



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection





Recycling Enforcement Initiative (REI)

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Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

CT Recycling Laws

CT recycling laws have been in place for almost 30 years

- **First 20 years:** Saw relatively minor changes.
- **Last 10 years:** Significant changes.

<u>Public Act 10-87</u> (Expansion & Clarification of CT Recycling Requirements)	<u>Commercial Organics Recycling Law</u> Recycling of Source Separated Organics (CGS Sec. <u>22a-226e</u>)
<u>Public Act 11-24</u> (Paint Stewardship Law)	<u>Public Act 13-42</u> (Mattress Stewardship Law)
<u>Public Act 13-285</u> (An Act Concerning Recycling & Jobs)	<u>Public Act 14-94</u> (An Act Concerning CT's Recycling & Materials Management Strategy...)



Public Act 10-87: What you should understand

Resulted in:

CGS Section 22a-241b(e): No person shall knowingly combine previously segregated designated recyclable items with other solid waste.

CGS Section 22a-241l(b): Each contract... for the collection of solid waste shall make provisions for the collection of designated recyclable items, either by providing for the collection of designated recyclable items by the same collector... or by including identification of the collector with whom such contract exists.



More statutory provisions from P.A. 10-87

CGS Section 22a-220a(d)(1): Any collector hauling solid waste within a municipality, shall register annually in such municipality.

CGS Section 22a-220a(d)(2): Any collector to report to the municipality regarding solid waste collected in such municipality on a form prescribed by the Commissioner.

CGS Section 22a-220a(e): The door of any vehicle used to haul solid waste shall be clearly marked with the business name and address of the hauler.



Recycling Enforcement Initiative (REI)

- REI team created in 2016 with goal of providing a stronger program of state-led enforcement of CT recycling laws
- REI team:
 - Developed internal tools and procedures to evaluate compliance quickly and provide timely compliance assistance or enforcement response
 - Trained inter-agency staff to look for recycling noncompliance
 - Provided Field Compliance unit with revised “Business Recycling Checklist”

