

Connecticut Bottle Bill Advisory Group Meeting

Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2024 1:30pm via ZOOM

Present:	See Attachment A
Next meeting:	TBD
Prepared by:	Elly Moore, DEEP

I. Call to Order and Announcements

The meeting started at 1:30PM.

Chris Nelson, Supervising Environmental Analyst, Sustainable Materials Management, Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) provided welcoming remarks.

II. Advisory Group Reports

Chris Nelson described the purpose of the advisory group in meeting regularly to receive updates and provide input on DEEP's implementation of its responsibilities under Public Act 21-58. Nelson then presented on the Redemption Impacts of the Ten Cent Deposit Increase, including data from the first two quarters of 2024.

Michael Noel, Public Affairs Director, TOMRA presented a status update from TOMRA's perspective on Modernizing Connecticut's Recycling Refund System.

Laura Pointek, Environmental Analyst, Sustainable Materials Management, Connecticut DEEP presented on field observations related to the ten-cent deposit increase, including a spotlight on redemption issues related to cross-boarder redemption, craft beer, and flattened containers.

Mike Noel, TOMRA, presented on Barriers to Increased Recycling, including the "CTRV" label, the 240 can limit at retailers, and the lack of public education.

III. Roundtable and Public Comment

After the presentations, the meeting had an open discussion.

Barry O'Neil suggested that there should be additional redemption options at transfer stations to try to capture more of the 40% unredeemed containers.

Shahil Kantesaria asked for clarification related to the number of containers counted in the data received by DEEP.

Bhargav Patel discussed problems experienced by a redemption center in Manchester in sorting the massive number of UPC codes on the beverage containers.

Representative David Michel asked how the redemption center grant funding was spent and suggested prioritizing the development of redemption centers where they are most needed, like along the border of

the state. Representative Michel also asked about how containers could be marked differently so that the machines would only accept containers purchased in Connecticut. Mike Noel, TOMRA, confirmed that redemption technology exists to collect Connecticut-specific beverages, but some distributors would need to be able to change their labels.

Representative Mike Demicco expressed frustration with the use of “CTRV” on cans to signify the ten-cent deposit value because it is confusing for consumers. Representative Demicco also asked about the potential for a stewardship program and noted an interest in including wine bottles and nips in the program, like other states.

Jude Malone, Connecticut Beer Wholesalers, said the system is still adjusting and Connecticut cannot mandate the use of Connecticut-specific labels on beverage containers. Malone also said Connecticut does not need to pursue a stewardship program.

Susan Collins, Container Recycling Institute (CRI), raised the issue of “free riders” in the system and suggested the Department of Revenue should monitor the situation. CRI estimates that 700 million containers are not included in the data reported to the state. This might include underreported numbers by deposit initiators or those not reported to the state at all.

Shahil Kantesaria reiterated that “CTRV” is creating confusion for consumers and suggested DEEP should require the labels to say: “CT 10¢.”

A commenter suggested that reverse vending machines should require Connecticut licenses or identification cards in order to be used, but the group raised several concerns with that idea. The group also discussed the distinction between a person leaving the state on a holiday and redeeming a few containers they purchased out of state as opposed to people consistently redeeming large numbers of beverage containers purchased in Rhode Island or New York. One commenter suggested the law should be changed to disallow the redemption of crushed cans, but another commenter said that might be a problem for people who pick up cans on the side of the road. A commenter also asked who is monitoring the 240 beverage container limit on redemption in a single session.

Laura Pointek reiterated that anyone who is having trouble redeeming containers should call her, and she can help troubleshoot.

The group also discussed a comment suggesting that if the Bottle Bill was expanded to include wine, then it should require distributors that sell the product to come pick it up for redemption at restaurants. Jude Malone described how a similar process works for beer. Chris Nelson and Laura Pointek suggested they would look into the process for other kinds of containers, like juice bottles.

Attachment A.

Chris Nelson - CT DEEP
Tony Manfre
Michael Looney
Beth Milligan
Shahil Kantesaria
wayne pesce
Connecticut Network
Janice Ehlemeyer
Tim Tomcho
Conrad Cutler
Thomas Strahle
Annmarie Drugonis
Josh Hughes
Dominick Cingari
Barry ONell
Callyn Priebe
Brian Popovich
Kevin Spinella
Paul Catino
julie CAMMARATA
Rep. Kathy Kennedy (Kathy Kennedy)
Jackie Caceci
Jim Gardner
Annette Schmale
Brian Sullivan
Brendon Dukett# SCRCOG (Brendon Dukett)
Tyler Bowne
Elaine Gruber
Sean Hughes
Mike Rell
Eric Gjede
Megan Siegel
janell Niles
Tiffany Carlson
Kevin Reynolds
Elly Moore
Jude Malone

Adrian Vannahme
Mary Hand
Margaux Gingras
Samantha Davis
Kenneth Mancini
Brian Card
Susannah Smith
Sandra Grance
Michael Bzdyra
Christine O'Neill
Laura Pointek - DEEP (Luciana Granstrand)
Sue Tufts Nason
john bailey
Bree Dietly
Caroline Slettedahl
Rebecca Vota
Matt Dmyterko
Adam Salina
Eric Filardi
allison allen
Bhargav Patel
Yailynn Melendez
Jennifer Weymouth# CT-DEEP (she/hers) (Jennifer Weymouth)
Rebecca Xiong
william malitsky
Mary Isaac
Emma Deveran
Alexis Bourassa
David Kozak
Joe Gresko
Hillary Glass
David McBride
Sally Davies
Michael Noel
Aaron Goode
john marsilio
Peter Gallo
Brenna Giannetti

chris lippke
Liz Chuff
Andrew Ginsburg
connie mendolia
Chris Phelps
Mike Manfre
Rocky Gallo
suzanne Arena
Carl Fortuna
Call-Out User_1
Marc Gonzalez
Paul Aresta - CEQ (Paul Aresta)
Denise Raap
Ceci Maher
Lucy Dathan
Megan Andrews
Terri Christenson
Partick Grasso
Emma Cimino
lisa fecke
Mark Messier
K F
Cesar Zapata
Tammy Nuccio
15032095923
David Simpson
Rep. David Michel (Stamford) (David Michel)
Mike Demicco
ROBYN NICHOLS
Margaret Henderson
Lori Brown CTLCV (Lori Brown)
C.J. Kowaleski
Becky Kessler
Sarah Huang
Susan Collins
Brent Madho
Susan Barney
Sue Citron

