

Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management Full Coalition Meeting

January 11, 2021



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CCSMM Full Coalition Meeting Agenda

January 11, 2021

- Welcome and introductory remarks (5 min)
- Survey Results and Discussion
 - Extended Producer Responsibility (10 mins)
 - Food Scraps/Organics Collection and Diversion (10 mins)
 - Unit-based Pricing(10 mins)
 - Increase Recycling(10 mins)
 - Funding for Sustainable Materials Management(10 mins)
- Next steps (15 min)
- Public comment (5 min)

CCSMM Housekeeping

- CCSMM Page: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-CCSMM>
- This meeting is being recorded.
- Municipal participants are encouraged to actively participate during the meeting.
- Non-municipal participants: Please share your ideas and comments will be accepted through the ZOOM chat feature.
- Anyone/everyone encouraged to provide feedback to: DEEP.RecyclingProgram@ct.gov

What We Set Out to Accomplish Together

“[W]e commit to working together in this initiative to accomplish the following:

1. Share experiences and lessons learned from various efforts to adopt effective waste reduction strategies;
2. Engage market participants and local stakeholders to solicit input and proposed waste reduction solutions;
3. Seek creative means to fund solutions that further our collective goal;
4. Identify and evaluate a menu of options that municipalities and the state can adopt that will help us to collectively make progress towards our goal;
5. By January 1, 2021, report on our progress and announce commitments to action in furtherance of our waste reduction vision.

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Objective 1:

Share Experiences & Lessons Learned

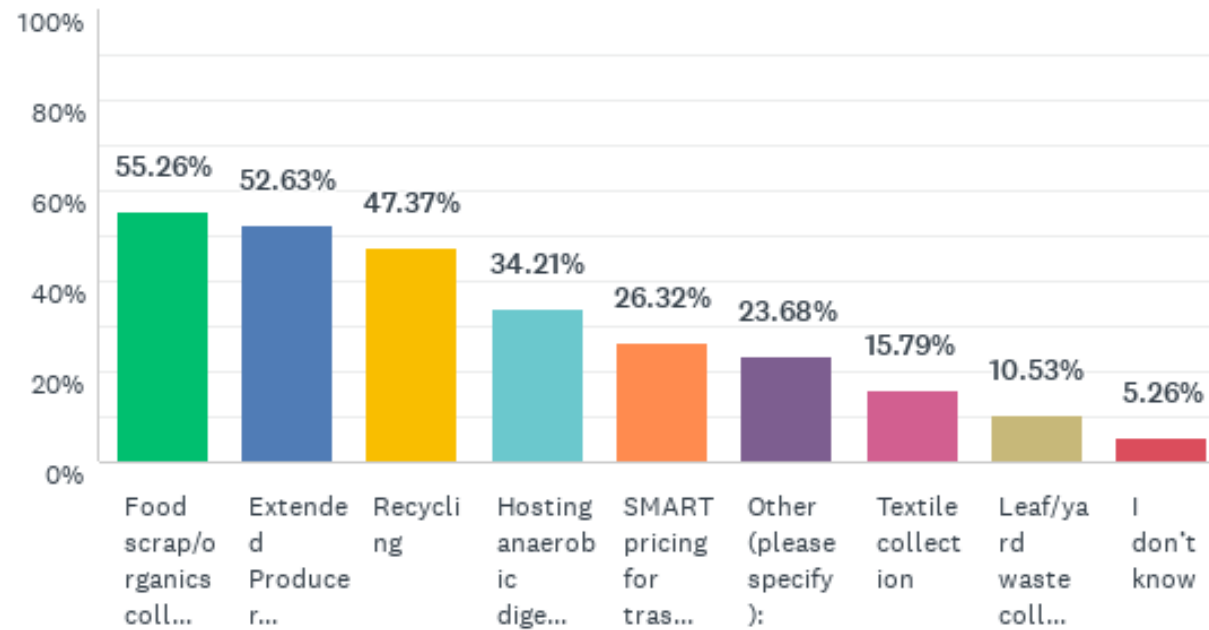
“[W]e commit to working together in this initiative to accomplish the following:

1. Share experiences and lessons learned from various efforts to adopt effective waste reduction strategies...”

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Objective 2: *Engage Market Participants & Local Stakeholders*

- Early in the process we reached out to the public stakeholders to solicit input - 46 responses with wide scope of suggestions
- We reached out to municipal leaders to identify concerns and challenges your towns are facing



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Objective 3:

Funding Solutions

- Eliminating the exemption from the Solid Waste Assessment for Landfilling
- Extended Producer Responsibility to shift the costs associated with Recycling to product manufacturers
- Shifting costs for disposal to the generator through Unit-based Pricing

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Objective 4: *Menu of Options*

- Generated a [Menu of Options](#) providing a list of effective initiatives and programs that DEEP and Municipalities can implement – individually, regionally or collectively



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Objective 5:

Commitments toward Waste Reduction

- CCSMM Survey distributed in December 2020, identifies areas for future collaboration among CCSMM members
- Commitments to Action
 - Legislative actions for 2021 Session
 - Regional collaboration, e.g. through COGs, regional waste authorities
 - Further program development, e.g., through CT Product Stewardship Council
 - Organics infrastructure development process
 - Engage partners
- CCSMM going forward: quarterly meetings, email updates, new members

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Commitments to Action

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Extended Producer Responsibility 2021 Legislative Actions

EPR for Gas Cylinders

“Gas cylinders present a danger for haulers and Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) operators, when the cylinders are present on trucks and sorting lines; as well as for operators of WTE facilities. An EPR program for gas cylinders would create a safe recycling path for potentially hazardous (i.e., explosive) gas cylinders, and relieve municipalities’ cost burdens for collecting and managing these difficult to manage items.”

A large majority of CCSMM survey respondents would support legislation to create an EPR program for Gas Cylinders in the 2021 Legislative Session

Extended Producer Responsibility 2021 Legislative Actions

EPR for Tires

“An Extended Producer Responsibility Program for tires would virtually eliminate illegal dumping by removing the financial incentive to dump. Such a program would promote higher end recycling over the current practice of burning for energy, by diverting tires to higher end recycling which will bring recycling industries to CT. It would also relieve municipalities’ cost burdens for collecting & managing tires.”