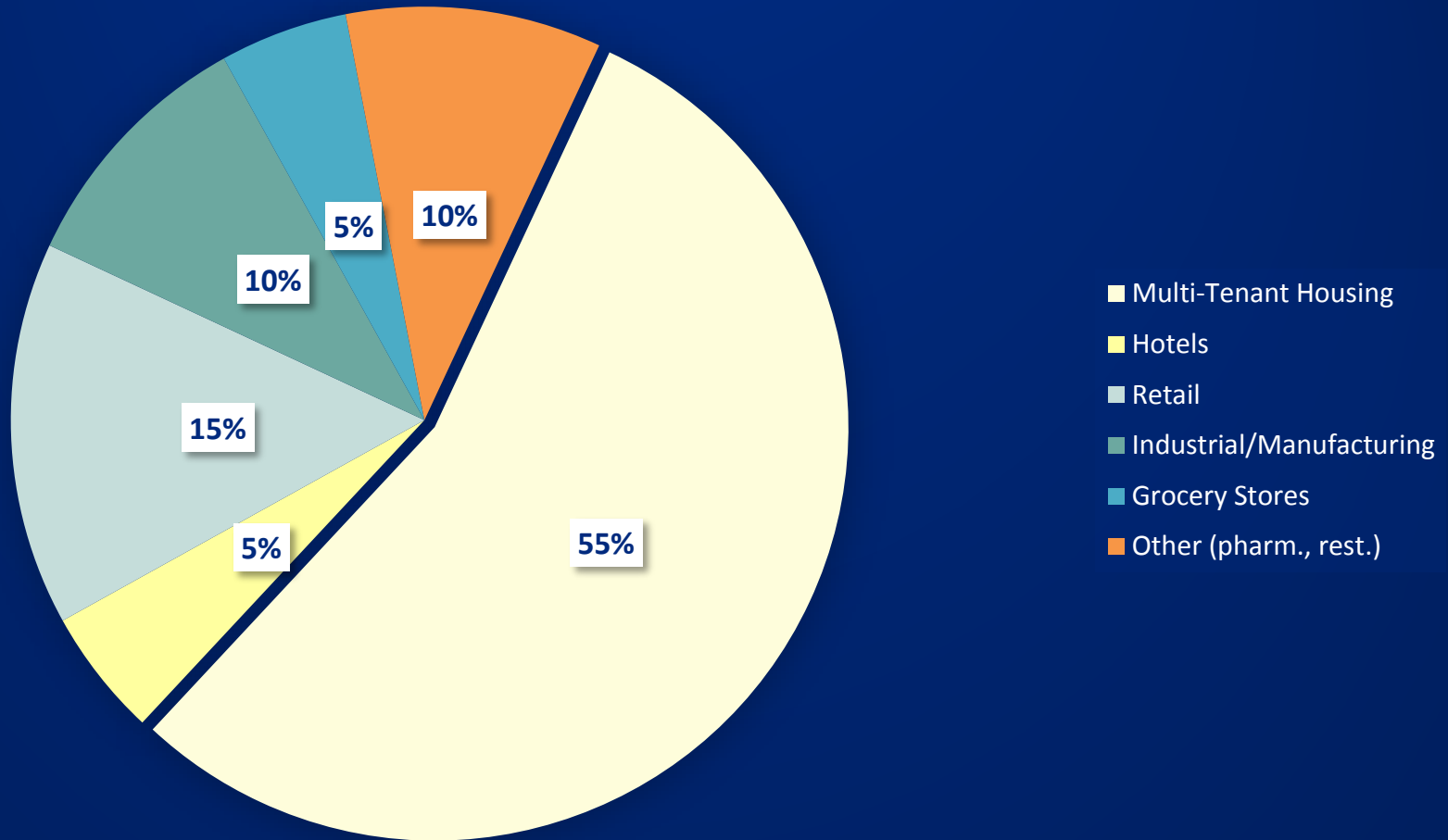


Recyclables Mixed with Trash



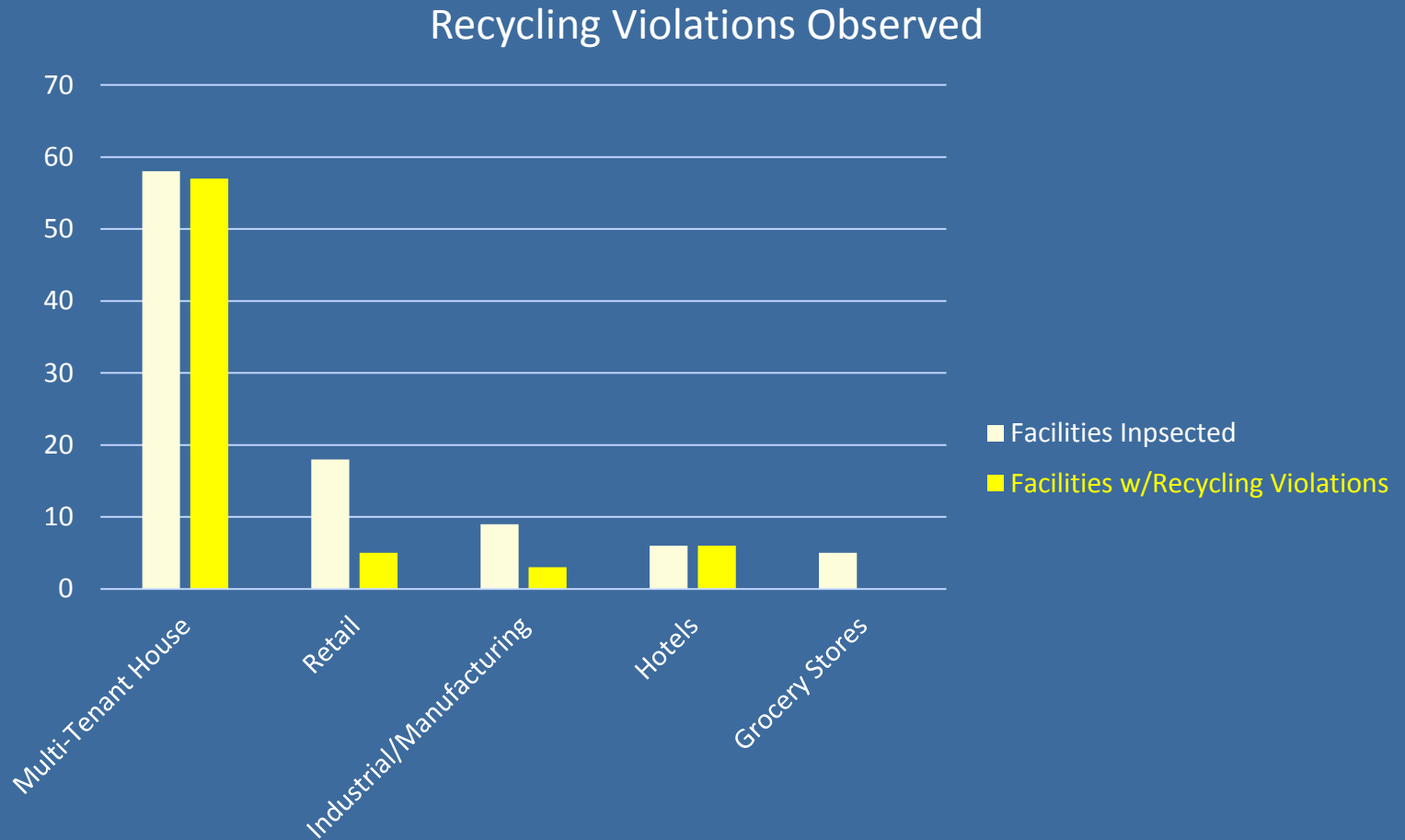
WEED inspected approximately 100 facilities

