



# Managing Waste in CT Schools



# HOUSEKEEPING

**Please keep your video and audio off during presentations, because we have a lot of people joining us today.**

**Please put questions in the chat.**

**This program is being recorded.**

**Recording will be emailed to all those who are registered.**

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# Recycling ... It's the Law in Connecticut

**Reminder!** CT has had mandatory recycling for several items in effect since January 1, 1991.

***Everyone must recycle.***

That includes residents whether living in a single or multi-family building, every business including non-profits, and all public and private agencies and institutions (e.g. colleges, hospitals, local and state government agencies).



# Items Designated (Mandated) for Recycling:

Mixed Recycling

- Glass & Metal Food & Beverage **Containers**
- Plastic **Containers** (PET or PETE #1)
- Plastic **Containers** (HDPE #2)
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Boxboard
- Newspaper
- Magazines
- White & Colored Office Paper

Blue Bin

- Scrap Metal, including appliances
- Ni-Cd Rechargeable Batteries (from consumer products)
- Waste Oil (crankcase oil from internal combustion engines)
- Leaves (must be composted)
- Lead Acid Battery or Motor Vehicle Batteries
- Commercially Generated Source Separated Organic Materials (Only applies to those businesses compelled to do so per CGS Section 22a-226e)
- **Banned from disposal:** televisions, computers, cellphones, mercury-containing products

# Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- EPR or Extended Producer Responsibility is a mandatory type of product stewardship initiated with legislation;
- Requires producers take responsibility for the end-of-life of certain products and/or its packaging;
- Shifts financial and management responsibility, with government oversight, upstream to the manufacturer and away from the public sector;
- Could provide incentives to manufacturers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of their products and packaging.



# Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



- **Electronics** - (Televisions, computer PCU, monitors, printers)
- **Paint** – oil and latex (residential & commercial)
- **Mercury thermostats** – DIY/Contractors
- **Mattresses** - (includes box springs)
- **Gas Cylinders** – started October 1, 2025
- **NEW:** Tires – CT DEEP to receive program plans from Stewardship Organizations March 2026.
- **Future:** Solar Panels? Vapes? Batteries? HHW? Packaging?



More information [Extended Producer Responsibility and Product Stewardship](#)  
Local information: [Local Municipal Recycling Coordinators](#)

# In Summary: Recycling

- Schools should be collecting and recycling all mandatory recyclables they generate in:
  - School buildings
  - School grounds
  - Ballparks & athletic fields
- Great place to start:
  - Paper in offices and classrooms,
  - Cardboard
  - Metal and plastic containers in kitchens, cafeteria and staff break room
- Start with your current hauler; they are required to offer you equal service for recycling
- Contact your [Local Municipal Recycling Coordinators](#)





# Public Act 24-45

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Sec. 6(a)(5) **On and after July 1, 2026**, each public or nonpublic school building or educational facility in which students in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, or any combination thereof, are enrolled, that is located not more than **twenty miles from either an authorized source separated organic material composting facility** and that **generates an average projected volume of not less than twenty-six tons per year** of source-separated organic materials shall:

Separate such source separated organic materials from other solid waste;

and ensure that such source-separated organic materials are recycled at any authorized source-separated organic material composting facility that has available capacity and that will accept such source-separated organic material.





# Is My School Triggered by the Law?

DEEP analyzed the available data and provides tools to help schools.