A large majority of CCSMM survey respondents would support legislation to create an EPR program for Tires in the 2021 Legislative Session

Extended Producer Responsibility Further Program Development in 2021

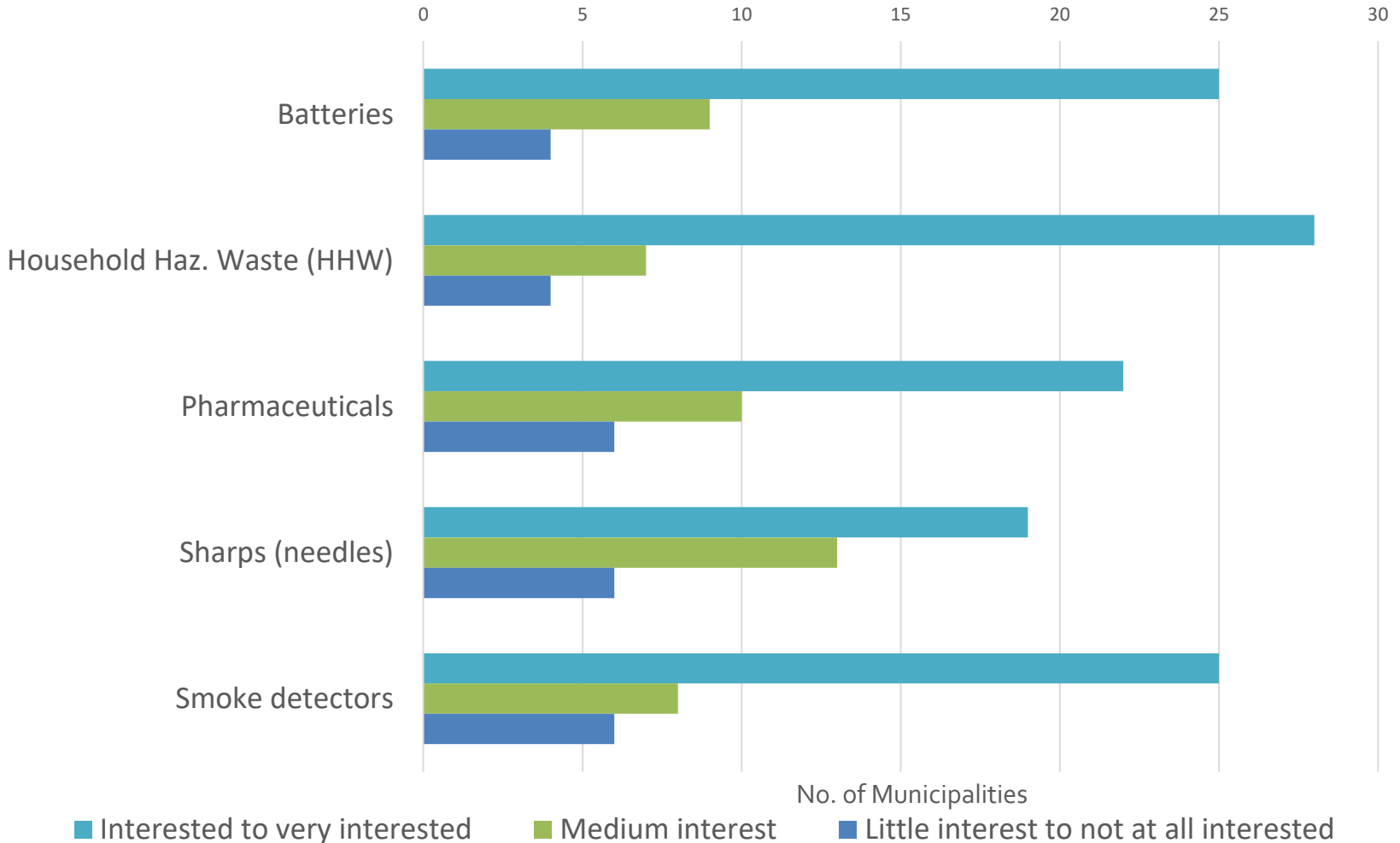
EPR for Packaging

“Packaging EPR could significantly change how municipal recycling programs are funded, potentially saving Connecticut municipalities \$40 million/year in recycling costs. Costs for collection and processing of recyclables could shift from municipalities to the producers of packaging – which includes everything typically included in residential “single stream” recycling programs.”

A majority of CCSMM survey respondents indicated interest in participating in (60%), or staying informed on (20%), Packaging EPR development discussions in 2021, with the aim of supporting Packaging EPR legislation in 2022.

Extended Producer Responsibility Further Program Development by 2025

*Municipalities interested in EPR legislation
for key products by 2025*



Food Scraps/ Organics Collection and Diversion Commitments to Action

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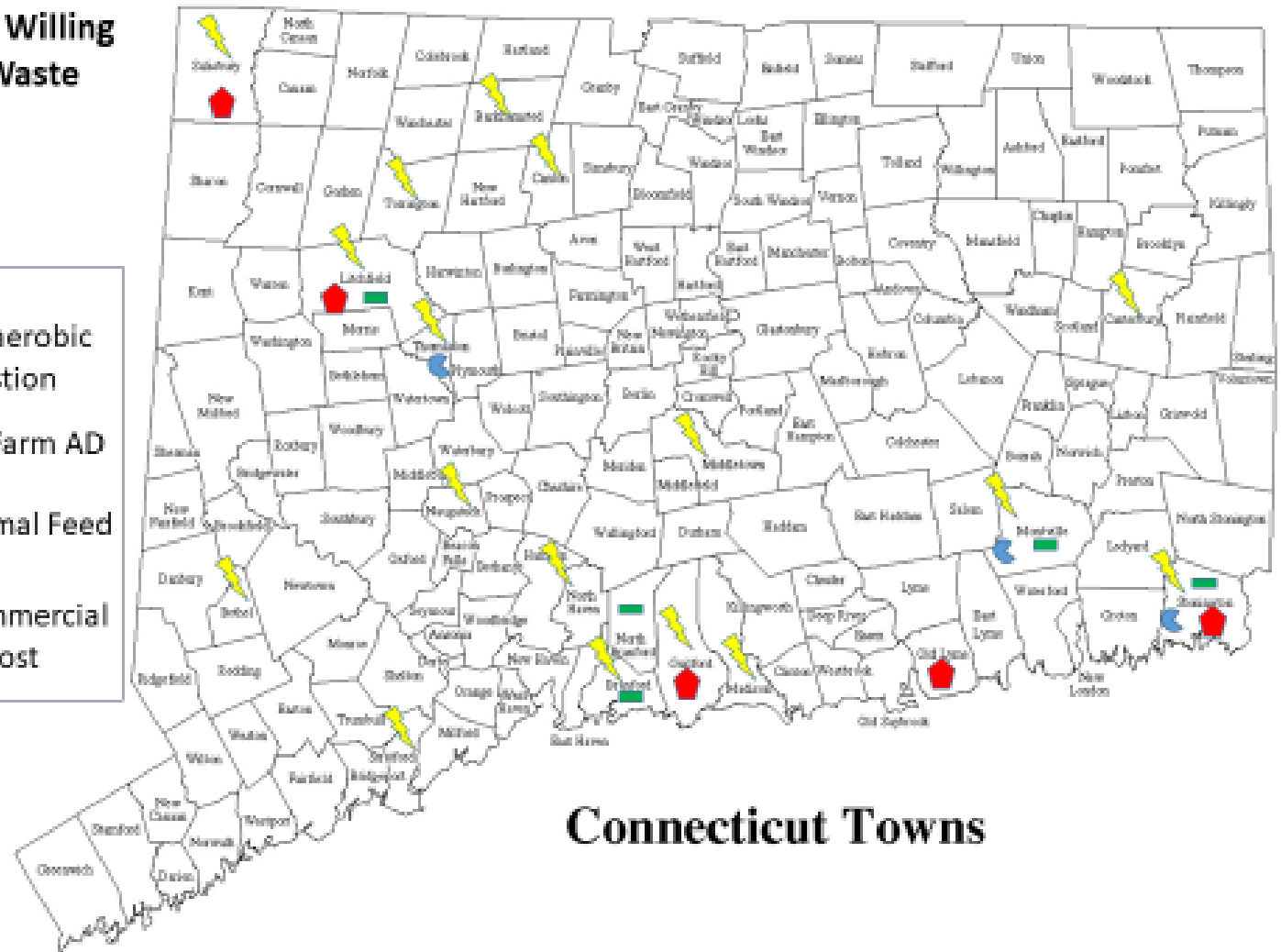
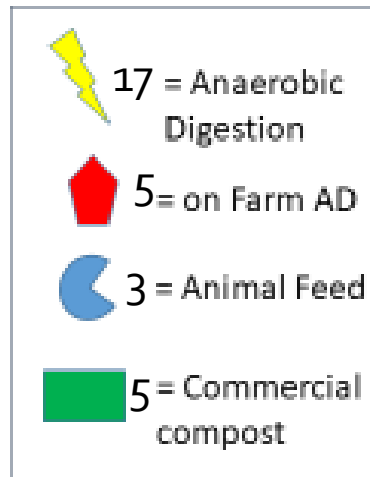
Food Scraps & Organics Roadmap for Affordable Organics Diversion