Sectors Evaluated



REI: Field Results

70% of facilities inspected had recycling violations



Typical Violations Encountered

1. Limited recycling:

Facility recycled only one or a few recyclable items.

- For example, some Retail or Manufacturing facilities recycled cardboard or scrap metal only.
- No recycling provided for other items, such as, bottles, cans, newspapers, magazines or office paper.

2. Mixing of recyclable items:

Facility may have had a recycling program in place, but more than an incidental amount of recyclable material was combined with trash.



Typical Violations Encountered (cont.)

3. No Recycling Program at all:

- **Contracts associated with MSW collection not providing for collection of recyclable items.**
- No facility staff designated or responsible for recycling.
- No internal collection containers associated with recycling.
- No external collection containers associated with recycling.



REI Actions to Date

NOVs issued to over 40 facilities (Mostly Multi-Tenant Housing Facilities)

- Early in the process, but a few have responded well thus far by implementing Recycling Programs.
 - Installed collection containers (internally & externally)
 - Expanded collection contracts with Solid Waste Haulers to include collection of recyclables
 - Provided outreach/education to tenants
 - Developed and implemented SOPs to ensure recyclables remain segregated
- Those that fail to adequately respond will be assessed to determine the need for an escalated action, consistent with the Enforcement Response Policy (ERP), which may include civil penalty.



REI Actions to Date (cont.)

Compliance Assistance provided to several facilities

- Most have been closed out, but a few have not responded adequately and a determination will need to be made to assess how to proceed with these facilities, consistent with our ERP.

NONs issued to a few facilities: No formal response required

- Identifies violations.
- Provides formal notice to facilities of recycling requirements.



Recycling Concerns Observed

Potential combination of recyclable items with MSW

- High percentage of complaints processed identify lack of recycling container(s) at curbside or backyard collection locations.
- Additional complaints allege previously segregated designated recyclables are being combined with MSW by solid waste collectors.
- Complaints supported by evidence require an appropriate enforcement response, consistent with ERP.
 - NONs, NOVs: First time violators/Secondary Violations.
 - Escalated action(s): Chronic violators/High Priority Violations.



Recycling Concerns Observed (cont.)

No collection containers provided for designated recyclable items

- High percentage of REI inspections identified a lack of “back of the building” containers for recyclable items.
 - Violation of 22a-241b CGS (Generator requirement to make provisions for and cause the separation of designated recyclable items);
 - Enforcement response to generator.
 - Potential violation of 22a-241l(b) CGS (Contract requirement to make provisions for the collection of designated recyclable items when providing for the collection of MSW).
 - Request from generator and collector, relevant contract(s).
 - Evaluation of contract with compliance with 22a-241l(b) CGS.



More Information Available At:

- [DEEP – Main Website](#)
- [Recycling Homepage](#)
- [Solid Waste & Recycling Hauler Resources webpage](#)
- [Business Recycling Assistance webpage](#)
- [CMMS webpage](#)



Getting to 60% Diversion

- Haulers play an important role in helping CT make progress toward an increased diversion of materials
- CMMS and recycling laws can result in new business for haulers:
 - Recycling service provided to your MSW customers currently not serviced
 - Transport of organic materials (work with existing customers looking to recycle food scrap, either voluntarily or as result of Commercial Organics Recycling Law)



Closing...



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