

Connecticut Bottle Bill Advisory Group Meeting

Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2023 1:00pm via ZOOM

Present:	See Attachment A
Next meeting:	TBA
Prepared by:	Elizabeth Moore, DEEP

I. Call to Order and Announcements

The meeting started at 1:00PM.

Chris Nelson, Supervising Environmental Analyst, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) provided welcoming remarks.

II. Committee 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. Mr. Nelson described the purpose of the meeting in discussing the potential for a bottle stewardship organization in Connecticut, and any other related topics stakeholders wish to discuss.

Chris Nelson, Supervising Environmental Analyst, CT DEEP presented on the stewardship organization requirements in CGS 22a-246b.

Ken Friesen, Reclay StewardEdge presented on bottle stewardship programs.

Mike Noel, TOMRA and Jude Malone, CBWA presented on public education efforts related to the deposit increase.

Dan Kiley, CLYNK presented on bringing a bag drop program for redeeming bottles to Connecticut.

III. Roundtable and Public Comment

Following the presentations, the meeting was opened to all attendees for discussion. DEEP received the following comments.

David Flemming asked if there is a budget for recycling education in place, and how is it being administered.

Representative Tom O'Dea said he received a letter from Harvest Hill Beverage Company about High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) bottles, like miniatures, that reverse vending machines do not accept. He said the company is having a hard time getting ready for the implementation of the changes in 2024. Rep. O'Dea asked if there is going to be something done to help them, as well as other beverage brands impacted by the changes.

Mike Noel noted High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) containers are included in Connecticut's deposit program and can be accepted by Reverse Vending Machines. Noncarbonated beverages between 150ml

and 2.5 liters and Carbonated beverages between 150ml and 3 liters are included in Connecticut's deposit program (including HDPE).

Representative Kathy Kennedy said a store she recently went to was not selling water bottles because the changes in the law were preventing them from scanning and selling the product. Although Representative Kennedy suggested that may have been a glitch in the system, she said there is still a lot of confusion on a broader scale that needs to be addressed.

Brian Card asked for additional details about the collection programs Ken Friesen has worked on with haulers in the various stewardship organization efforts he has overseen.

John Lundeen asked if there are any other states in the United States with lower recovery rates than Connecticut.

Adrew Droney asked if the extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs presented by Ken Friesen include redemption fees paid and redeemed by consumers and distributors, as is current practice in CT, or if they are entirely funded by the producers.

David Flemming asked if independent redemption centers that are not using reverse vending machines still have the discretion to accept certain bottles, specifically non-carbonated beverages.

Andrew Droney asked how EPR programs shift the burden away from the consumer if they still require a deposit.

Julie Terrazzano asked if non-alcoholic wine and alcohol-free sprits will or will not be covered by the Bottle Bill updates.

Christine O'Neil asked if the educational posters shared by TOMRA are available to be shared via social media. Christine O'Neil also asked Dan Kiley what CLYNK does with the green bags used for its bag drop program.

Representative Joseph Gresko asked Dan Kiley about how miniatures are managed in Maine, and whether they are included in the list of containers that can be returned using CLYNK bag drop technology. Representative Gresko also asked about what happens to the redeemed nips in Maine.

IV. Adjournment

Chris Nelson closed the meeting noting that DEEP is finalizing a document clarifying whether certain beverage types are covered under the changes, including specific sports drinks and hard ciders. Mr. Nelson said DEEP's legislative liaison, Harrison Nantz, would share the document with the environment committee when it is finalized.

Mr. Nelson reiterated that any thoughts or concerns related to the topics discussed and future meeting topics may be sent to the DEEP.MMCAPlanning@ct.gov email address.

There is no current next meeting scheduled, but it is likely that the group will continue to meet at least quarterly in 2024.

The meeting ended at 2:27PM.

Attachment A.

Chris Nelson - CT DEEP
Laura Pointek - CT DEEP (laura pointek)
Andrew Welna
Rachel Schnabel - Manchester# CT (Rachel Schnabel)
Tom ODea
Peter Gallo
Maite Quinn-Richards
Stacey Ohlmann Leitch -Groton Public Works (Stacey Ohlmann Leitch)
Julie Terrazzino - KeHE Distributors (Julie Terrazzino)
Ken Friesen - Reclay StewardEdge (Elizabeth Milligan)
Mary Hand# Lassonde Pappas (Mary Hand)
Meghan Portfolio
John Lundeen (Gael Lundeen)
C.J. Kowaleski
Maria designer for CBWA (Maria Miranda)
Tony Manfre - South Windsor (Tony Manfre)
Christine O'Neill (NVCOG) (Christine O'Neill)
Brian Card - SNE SWANA (Brian Card)
Joy Avallone
Jay Aronson/Consensus Govt. Consulting (Jay Aronson)
Chris Charest - Sapporo/Stone Brewing (Chris Charest)
Paul Aresta

Ryan Bingham
doug bedard
Dan Kiley - CLYNK (Dan Kiley)
lisa fecke
Brian Sullivan
Elly Moore - CT DEEP (Elizabeth Moore)
Hillary Glass
Mike Ward - Northeast Beverage (Mike Ward)
Mike w
Janell Niles
Mike Demicco
Jude Malone - CBWA (Jude Malone)
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Alexis Bourassa (Alexis Bourassa)
Donald McCalman
Inez Ortiz# Sustainable CT (Inez Ortiz)
Samantha Davis
Reagan Kenney
Susannah Smith
Eric Filardi F&F Distributors (Eric Filardi)
DTEN Cart
James Albis - House Democrats (James Albis)
Caroline Slettedahl
Brandon Haydon
TRACY Persico
Lisa Linnell Target (Lisa Linnell)
John Cottell- Town of Fairfield DPW (John Cottell)

Joe Canino
Gauravi Saini
Bill Malitsky
Mike Noel
Sally Davies
Greg Zannella
Alice Kosowsky
Sabrina Correll
Conrad Cutler
19146641664
Andrew Droney
David Rutigliano
James Fowler - CT DEEP (James Fowler)
julie Cammarata
Janica Jesson
David Simpson
Sarah Huang
Rocky Gallo
Rep. Kathy Kennedy (Kathy Kennedy)
Diane Lauricella
Jackie Caceci
Harrison Nantz
15089328255
Mallory Daley
Joe Gresko
Christina Schmidt
Pamela Roach

Brad Weeks
Dr Bud McAllister
Mary Hogue
Will Healey
Alissa Wesche
12032162536
Daniel McGowan
margaux gingras
David Fleming
kirsten witt
Frank Smith
Liz Donohue
Ethan Van Ness
Tiffany Moseley
David Michel
Viola Johnson Jacobs
steve morris
Kayla Gelardi
Casey Howe
Andrew Ginsburg
kevin vesey