About one-third of the municipal solid waste stream consists of food scraps, yard waste, and other organic material. Tip fees for these materials at organics processing facilities are generally lower than at WTE or landfills, but transportation costs can be a barrier. Key steps needed in 2021 to secure accessible, affordable organics infrastructure:

1. Developers/Stakeholder conference in Q1 2021
2. Identify potential host sites for organics infrastructure around the state
3. DEEP streamline permitting for anaerobic digesters (AD), compost facilities
4. DEEP conduct RFPs for long-term contracts for AD facilities
5. Ensure a predictable supply of feedstock for developers by:
 - a. Strengthening the diversion requirement for large commercial generators of organic material
 - b. Work with municipalities (including in regional groups) to implement residential organics diversion programs

Food Scraps & Organics Interest in Potentially Hosting Infrastructure

Municipalities Willing to Host Food Waste and Organic Processing Infrastructure

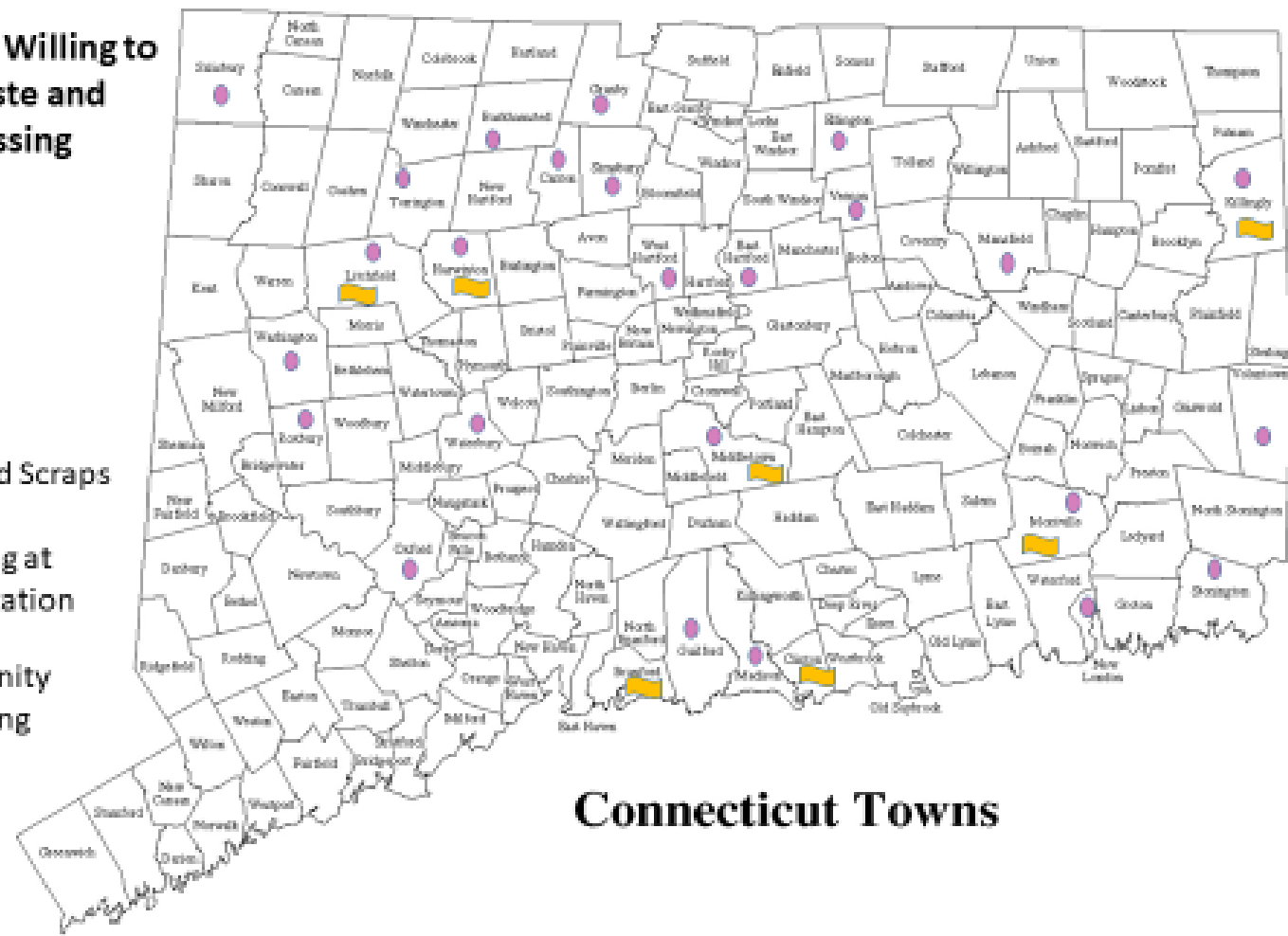


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Food Scraps & Organics Interest in Potentially Hosting Infrastructure

Municipalities Willing to Host Food Waste and Organic Processing Infrastructure

-  7= Add Food Scraps to Leaf composting at Transfer Station
-  25 = community composting



Connecticut Towns

Food Scraps & Organics 2021 Legislative Action

Strengthen Commercial Generator Law

“Connecticut law (CGS Sec. 22a-226e) currently requires that entities that generate more than 52tons/year of food waste (e.g., industrial food manufacturers, supermarket, and resorts) and that are located within 20 miles of a source-separated organic material composting or AD facility must divert those materials to a composting or AD facility. Strengthening this requirement would create greater certainty for developers of composting facilities about the availability of organic waste streams, sending a critical investment signal for this needed infrastructure.”

