

## Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management Meeting

### Meeting Minutes - Textile Reuse and Recycling

October 17, 2023 1:00pm via ZOOM

Present:	See Attachment A
Next meeting:	TBD
Prepared by:	Chelsey Hahn, DEEP

#### I. Call to Order and Announcements

The meeting started at 1:02 PM.

Denise Raap, First Selectman Litchfield, cochair of the IRR WG, provided welcoming remarks.

#### II. Committee Reports

Emma MacDonald, CT DEEP, gave a brief overview the CCSMM and the IRR working group.

Emma presented on the background of textile waste globally and discussed fast fashion.

Emma discussed the environmental impacts of textile overconsumption as well as where the textile waste comes from. Emma also discussed options for reuse, repair and recycling of textiles.

Luciana Granstrand, CT DEEP, discussed municipal options for encouraging residents to divert clothing and other textiles in their town. Luciana covered the municipal data that DEEP receives on textiles.

Ryan Burns, Legal Program Director, Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection, provided an overview of the laws around textile collection bins and what must be included on the bins, including CGS section 21a-430.

Rich Borer, President, Goodwill of Southern New England, discussed how goodwill tries to help communities to extend the life of materials across the country through the resale of donations and the company's efforts to support a circular economy. There were many questions for Rich, these questions spanned such topics as percentage of donations that end up sold, other ways in which the non-profit reduces waste.

Cori Cea-Curry, CT Recycling Development Coordinator, Bay State Textiles provided an overview of Bay State Textiles in CT and where their donations end up and the benefits of their

programs to schools and municipalities and various marketplaces in the world interested in textile resale and reuse.

Eric Stubin, CEO, Trans-Americas Trading Co., covered how Trans-Americas textile recycling collects 5,000 tons annually, and “processes post-consumer textile waste” and how they buy materials from municipalities and other outlets. Eric covered the national textile waste figures as well as discussed post-consumer textile waste vs excess retail textile waste and how municipalities should support collection programs to reduce the costs of waste management. Eric’s company is in the recycling textile industry which is the next step down in how to manage this waste stream after resale of still-usable items. Eric also shared on EPR programs internationally.

### **III. Roundtable and Public Comments**

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

Following presentations, attendees shared comments and questions.

Attendees asked questions about data and how much tonnage of textiles are collected and diverted. Attendees also asked about what kind of shoes and other “textile adjacent” items can be bailed with clothing. There was a question from a recycling coordinator about how to discuss the issues of exporting overconsumption.

Additional question topics included: If municipalities already have programs with organization like Baystate, is there an additional incentive to partner with after-market processors like Transamerica? Are there implications for the almost universal manufacturing process (and demand for) spandex in so many fabrics? Whether there should be state-mandated collection or recycling or EPR for textiles and what if anything is being done at the federal level?

Attendees were wondering if anyone collects blue-wrap from hospitals or used sailing textiles and if you can donate textiles that have cat-urine on them. Additionally, towns were curious if there were infographics available from DEEP about these topics? There were general concerns on the disposal and safety of replacing firefighting textiles and if they have PFAS on them.

A comment that was shared suggested messaging to consumers could help reduce overconsumption.

Another member of the public shared that the UK has many manufacturers making clothing and textiles out of completely natural materials and these may be easier to recycle for reuse.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

Ben Florsheim closed the meeting.

Meeting ended at 2:59 PM.

#### **Attachment A**

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Kaelah	Smith	OAG
Paige	Silva	Town of Redding
Kim	O'Rourke	City of Middletown
Cesar	Zapata	Town of East Hartford
Jennifer	Baum	HRRA
Ben	Florsheim	City of Middletown
Brian	Popovich	USA
Cyril	May	Waterbury Public Works
joy	avallone	Roy & Leroy
Sam	Saunders	Town of Ellington
Liz	Connelly	Capitol Consulting LLC
Josh	Hughes	Capitol Consulting
Moira	Birmingham	Hamden Solid Waste & Recycling Commission
Krishna	Winston	Recycling Commission
Laura	Pointek	DEEP

Lewis	Dubuque	National Waste & Recycling Association
Jeff	Hallowell	Biomass Controls PBC
Christine	O'Neill	Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
Raymond	Drew	City of Torrington
ROBYN	NICHOLS	CRCOG
Tiffany	Carlson	HRRA
Joe	Gresko	City of Bridgeport
Dorothy	Piszczek	Sustainable CT
Inez	Ortiz	Sustainable CT
Sean	Hughes	Hughes & Cronin
Rachel	Schnabel	Town of Manchester, CT
Joe	Canino	Sullivan & LeShane
Joseph	DeNicola	DEEP
Gary	Jones	Printing United Alliance
serge	Iazarev	Green Tree textiles
Tony	Manfre	south windsor
james	desantos	CT Green Bank
Annette	Coste	CT DEEP
Elizabeth	Moore	CT DEEP
Chelsey	Hahn	DEEP
Luciana	Granstrand	CT DEEP
Jamie	Logan	American Cleaning Institute
Sara	Osorio	PRINTING United Alliance
Barry	ONell	Town of Old Saybrook
Cori	Cea-Curry	Bay State Textiles
Hillary	Glass	RSG

Emily	Fox	Town of Trumbull
Jennifer	Heaton-Jones	HRRA
Ethan	Werstler	Rome, Smith, Lutz & Kowalski
Emma	MacDonald	CT DEEP
Katherine	Bruns	West Hartford Public Works
Carolyn	Bayne	Darien Advisory Committee on Sustainability
Jackie	Caceci	Tighe & Bond
Janice	Ehlemeyer	RicerCOG
Megan	Siegel	Town of South Windsor
Tyler	Bowne	Town of Branford
Diane	Lauricella	Norwalk Zero Waste Coalition
Eric	Stubin	TransAmericas
Maureen	Nicholson	Town of Pomfret
Pamela	Roach	SCRCOG
Brian	Bartram	Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station
Lindsay	Crum	Yale Office of Sustainability
Tiffany	Colon	CT DCP
Ryan	Burns	Department of Consumer Protection
Reagan	Kenney	Capitol Consulting
Julie	DesChamps	Waste free greenwich
Denise	Raap	Town of Litchfield
joe	derisi	town of hamden
Alice	Kosowsky	Solid Waste & Recycling Commission of Hamden
Richard	Borer	Goodwill of Southern New England
connie	mendolia	DEEP
Jennifer	Weymouth	CT DEEP

Brenna	Toman	CT DEEP
James	Albis	CT DEEP
Ashley	Zane	CBIA