saves money budgeted for recycling costs
- Allows that money to be spent on other important municipal programs
- Less time spent on managing the recycling program

Other Benefits from Packaging EPR

- Increase diversion/reduce MSW generation and reduce the need for new WTE capacity
- Create “chain of custody” reporting to know exactly where and how materials are being recycled
- Improve opportunities and funding for recycling education

How a Packaging EPR Program Would Work

- Manufacturers form a stewardship organization
- Stewardship Organization submits a plan on how they will finance and operate a municipal recycling program
- Plan must address:

Reuse	**Source Reduction**
Increased Recycling	**Performance Goals**

Myth about Packaging EPR

- Cost of Groceries will Go Up by $700-$900/year

Myth about Packaging EPR

- Cost of Groceries will Go Up by $700-$900/year
  - Theoretical model not based in real world info
  - If the cost of every CT household's groceries went up by $700, that would total nearly $1 billion – far above actual recycling costs of $50 million
  - A study looking at two provinces in Canada – one with Packaging EPR and one without – showed no difference in prices for the same products
  - A recent study from Columbia University showed that companies are more likely to internalize costs from Packaging EPR than to reflect those costs in consumer prices

Chemical Recycling

- Alternative to mechanical recycling
- Focused on plastics
- Breaks down postconsumer plastic material into base components for conversion to energy or conversion to new plastic material
- Umbrella term for several technologies
  - Gasification and pyrolysis currently active technologies; focused on energy conversion
  - Other technologies focused on plastics to plastics are more nascent

DEEP's Position on Chemical Recycling

- Plastic to fuel is not recycling
- Do not support exempting Chemical Recycling plants from solid waste permitting or EJ law
- Would need to compare Chemical Recycling to existing options: mechanical recycling and manufacturing of virgin plastics
- Want to ensure minimal impact to environment and human health
- DEEP has final approval of any Chemical Recycling process through the stewardship plan

Remaining Agenda Items

- Presentation Questions and Feedback from the CEEJAC Subcommittee
- Public Comment
- Discussion on Next Steps for the Subcommittee