A majority of CCSMM survey respondents would support legislation to strengthen the diversion requirements for large commercial generators of organic material

Food Scraps &
Organics
Residential Food
Scrap Program
Development

How interested would your municipality be in developing a residential food scrap collection program in the next 2-3 years?

We are planning to do this

1

We are interested in doing this or learning more about this

2

We would be interested to work with a multi-town or regional group to do this

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Food Scraps & Organics No-/Low-Cost Program Development

	<i>Already doing this</i>	<i>Interested in doing this</i>	<i>Not sure / Want to learn more</i>
Promote home composting practices for municipal residents	18	17	4
Transfer station drop-off for food scraps	4	17	9
Promote local donations to help increase food donation frequency	9	21	4
Encourage schoolyard composting	5	18	13

Unit-Based Pricing Commitments to Action

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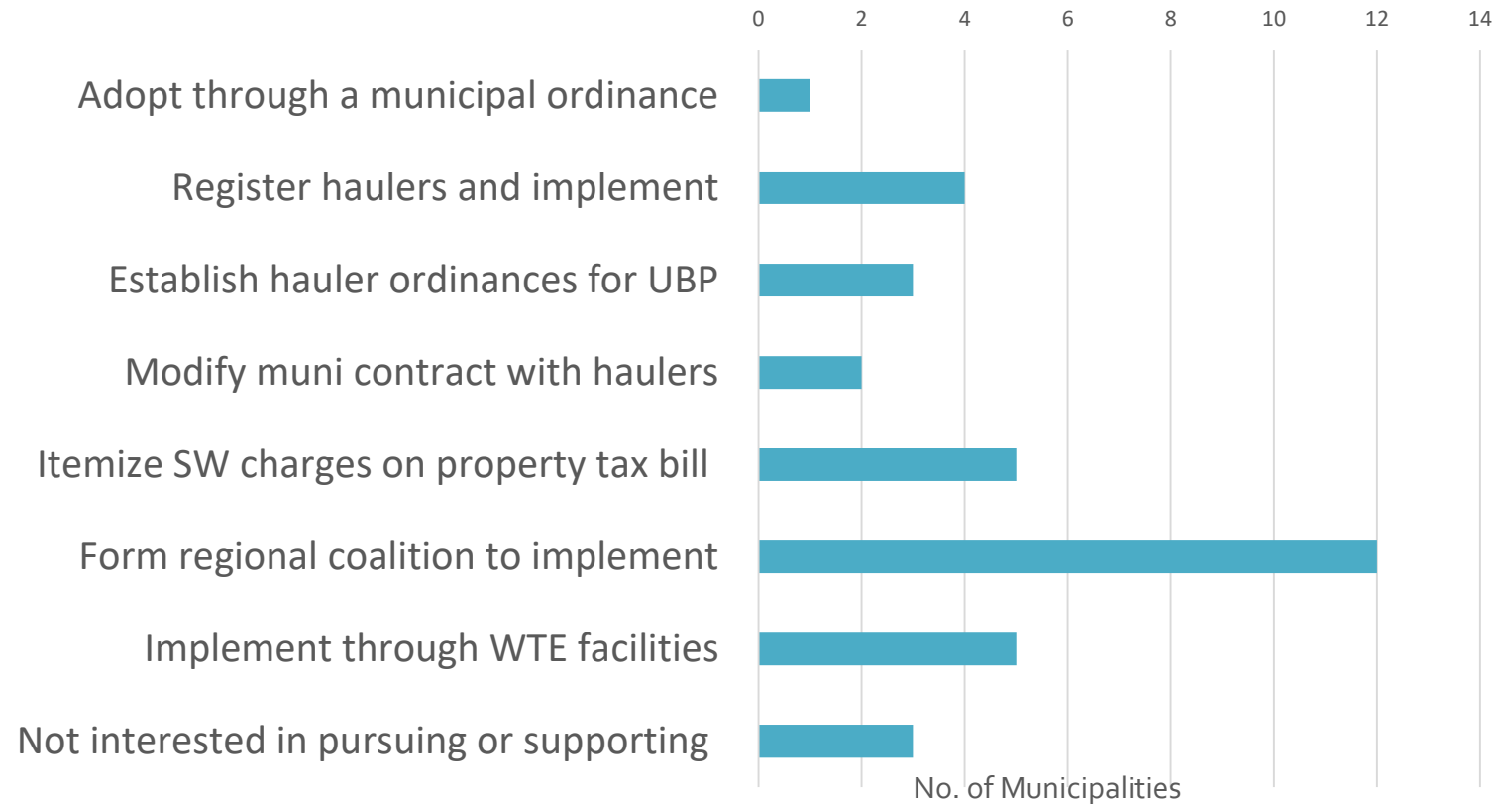
Unit-Based Pricing Roadmap for UBP Adoption

UBP programs shift waste disposal costs to the user just like a utility charges for electricity or water. Residential waste generation is reduced by an average of 44% immediately after implementing UBP programs. In Connecticut this would result in a waste per capita disposal rate of 350-500 pounds compared to the current state average of 740 pounds per capita. Such a decrease would significantly reduce WTE capacity demands in the state. Key steps that can advance Unit-Based Pricing in CT:

- Legislation to require the implementation of UBP program(s) state-wide
- Legislation requiring WTE facilities to implement UBP to qualify for Class 2 RECs
- Municipalities implement regional UBP program(s)
- Municipalities itemize solid waste costs on property tax bills
- Municipalities require haulers to comply with UBP program(s)

Unit-Based Pricing Municipal Actions to Adopt UBP

Actions CCSMM members are interested in pursuing in 2021-2022



Vast majority of Towns want to continue to engage in dialogue with other CCSMM members on developing and supporting UBP programs

