

Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management Meeting

Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2020 Increase Recycling Working Group Meeting

Present: See Attachment A
Next meeting: October 27, 2020, 1:00pm
Prepared by: Elizabeth Moore, DEEP

I. Call to Order and Announcements

Co-chairs Laura Francis, First Selectman, Town of Durham and Ben Florsheim, Mayor, City of Middletown provided welcoming remarks, introductions, housekeeping rules and an overview of the Increase Recycling Working Group as part of the CCSMM initiative process.

The chairs encouraged responses to the Public Engagement Questions-Request for Comment and Solutions located on the CCSMM webpage, and requested that responses be emailed to DEEP.RecyclingProgram@ct.gov.

II. Committee Reports

The co-chairs stated that the intent of the working group to share best practices and work together collaboratively to increase recycling and reuse activities around the state. They also shared that the focus of the meeting was to discuss what resources are already available for municipalities and what local groups can be partnered with to create necessary sustainable materials management system improvements at both the municipal and state-wide levels.

Laura Francis noted that the final CCSMM report will include “boxed up,” low cost or no cost solutions discussed in these working group meetings.

A panel composed of the following representatives presented their municipal experience and best management practices on the following subjects:

Kim O’Rourke, Recycling Coordinator, City of Middletown presented on Education and Outreach to Increase Waste Diversion and Recycling

Carolyn Bayne, Darien Advisory Committee on Sustainability presented on Darien’s Food Scrap Recycling Program

Brian Bartram, Manager Salisbury/ Sharon Transfer Station presented on the New Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station and Swap Shop

III. Roundtable

There was opportunity for Q&A of the panelists. Members were interested in barriers to implementing successful film collection programs in municipalities and the quantity of plastic film in our waste stream. Other questions focused on best practices for swap shops, including how to design and monitor those spaces.

The co-chairs shared a list of topics for upcoming meetings and discussion. Municipal members discussed reuse and recycling options for textiles, furniture/ bulky waste and electronics. Some suggested options for reuse included buy-sell pages, reuse markets, swap shops, repair-cafes, and Habitat for Humanity. COVID-19 impacts on various recycling programs were noted. Members also discussed options for electronics reuse in swap shops and supporting Right to Repair legislation.

Other discussion included next steps, including a reiterated request from the co-chairs for comments, ideas and suggested topics for coming meetings.

IV. Public Comment

Members of the public were asked to use the “chat” feature to indicate if they wanted to make a comment or send comments to DEEP.RecyclingProgram@ct.gov.

Myra Klockenbrink, Greenwich noted interest in anaerobic digester programs for food scraps with private partners in addition to the programs currently in place at transfer stations, composting/ leaf programs at transfer stations, and curbside pickup for food scraps.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:02pm

Attachment A.

N.B. that this list is a partial list due to a technical difficulty encountered with the ZOOM application whereby preliminary meetings were automatically purged from ZOOM before DEEP could download the files. ZOOM has a default setting that automatically purges older meetings from the list of "Previous meetings." Since DEEP became aware of the ZOOM setting, all meeting attendees' list have been captured and retained.

Laura Francis, First Selectman, Durham
Ben Florsheim, Mayor, Middletown
Chris Nelson, CT DEEP
Sherill Baldwin, CT DEEP
Chelsey Hahn, CT DEEP
Elizabeth Moore, CT DEEP
Carey Hurlburt, CT DEEP
Kim O'Rourke, Middletown
Carolyn Bayne, Darien
Brian Bartram, Salisbury/ Sharon
Jenifer Heaton-Jones, HRRRA
Myra Klockenbrink
Janice Ehle/Meyer