## COMMERCIAL ORGANICS RECYCLING LAW SCHOOLS - PUBLIC ACT 24-45



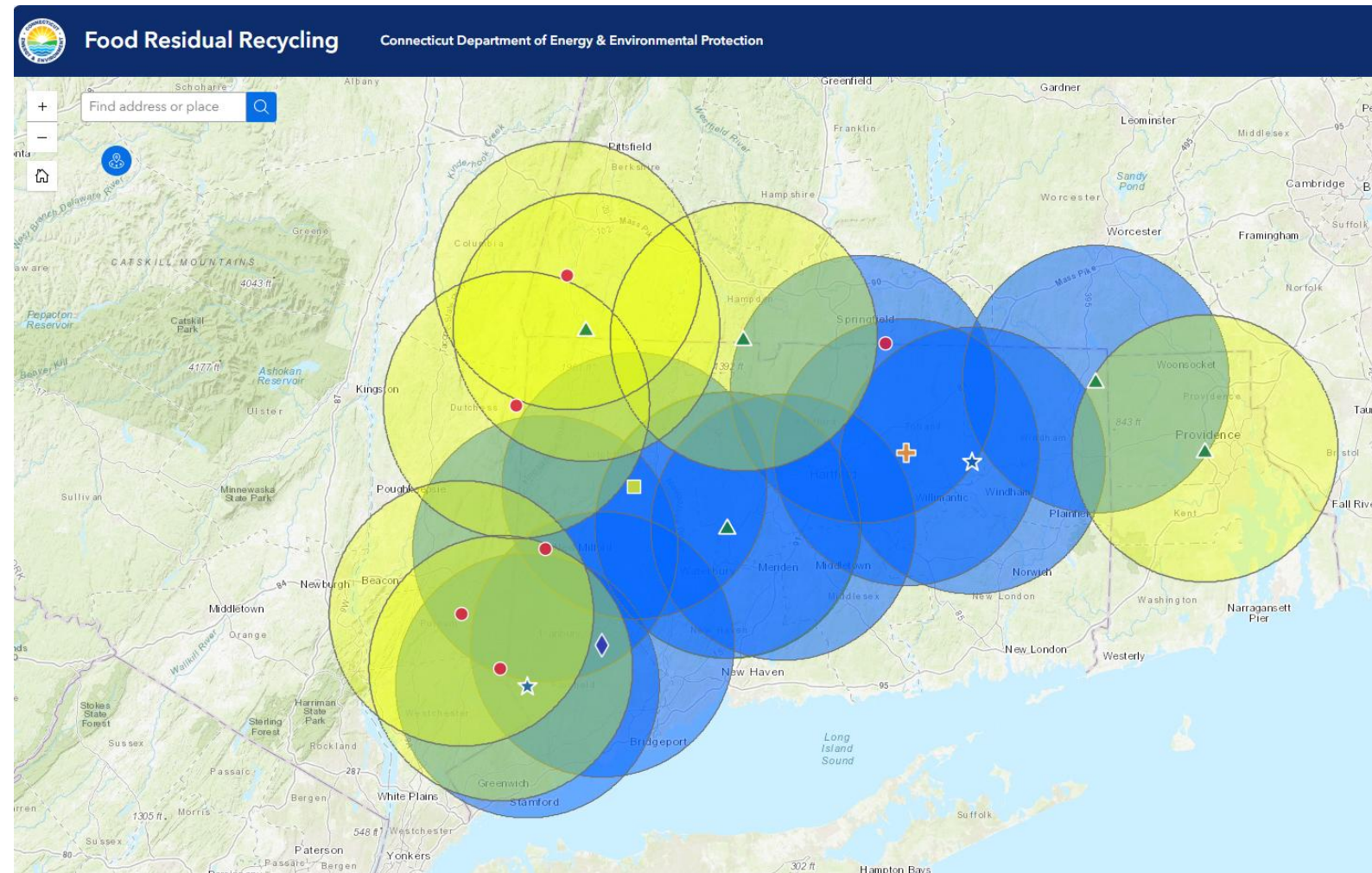
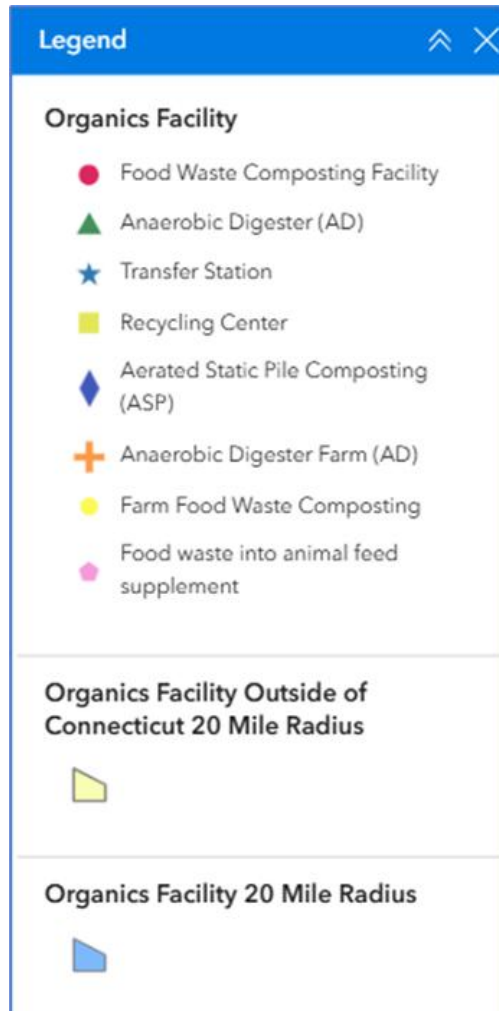
GENERATE 26 TONS PER  
YEAR