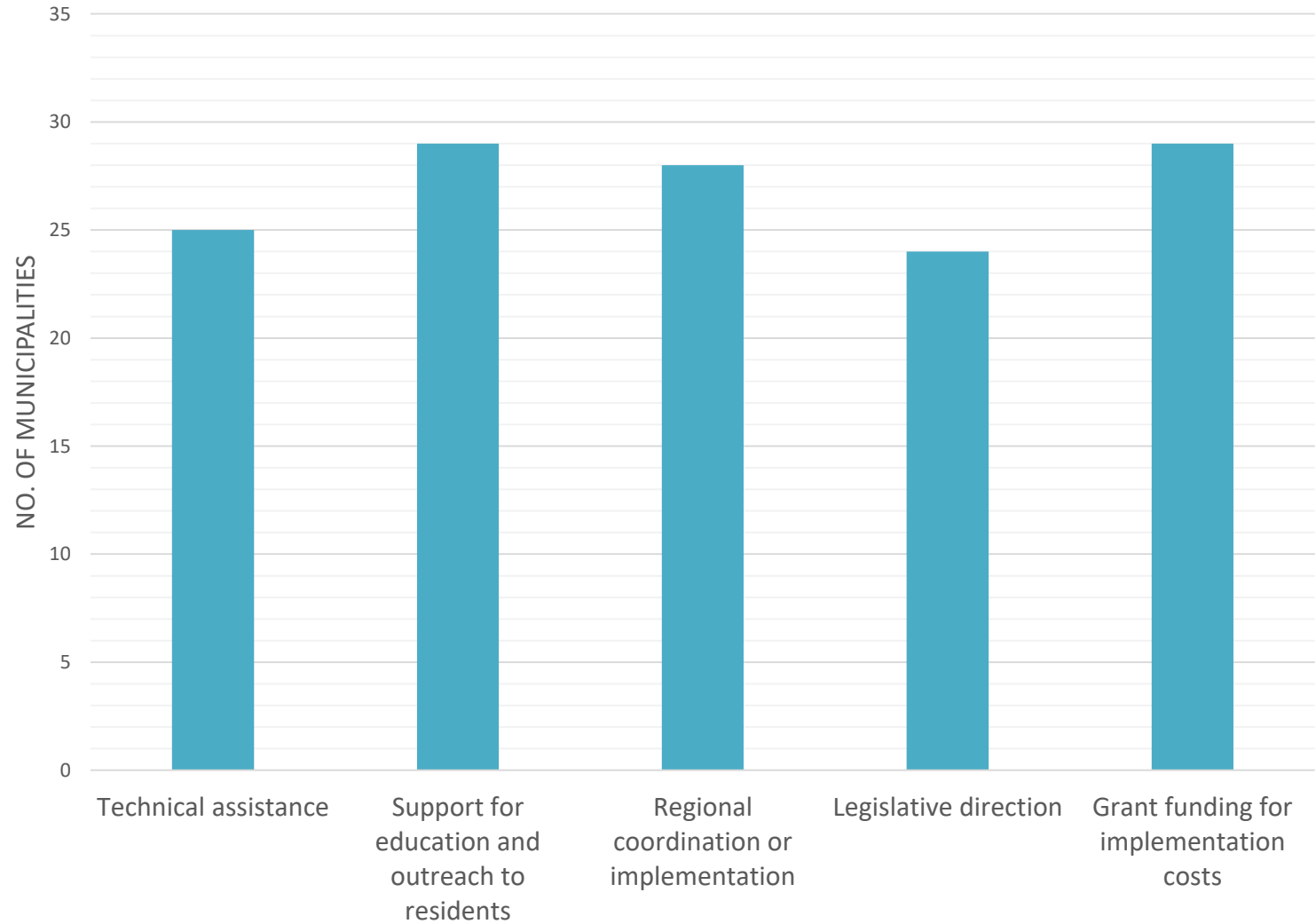
Unit-Based Pricing Possible Legislative Action in 2021

A majority of Towns would like to see a legislative mandate

- “We believe this is something best achieved on a statewide basis rather than a town by town patchwork. We are very supportive of the idea in principle and would actively support legislation.”
- “Programs such as UBP and EPR are demonstrably effective at reducing overall MSW and lowering cost. There is no reason why these programs would not also work in Connecticut.”
- “...we should focus on two areas, UBP and food waste composting.”
- “With implementation of these two programs [UBP & food waste composting] we could then focus on what our future waste disposal options would look like, i.e: new technologies going forward, etc. ”

Unit-Based Pricing Secure Needed Support for UBP in 2021

Municipal Needs for UBP Implementation



Increase Recycling Commitments to Action

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Increasing Recycling Roadmap for Increasing Recycling

Reduce, reuse and recycle are the first steps to creating a sustainable materials management system. Looking to the future of sustainable materials management, it is important to consider opportunities for additional programs and collection services to continue to divert materials that are recyclable from out of state landfills, incineration and WTE facilities. Ensuring high quality recyclable materials will lead to the development regional markets for the materials' reuse and recycling.

1. Source reduction – Legislative/Municipal:
 - a. Ban PFAS-containing food service ware
 - b. Ban single-use plastics and expanded polystyrene
 - c. Right-to-repair

2. Reuse
 - a. Establish Swap-shops at Town transfer stations
 - b. Establish convenient Textiles collections/drop-offs
 - c. Require/incentivize reuse/refill containers in retail sector

Increasing Recycling Roadmap for Increasing Recycling

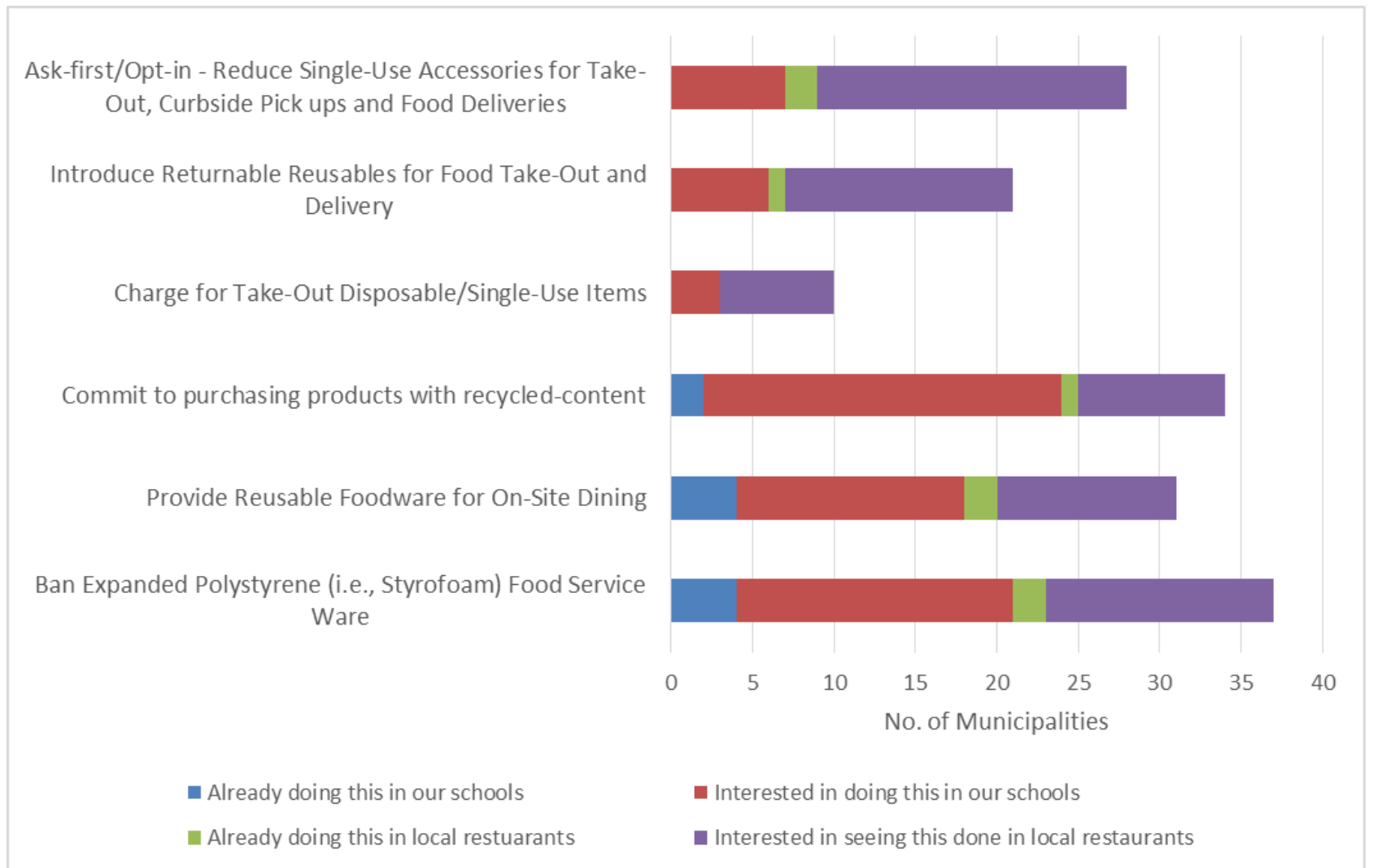
3. Recycling and Diversion – Legislative/Municipal:
 - a. Modernize Connecticut’s Bottle Bill to include additional beverage containers and types
 - b. Establish convenient Plastic Bags/Plastic Film “Return to Retail” Program – revise “CT bag tax” law
 - c. Mandate separate glass collection
 - d. Adopt Deconstruction and reuse of building materials ordinances
 - e. Recycled Content standards for CT consumer goods
 - f. Retain and/or share Recycling Coordinators to educate residents and establish and oversee sustainable materials management efforts
 - g. Establish school programs regarding sustainable materials management e.g. composting, recycling, zero waste

