

Public Engagement Questions



Request for Comment and Solutions

The Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM, or Coalition) is an initiative of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) and 74 municipalities in the State of Connecticut, intended to identify scalable solutions for reducing waste disposal. The Coalition is focusing its efforts on four areas—Unit-Based Pricing, Organics, Increasing Recycling, and Extended Producer Responsibility—which will each be explored in more detail during October and November 2020 in a dedicated working group.

The Coalition is eager to engage the public, interested stakeholders, affected communities, and members of the waste sector—including service providers, developers, and innovators—to solicit input, concepts, and considerations for sustainable materials management solutions in four focus areas, described in greater detail below. To initiate that engagement, the Coalition invites interested members of the public to provide responses to any and all of the questions listed below. Comments will be posted on the CCSMM website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-CCSMM>. Comments are requested on the described focus areas by **October 15, 2020**, though late comments can be submitted and will be considered as received through the fall of 2020, when the Coalition will be conducting its work. To submit comments, please email them to DEEP.RecyclingProgram@ct.gov.

Focus Areas

1. Unit-Based Pricing (UBP)

- a. Models for unit-based pricing (container size, sale of bags)
- b. Measures to address common concerns about UBP
 - i. Addressing affordability, impacts on low-income residents
 - ii. Enforcement
 - iii. Voluntary vs. Mandatory programs

2. Organics

- a. Organics reduction/collection/diversion mechanisms
 - i. Donation & reduction
 - ii. Food scrap collection
 - iii. Leaf and yard waste collection/backyard composting
- b. Development and siting of infrastructure
 - i. Anaerobic Digestion
 - ii. Composting facilities
 - iii. Municipal onsite composting operations

3. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- a. Enhancement of existing EPR programs in CT
- b. Introduce legislation for new EPR programs covering:
 - i. Hard-to-manage materials (HHW, Propane tanks, tires, sharps)
 - ii. Packaging

4. Increased Recycling

- a. Measures to improve the quantity of material collected through mixed-stream or other means
- b. Specific source-separated programs including
 - i. Textile collection
 - ii. Glass
- c. Measures to improve the quality of recycled materials
 - i. Review collection methods
 - ii. Should some items be banned?
 - iii. Disruption fees?
 - iv. Other
- d. Education and Outreach programs
- e. Measures to support new end-market development to attract manufacturers that use recycled-content in their product manufacturing, including recycled content standards for glass, plastic film, fiber, polypropylene (including minimum recycled content requirements)
- f. Encourage/Incentivize the development and siting of processing plants/end markets

Questions for Response

1. Are there any model programs, best practices, or innovative concepts that the Coalition should consider, that could provide a scalable solution in any of the Focus Areas, listed above? The Coalition is interested in hearing about approaches that are conceptual, implemented on a pilot basis, or implemented at scale, whether here in Connecticut or in other jurisdictions in the United States or other countries.
2. For any solution identified in Question 1, what are the barriers that need to be addressed in order to advance any of these solutions at scale in Connecticut?
 - a. Are there different implementation considerations for full or partial “subscription” towns versus towns that provide for curbside collection of trash & recyclables?
 - b. Is it necessary or beneficial for the solution to be implemented on a statewide, multi-town, or other regional basis, or can it be implemented successfully town-by-town?
3. For any solution identified in Question 1, please describe the types of implications or benefits that the solution provides with respect to:
 - a. Sustainability- environmental benefits,
 - b. Reducing costs
4. Would you be interested or willing to present to the Coalition or a Coalition working group on solutions you've highlighted, or is there another speaker or organization that would be helpful for the Coalition to hear from on this topic?
5. DEEP can play an important role in advancing sustainable materials management solutions, including: issuing RFPs for long-term energy contracts to support anaerobic digestion facilities; providing grants for collection trucks powered by compressed natural gas (CNG) or electricity through the Volkswagen settlement; employing different approaches to permitting innovative technologies; and streamlining permitting processes. Are there things that DEEP should do differently in its approach to any of the above roles/functions, that would better support sustainable materials management in Connecticut?
6. Are there any solutions that you would like the Coalition to know about that do not fit within the Focus Areas above?
7. Are there any aspects of the Focus Areas, listed above, that the Coalition should *not* consider (and if so, why)?