

Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management Meeting

Meeting Minutes

August 31, 2022, Extended Producer Responsibility Working Group Meeting

Present:	See Attachment A
Next meeting:	September 28, 2022 at 1:00pm
Prepared by:	Elizabeth Moore, DEEP

I. Call to Order and Announcements

Meeting began at 1:03 pm.

Co-chair of the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) working group, Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, provided welcoming remarks, introductions, and an overview of the meeting agenda. Co-chair Diana McCarthy-Bercury was unable to attend the meeting.

II. Committee Reports

Co-chair Matt Knickerbocker reviewed the meeting's agenda.

Dr. Ben Elling, Professor, Wesleyan University presented on the chemistry and polymer breakdown involved in plastic recycling and focused on the difference between mechanical and chemical recycling. Dr. Elling also distinguished between five types of chemical recycling, including depolymerization, reprocessing, solvolysis/hydrolysis, pyrolysis, and gasification.

Dr. Anja Brandon, U.S. Plastics Policy Analyst, Ocean Conservancy presented on Managing Chemical Recycling in EPR. Dr. Brandon's presentation focused on the state of current plastic recovery and recycling in the United States and emphasized California's SB 54.

James Albis, Office Director, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) presented the Department's current position on chemical recycling.

III. Roundtable

Dr. Ben Elling received questions regarding where different types of chemical recycling processes are currently operational as well as the findings of pilots, particularly with respect to end products of the processes in the form of waste materials and greenhouse gas emissions. Members asked about differences in environmental impacts between the various chemical recycling processes described as

well as how those processes differ from mechanical recycling of plastics and creating new plastics from virgin materials.

Dr. Anja Brandon received questions regarding how aggressive recycling recovery goals coexist with EPR in California. Other questions involved how California approached differentiating between different forms of chemical recycling and how Connecticut can work on EPR regionally with other states on the east coast. Another member asked if there is currently a viable alternative to plastics.

IV. Public Comment

Members of the public were asked to use the “chat” or “raise hand” feature to indicate if they wanted to make a comment.

Nancy Alderman, President of Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI), noted the recent release of an EHHI plastic study featuring recommendations for all levels of government. Alderman asked about emissions from chemical recycling processes beyond pyrolysis and gasification. Alderman also asked about the origin of the CCSMM and whether all towns could join the coalition.

Kristen Coperine, Circular Economy Specialist at NatureWorks, asked if Dr. Brandon still favored mechanical recycling for polylactic acid (PLA) plastics, which are derived from organic sources. Coperine also asked about recommendations for how investment can be put toward chemical recycling projects to receive a diversity of feedstocks.

Bud McAllister, Partners in Healthy Communities, expressed hope to build regional coalitions with other states and asked if New London was listed as a partner of the CCSMM.

Diane Lauricella supported the idea of working regionally and asked if the speakers have access to ways of helping to educate the public and public officials about the plastic problem, including information involving graphics and available in different languages.

Delia Fey, NECCOG asked if there is there any funding available for businesses that make new products out of old products to create a market for recyclable goods beyond paperboard packaging.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

The next working group meeting will be held on September 28, 2022 at 1:00pm. The group plans to discuss the impact of packaging EPR on consumer prices.

Attachment A:

Chris Nelson - CT DEEP
Sherill Baldwin - CT DEEP
Elly Moore - CT DEEP
Gabrielle Frigon - CT DEEP
Tom Metzner CT DEEP
James Albis - CT DEEP
Christine O'Neill - NVCOG
Kevin Sullivan
Krishna Winston
Virginia Walton - Mansfield
Kim O'Rourke - Middletown
Carolyn Bayne - Darien Advisory Committee on Sustainability
Lori Vitagliano
Denise Raap - Litchfield
Sam Saunders - Ellington
Brian Bartram Salisbury/Sharon TS
Connie Mendolia - CT DEEP
Paul Aresta - CEQ
Carl Fortuna - Old Saybrook
Alice Kosowsky
Maureen Nicholson - Pomfret
Delia Fey - NECCOG
Stacey Leitch - Groton
Catherine Matzul - CT DEEP
Laura Pointek - CT DEEP
BudMcAllister
Diane Lauricella
Matt Knickerbocker - Bethel
Steph Bahramian
Bill Watkins Town of Coventry
Ben Elling - Wesleyan University
Anja Brandon - Ocean Conservancy
Caitlin Hart (she/her)
Jen Heaton-Jones - HRRRA
Luciana Granstrand - CT DEEP
Emma MacDonald - CT DEEP

Deborah Barbieri - Westport
Kaelah Smith
Janice Ehlemeyer - RiverCOG
Michael Bisi - Glastonbury
Mary Ann Remolador - NERC
State Rep Maria Horn
Morgan Treacy
Morgan Treacy CT DEEP
April Clayton - CT DEEP
Pamela Roach
Chris Lippke - Canterbury
Christine O'Neill
Sarah Bloomquist
Theresa Govert
Jean Cronin
Melissa Biggs
Nicole Tomassetti
Thomas Strahle
kevin spinella
Joe Canino
Robbie McLuckie
Marcia Kinter
Susan Barney
Kristen Coperine
Mike Noel
Jennifer Heaton-Jones
Sean Hughes
Gary Jones
john sheerin
Erik Rison
Ashley Zane
Jessica Olander
April Regan
Amanda Cox
Anne Schmidt
Daniel McGowan
Meredith Wert
Jay Aronson
Christopher Antonacci
Andrew Hackman
Susan Eastwood
Josh Hughes
Reagan Kenney

Lisa Fecke
Nancy Alderman
Susan Bush
Justine Fallon
Helen Sashi
Tammy Thornton
Patrick Grasso
Brad Weeks
Ann Gadwah
Brian Popovich
Bud McAllister
Sharon Lewis
Lori Brown
Liz Connelly
Karen Weeks
Brian Popovich
Linda Kowalski
David Boomer
Kristen Miller
Anne Hulick
Samantha Dynowski
Shannon Laun
Pamela Roach
Lisa Kroeber
Edward Spinella
Mary Vihstadt
Gary Jamgotchian
Kristi Vitelli
Kevin Budris
Pippa Bell
Jeanine Behr Getz
Andrew Droney
Kris Kuhn
Erin DeSantis
Raza Ali
Yasemin Ugurlu
Ian McDonald
Ian McDonald
Martha Kelly
chris phelps
Terri Cain
Brian Hawkinson
Nate Spencer

Gaia McDermott

chris lippke

Joe DeRisi

Becky Bunnell

Ed Mone