



Food Scraps / Organics Collection & Diversion Working Group Meeting

December 10, 2020

1:00 – 3:00

Food Scraps / Organics Collection & Diversion Working Group



Welcome, Co-chairs:

- Katie Dykes, DEEP Commissioner
- Ronald McDaniel, Mayor Town of Montville

Reminder:

- **Full CCSMM Coalition meeting - Dec 16 (1-3pm)**
- **Final Full CCSMM Coalition meeting - January 5th (1-3pm)**

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Housekeeping

- Please keep audio on mute
- CCSMM Members: Please “rename” yourself on Zoom to add town/affiliation (via Participants)
- This meeting is being recorded
- Non-municipal participants: Input, ideas and comments will be accepted through chat
- You are encouraged to provide feedback through: DEEP.RecyclingProgram@ct.gov

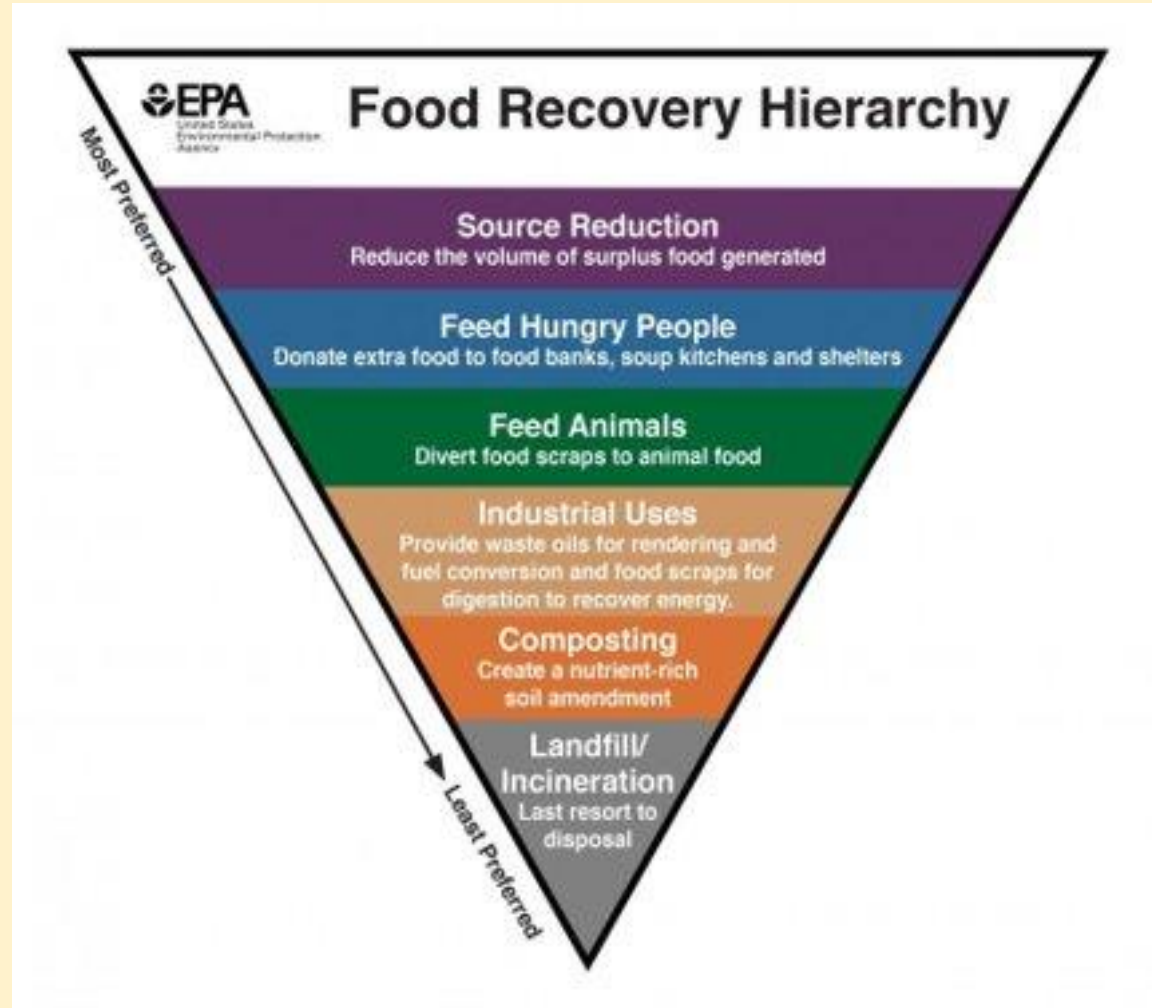
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Focus of Today's Meeting:

Discussion:

- Findings
- Legislative Pathways
- DEEP Actions
- Municipal Actions
- Menu



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Findings

- Recognized & Affirmed the solid waste hierarchy (CGS Sec. 22a-228b, CMMS), and the food recovery hierarchy
- Support expanding the organics law (CGS 22a-226e)
- Need infrastructure development, small to large
- Need stable funding
- Resolve transportation logistics and manage costs
- Need variety of municipal options – collection systems, processing facilities, transfer stations
- Education and technical assistance required
- Municipal partnerships and regionalization, COGs, CCM, COST, etc.