20 MILES FROM AUTHORIZED  
COMPOST SITES

SUBJECT TO THE LAW



# Map: Determine the Distance to a Processing Compost Facility



# Processing Compost Facilities

## Facilities in Connecticut that Process Food Scraps

- Bright Feeds in Berlin
- Hytone Farm AgGrid in Coventry
- WeCare Denali New England, Ellington
- Litchfield Recycling Center in Litchfield
- Mansfield Transfer Station in Mansfield
- New Milford Farms in New Milford
- Newtown Transfer Station in Newtown (*under construction*)
- Ridgefield Transfer Station in Ridgefield
- Quantum BioPower in Southington
- Fort Hill Farm AgGrid in Thompson

## Facilities Across the Border that Process Food Scraps

- McEnroe Organic Farm in Millerton, NY
- Mother Nature's Farms, Inc. in Carmel, NY
- Snow Hill Farm, LLC in North Salem, NY
- Sheffield Foods/Biosphere Farms in Sheffield, MA
- Pine Island Farm in Sheffield, MA
- Rockwood Ag-Grid, LLC in Granville, MA
- Shadow Valley Farm in Somers, MA
- Anaergia Rhode Island in Johnston, RI



# 20 Schools Trigger Law; Offered CET Assistance

- **Avon** – Avon Old Farms School
- **Bridgeport** – Cesar A. Batalla School, Blackham Elementary School, Geraldine Johnson Elementary School, and Read Elementary School
- **Brookfield** – Candlewood Lake Elementary School
- **Danbury** – Danbury High School (Main)
- **New Haven** – Amistad Academy
- **Kent** - Kent School
- **Pomfret** – Pomfret School
- **Salisbury** – The Hotchkiss School and The Salisbury School
- **Simsbury** – Westminster School
- **Suffield** – Suffield Academy
- **Wallingford** – Choate Rosemary Hall
- **Waterbury** – Michael F. Wallace Middle School & Crosby High School (attached) and North End Middle School & Wilby High School (attached)
- **Watertown** – The Taft School
- **Windsor** – The Loomis Chaffee School

*Total number of schools triggered = 20 schools  
Number of K-12 schools in CT = 1093 schools*



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## School Recycling and Composting Resources Managing Materials Sustainably in Connecticut

Managing waste and materials from your school is much broader than collecting paper, bottles and cans for recycling. To have a strong sustainable program that is fiscally responsible and environmentally sound administrators, facility staff, teachers, students and their parents should be involved in creating programs that are engaging and easy to maintain.

**Recycling, It's the Law:** Recycling has been mandatory in Connecticut for many items and has been in effect since January 1, 1991, with additional materials added in 2012. Schools are not exempt. Review [CT Mandatory Recycling](#) to learn more about items required to be collecting for recycling in Connecticut.

**Food Scraps Law:** In 2024, Connecticut passed a law which states if a school building (public, private, religious, charter or boarding school) generates more than 26 tons per year of food scraps (incl. cafeteria, culinary program, school kitchen) and is within 20 miles of an authorized composting facility you must collect food scraps for composting starting July 1, 2026.