CCSMM Potential Legislation

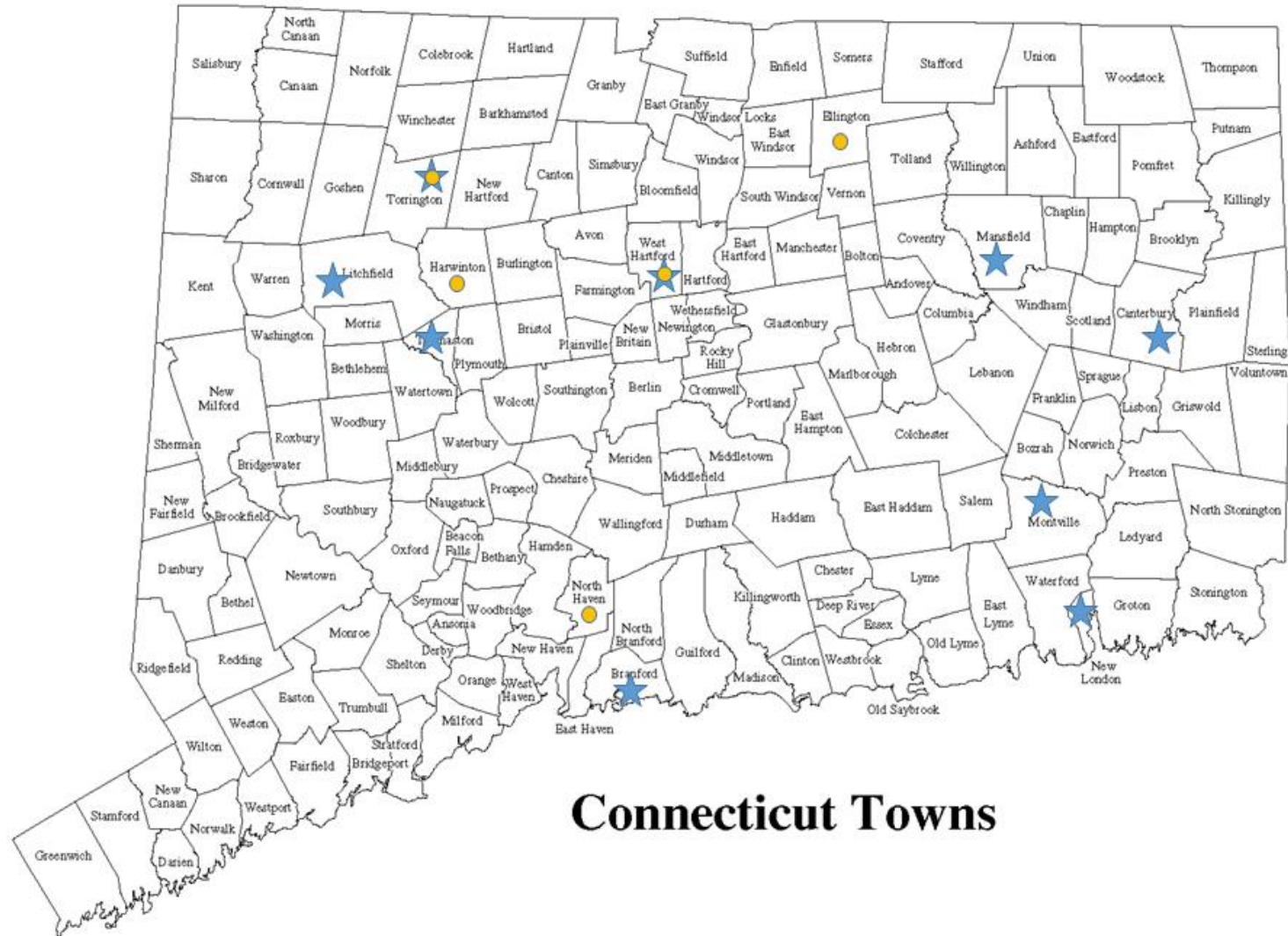
<i>Support for Future Legislation</i>	
Modernize the Bottle Bill - (Improvements could include expanding to include glass, nips, and other containers; increasing the deposit, updating handling fees).	27
Establish minimum recycled-content standards (Requiring that products be made from a certain percentage of recyclables will boost markets for recycling commodities, and lower municipal recycling costs over time)	22
Ban Food Service ware with PFAS from being sold in CT (to prevent packaging that has PFAS used for food; PFAS are a class of long-lived contaminants that can pose risks to human health. NY recently enacted a ban on food service ware with PFAS)	21
Enact a Right to Repair requirement (to ensure consumers have access to parts and manuals to repair certain products, especially electronics and automotive information technology)	17