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Legislative Pathways

Strategic expansion of the organics diversion law (CGS Sec. 22a-226e):

- Reduce threshold over time (example: change 1 ton per week to, ½ ton per week, ¼ per week).
- Expand threshold distance or eliminate the 20-mile radius (example: change radius to 30 miles, then 40 miles)
- Include additional generators
 - Possibly include the following sectors:
 - Hospitality and Entertainment sector
 - Colleges and Educational Facilities
 - Correctional and Rehabilitation Facilities
 - Hospitals and Healthcare
 - Other

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Legislative Pathways

Diversion of Organics from the Waste Stream CGS Sec. 22a-220(a):

Mandate per CGS Sec. 22a-220(a) that all municipalities shall make provisions for diversion of organics from the waste stream through one or a combination of the following:

- Adoption of Unit-Based Pricing to incentivize behavior change and drive separation of organics to be used according to the food recovery hierarchy
- Curbside Collection of Organics (Co-Collection or Separate Collection), which may include co-collection with other streams
- Community wide implementation of Home Composting with subsidized containers and robust education
- Provide for convenient and accessible drop-off of household Food Waste at a Transfer Station including municipal or regional

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Legislative Pathways

Designate Organics as a recyclable item CGS Sec. 22a-220(a) & Sec. 22a-241b

Mandate diversion of Source Separated Organic Material (“SSOM”) as a “Designated Recyclable Item” by including SSOM within the list per CGS Sec. 22a-220(a) & Sec. 22a-241b.

This would require every person to separate at the point of generation organic material from other solid wastes. Comingling of SSOM would not be compatible with other designated recyclable items, just as waste oil/used motor oil must be recycled, but is not part of curbside programs. All municipalities have to make provisions for diversion designated organics:

- This could also be a “Municipal Action” as CGS Sec. 22a-220(a) requires “that each municipal authority shall make provision for the safe and sanitary disposal of all solid wastes which are generated within its boundaries.....”. Additionally, CGS Sec. 22a-220a enables each legislative body may designate where solid waste within the municipality shall be disposed including residential, business, commercial and other establishment.

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Legislative Pathways

Amend CGS Sec. 22a-208cc to increase non-agricultural organic feedstock percentage

- Current limit is 5% food, food residual, soiled paper, consider increasing up to 25%. The intent of the 22a-208cc exemption was to ensure at least 50% of the feedstock must be CAFO generated organics, thus the majority of the organics received should remain agricultural.

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DEEP Actions

- Simplify addition of food to leaf composting
- Streamline permitting of small-scale operations to facilitate community composting and other local diversion opportunities
- Streamline permitting to increase options/ capacity
 - Allow for on-site (at Transfer Station or other municipal property) composting of leaves and food scraps through the expansion of the general permitting process that currently allows for the transfer of food scraps

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DEEP Actions

- Update and expand website resources and technical assistance programs based on EPA's Food Recovery hierarchy and EPA's Waste Management Hierarchy
- Collaborate with DECD, DoAG, local and regional partners on project siting and permit process facilitation
 - eastern CT capacity gaps
 - Attract food to animal feed manufacturing
 - Attract financing/locating capacity from expired Bridgeport AD
 - Small, medium, and large facility mapping
- Focused enforcement consistent with CMMS and synced with outreach

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Municipal Actions

- Support legislative proposals individually and collectively through COST, CCM and regional entities
- Adopt ordinances to drive organics diversion or ban disposal
- Affirm/reestablish a designated recycling coordinator CGS 22a-220(i)
- Develop school-based programs for diversion and education
- Evaluate organics management in context of a UBP pricing system
- Educate DPW staff and/or collaborate with contract haulers on identifying and reporting mixed loads (not separating recyclables/organics)

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Municipal Actions

- Ensure collector/hauler registration and reporting
- Update transfers stations, leaf composting and other municipal facilities to expand local capacity
- In lieu of or supplemental to local capacity, collaborate for regional facilities
- Focus on technical assistance and education
- Assess host community & economic benefit potential
- Promote home composting, offer subsidized bin distribution
- Focused enforcement consistent with CMMS and synced with outreach

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Menu

- Divided into Legislative Pathways, DEEP Actions and Municipal Actions
- Follows the Food Recovery Hierarchy themes
- Covered the content of all the presentations we heard over the course of the working group meetings and more
- Includes Collection, Infrastructure, Funding, Education
- Currently 16 pages; likely to be 20 pages

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Next Steps & Schedule:

- **Full CCSMM Coalition meeting – Wednesday, December 16th (1-3pm)**
- **Final Full CCSMM Coalition meeting – Tuesday, January 5th (1-3pm)**