### School Recycling and Composting Tool Kit

- [Your School is Legally Required to ... Recycle, Compost, and more](#) 📄
- [How to Set Up a Recycling Program at Your School \(incl. information about contracts, bins, forming a green team\)](#) 📄
- [Managing School Cafeteria Waste \(incl. food sharing tables, donating surplus food, collecting food scraps, how to conduct a waste sort and alternatives to single use\)](#) 📄
- Program Kick-off ideas (incl. presentation templates, trivia game, and more) - **coming soon**
- [Non-mandatory Recycling Project Ideas \(incl. fundraising ideas\)](#) 📄
- Classroom Activities & Resources - **coming soon**

FEEDBACK +

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Connecticut

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- Classroom Activities & Resources - **coming soon**

FEEDBACK +






# Business that Collect/Haul Food scraps for Composting or Anaerobic Digestion

- [Action Waste Solutions](#) – services residents in Black Rock, Fairfield, Norwalk, Weston, Westport
- [All American Waste](#) – services commercial businesses
- [Black Earth Compost](#) – services residents and commercial businesses in New London County region
- [Blue Earth Compost](#) – services residents, municipalities and businesses
- [Casella](#)– services commercial businesses
- [Curbside Compost](#) – services residential and commercial locations
- [Divert, Inc.](#) - services business, institutions and municipal transfer stations
- [Peels and Wheels](#) – services residents in New Haven, collecting food scraps processed by Peels and Wheels
- [USA Hauling & Recycling](#) – services commercial businesses and municipal transfer stations

## Waste and Materials Often Generated in Schools

In Connecticut, recycling is state law! This means everyone must recycle including all public, private, religious, charter and boarding schools. If your school buildings generate these items, they must be collected for recycling or properly disposed.

Item/Material	Mandatory	Where generated?	How best to manage – link to additional information
Aluminum cans	Yes	Kitchen, cafeteria, teachers room, classrooms	If part of the <a href="#">CT bottle bill</a> /redemption program with a 10 cent deposit, return for your dime; can also acceptable in CT's mixed (single stream) recycling program. Learn more about <a href="#">What's IN</a> , <a href="#">What's OUT</a> at RecycleCT.
Batteries - Automotive	Yes	Facility's garage, automotive class	<a href="#">What Do I Do With</a> – Batteries, Automotive
Batteries – Household Batteries	No	Classrooms, teacher's lounge, administrative offices	<a href="#">Managing Household Batteries</a>
Batteries – Rechargeable, Ni-Cd, Lithium Ion, Small sealed lead-acid Batteries	Yes	Facility's office, classrooms, teacher's lounge, administrative offices	<a href="#">Recycling Rechargeable Batteries</a>
Recycling Bins and Dumpsters			<a href="#">How to Set Up a Recycling Program at Your School (incl. information about contracts, bins, forming a green team)</a> 
Books	No	Library, end of school year	<a href="#">What Do I Do With</a> – Books and Textbooks
Bottle Caps	No		Household bottle caps not accepted in CT's

[Grade School Recycling Resources](#)

# Statewide SMM Contracts Update

## CT DAS Rubbish & Recycling Contract #23PSX0258

- Search [CTsource Contract Board](#)
- Amended to include food scrap hauling services (June 2025)
- May use GL-71 if vendors cannot provide appropriate services (ex. toters)
- 8 vendors, expires April 2027

## CT DEEP's [Businesses that Collect/Haul Food Scraps](#)

## CT DAS Technical Assistance Statewide Materials Management Contract #22PSX0016

- Search [CTsource Contract Board](#)
- 9 vendors, expires April 2026, will be extended to April 2027

## CT GreenerGov [Solid Waste, Recycling and Food Scraps](#)



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#### NEW!

Learn more about Public Act 24-45 and if your school triggers the law.

#### Complying with School Recycling and Composting Laws in Connecticut Webinar

Held on March 17, 2025

Please find [slide deck here](#)

Please find [recording here](#)

#### Sharing Tables, Donating Surplus and Collecting Food Scraps

Held on May 5, 2025

Please find [slide deck here](#)

Please find [recording here](#)

### School Recycling and Composting Tool Kit

- [Your School is Legally Required to ... Recycle, Compost, and more](#)

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# Next Steps

- Identify schools that are attached or more than one school that sits on the same property/campus?
  - They might trigger the law.
- A survey will soon go out Principals and Asst. Principals via email
  - To learn what schools are doing now, in terms of recycling, food sharing, food donation and food scraps composting or other initiatives.
- DEEP staff will be conducting compliance site visits starting this school year.
- What are other resources needed?
  - Short videos for tool kit, in-person professional development, more webinars





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