Municipalities' Food-sector Programs

Increasing Recycling Food Sector Programs *Question 19.*



Increasing Recycling Sharing Resources



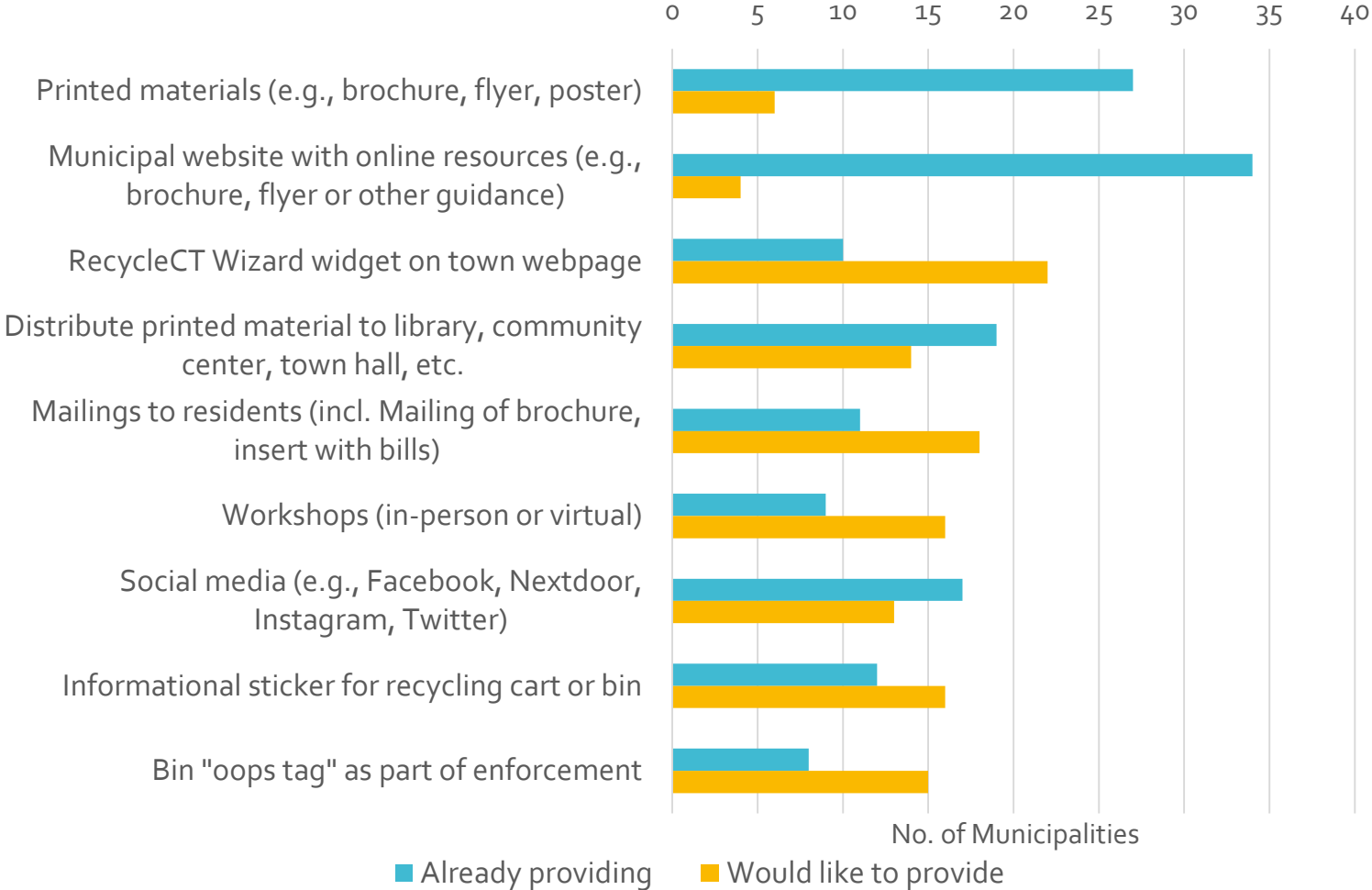
Connecticut Towns

- 9 ★ My municipality has a permitted municipal transfer station and would be interested in partnering with another municipality to share it
- 5 ● My municipality is seeking another municipality that would be willing to share their permitted transfer station

Increasing Recycling Education & Outreach

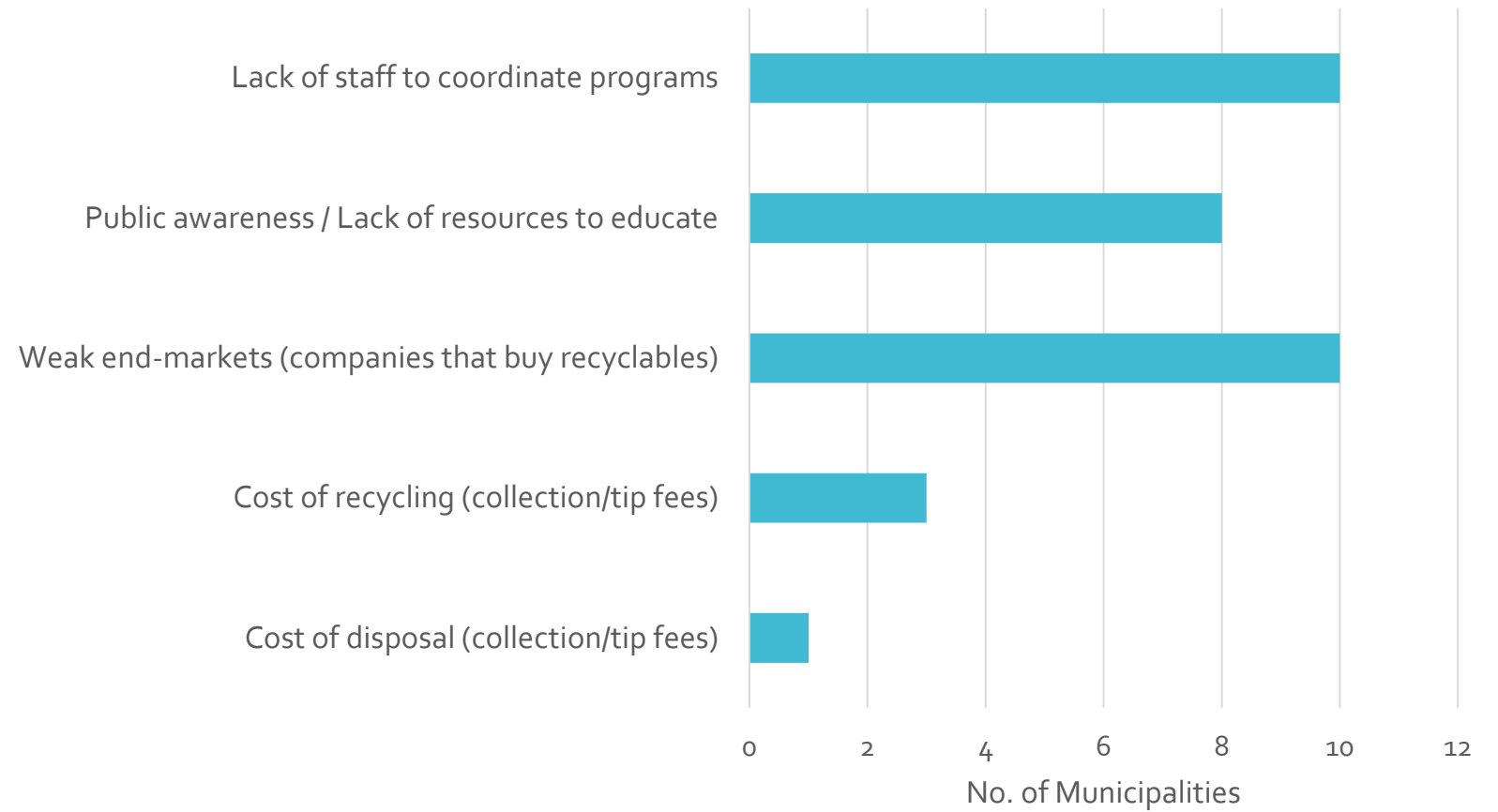
Question 22.

Municipal Efforts



Increasing Recycling Barriers to Increasing Recycling

Barriers to increasing recycling



Increasing Recycling DEEP Assistance

- How can DEEP better assist your municipality in increasing source reduction, reuse, and recycling efforts?
 - State-wide promotion
 - State-wide educational resources
 - Printed materials for local distribution
 - Support local enforcement of collectors/haulers requirements
 - Provide guidance on how to create a local enforcement program

Increasing Recycling Funding Assistance

- Municipal grants
 - Education, promotion, printing or other materials
 - Start-up funds for special projects (organics collection, swap shops, textile collection, events)
 - Revenue credits to municipalities, distributed based on percentage reduction in per capita disposal, year-over-year
 - Staffing for recycling promotion at Schools and at Town level
 - Capital infrastructure to modernize transfer station, collection vehicles
 - Municipal or Regional Recycling coordinators, start-up costs for the position
- Additional Comments
 - Funding for backyard composters & expansion of recycling programs at transfer stations
 - Long-term support and funding for Recycling Coordinators
 - Technical assistance in establishing composting and recycling programs
 - More public outreach through media
 - The best way to accomplish our goals is to focus on two areas, UBP and establishing food composting programs statewide.
 - Identify, Stabilize and expand markets for recyclable materials
 - Any fees charged need to be kept for recycling and not raided like clean energy funding was.

Increasing Recycling Funding Assistance

Inform CCSMM Menu Options



Based on Sustainable CT experience, we offer the following comments on CCSMM menu options:

- Encourage muni use of Sustainable CT [worksheet](#) (developed by Sustainable CT, DEEP and stakeholders) to calculate residential solid waste generated per capita
- Explore opportunities to share information with muni or district health department to balance food scrap recovery goals with public health concerns
- Encourage municipalities to take scalable steps toward the implementation of unit-based pricing, including
 - Build a SMART Task Force or use muni Sustainability Team to facilitate SMART program implementation, including completion of a [SMART Task Force Worksheet](#) (developed by Sustainable CT and DEEP)
 - Conduct research, analysis, and internal education regarding SMART program adoption, including completion of a [SMART program worksheet](#) (developed by Sustainable CT and DEEP)
- Use Sustainable CT clarifying guidance to expand on guidance to use linear price structure for SMART

[SustainableCT Community Match Fund](#) provides Municipalities with funds to assist in sustainable materials management efforts

Funding Sustainable Materials Management

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Funding Sustainable Materials Management Solid Waste Assessment

End the Landfill Loophole in the Solid Waste Assessment

“The Solid Waste Assessment (SWA) (CGS Sec. 22a-232) assesses a fee of \$1.50 on each ton of waste processed at a Waste-to-Energy facility (currently about 2 million tons/year), with the proceeds deposited in the General Fund. The SWA exempts from this fee any waste that is disposed of at landfills, including MSW and Construction & Demolition waste (currently about 1.4 million tons/year). Expanding the SWA to apply to apply the \$1.50/ton fee equitably to *all* solid waste transferred for disposal (Waste to Energy, landfill and Incineration) would generate between \$1.5 and \$2 million tons/year in additional revenue. Some or all of this revenue could be allocated to DEEP and municipalities to fund sustainable materials management efforts.”

CCSMM Next Steps Funding Opportunities

- Municipalities would want grants to provide
 - Education, promotion, printing or other materials
 - To support Food scrap/Organics collection and diversion program implementations.
 - Start-up funds for special projects (organics collection, swap shops, textile collection, events)
 - Revenue credits to municipalities, distributed based on percentage reduction in per capita disposal, year-over-year
 - Staffing for recycling promotion at Schools and at Town level
 - Capital infrastructure to modernize transfer station, collection vehicles
 - Municipal or Regional Recycling coordinators, start-up costs for the position

Next Steps for CCSMM

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CCSMM Future Steps - Partnerships

- Engage and partner with
 - CT Product Stewardship Council - EPR
 - Councils of Government (COG) - Food Scrap / Organics
 - CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM) - UBP
 - SustainableCT
 - CT Council of Small Towns (COST) - UBP
 - Regional waste authority - UBP, Food Scrap / Organics

CCSMM Future Steps Parking Lot

- Municipalities may join at any time – email James.Albis@ct.gov
- Final CCSMM Document to be available online by January 31, 2021
- Full CCSMM Meetings on a Quarterly basis
 - Next Full CCSMM meeting March/April 2021
 - Opportunity for updates on legislative, other actions
 - Continued focus on equity and environmental justice

CCSMM Next Steps Take-Aways

- *Programs such as UBP and EPR are demonstrably effective at reducing overall MSW and lowering cost. There is no reason why these programs would not also work in Connecticut.*
- *Passing State Legislation that requires towns to PAYT, food waste diversion especially from commercial properties and schools, increase organics composting at the home, increase recycling pick-up to 1 X week, garbage to every other week.*
- *Single stream recycling needs to be rethought for the state. Separated recycling should be considered.*
- *More AD facilities are needed to allow for a more robust food scrap program in the state.*
- *Focus on two areas, UBP and food waste ...With implementation of these two programs we could then focus on what our future waste disposal options would look like, i.e.: new technologies going forward, etc. ... Many of the issues discussed have been the same issues we have discussed for decades*
- *Municipal and Public Education on these subjects. Implementation with no or minimal cost to municipalities and to tax payers*
- *Learning from other states and municipalities; more education on programs and pilots for municipal staff and waste commission members*

CCSMM Next Steps Take-Aways

Question 29.

- *The group also properly acknowledged the challenges faced by municipalities regarding affordable collection and disposal costs.*
- *To address the issue of the MIRA Hartford facility and further support of trash to energy which is far superior to landfills wherever they may reside.*
- *Municipal and Public Education on these subjects. Implementation with no or minimal cost to municipalities and to tax payers*
- *Promote trash to energy*
- *UBP is our biggest issue. The next steps are simply to keep the dialogue open that is currently taking place to help us get to the next step.*
- *Some of these initiatives should be state wide mandates and supported by the State government.*
- *Normally I think a decentralized approach is best but I am concerned that this CCSMM is bubbling up from the towns rather than a comprehensive state program such as WTE was originally construed.*
- *Funding. The economics and timing of the CCSMM proposals still need to be fleshed out in order for them to be viable and legislative buy-in/state mandates are going to be necessary.*
- *Biggest obstacles are political; lack of urgency on the part of local and state legislators on this issue*

CCSMM Resources

Useful Links:

- [CCSMM Website](#)
- [Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy](#)
- [Municipal Recycling Resource Center](#)
- [Municipal Recycling Coordinators Newsletters](#)
- [SWAC](#)
- [SustainableCT](#)
- [RecycleCT](#)
- [Council of Small Towns](#)
- [Connecticut Conference of Municipalities](#)
- [Connecticut Product Stewardship Council](#)

Thank you CCSMM Members

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