

# Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2021 CCSMM Organics Infrastructure Initiative Kickoff Meeting via ZOOM

Present: See Attachment A  
Next meeting: TBD  
Prepared by: Elizabeth Moore, DEEP

### I. Call to Order and Announcements

Co-chairs Katie Dykes, DEEP Commissioner and Ron McDaniel, Mayor of Montville provided welcoming remarks, introductions, housekeeping rules and an overview of the CCSMM Organics Infrastructure Initiative process.

### II. Committee Reports

The co-chairs stated the proposed scope and intent of the Initiative is to commit to working together with stakeholders to accomplish the following goals:

- Significantly increase accessible, affordable organics diversion from the MSW stream.
- Facilitate municipal interest in hosting infrastructure.
- Engage with stakeholders on opportunities/efforts to improve the transparency, predictability, and efficiency of DEEP permitting for organics infrastructure.
- Stay informed on legislative proposals that can strengthen organics diversion.

The proposed scope of infrastructure and services that will be addressed/considered in the Initiative include:

- Donation programs
- Processing facilities
  - Commercial-scale anaerobic digestion
  - Commercial compost facilities
  - On-farm anaerobic digestion
  - Animal feed facilities
- Organics collection services
  - Curbside and co-collection services
  - Transfer stations
  - Transfer station drop-off and technical assistance
  - Enforcement for diversion mandates

A panel composed of the following CT DEEP representatives presented on Permitting Support & Plans to Streamline Current Organics Processing Infrastructure and Opportunities.

Robert Isner, Director, Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division, CT DEEP

Edith Pestana, Administrator, Environmental Justice Program, CT DEEP

Camille Fontanella, Client Concierge Team Lead, Office of Planning & Program Development, CT DEEP

Caren Harder, Environmental Compliance Specialist 3, CT DEEP

A panel composed of the following developer representatives responded to questions on organics processing facilities.

Rashi Akki, Founder and CEO, AgGRID Energy

Jorge Montezuma, Director of Engineering, Atlas Organics

Jonathan Fife, Smart Feed Tech Board Member, Smart Feed Tech

Brian Paganini, Vice President, Quantum Biopower

A panel composed of the following hauler representatives responded to questions on organics diversion services.

Alexander Williams, Owner & Director of Operations, Blue Earth Compost

Nick Skeadas, Community Composter, Curbside Compost

Eric Fredericksen, Director, Operations, USA Hauling & Recycling

Ben Divivo, Customer Relationship Manager, Willimantic Waste

A panel composed of the following incentives and procurement representatives presented on strategies for scaling up organics infrastructure and services.

Jorge Montezuma, Director of Engineering, Atlas Organics

Bert Hunter, Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, CT Green Bank

Courtney Hendricson, Vice President of Partnerships, AdvanceCT

Eric Annes, Supervising Environmental Analyst, CT DEEP

### **III. Roundtable**

Attendees were interested in permitting logistics, especially when working in collaboration with multiple municipalities to attract food waste processors for local collection and developing common collection points/ sites which might be less expensive for single municipalities. Members were also interested in how implementing these sites might allow municipalities to work with food waste collectors to be able to collect efficiently and cost effectively.

The group was interested in opportunities to matchmake municipalities and locations with developers as well as examples of requests for proposals (RFPs) that have worked to effectively develop infrastructure in other locations. Panelists discussed opportunities to learn from Massachusetts and lean on transportation partners. The group also discussed needs for secure feedstocks and financing as well as policies that are designed to target large generators of feedstock in order to scale up project development.

The discussion then focused on the types of sectors haulers may be interested in servicing as well as opportunities for municipalities and regional groups to help educate residents about food scrap collection. Panelists suggested the Massachusetts model for hauling and opportunities for co-collection as well as starting with transfer station collection or drop-off sites before rolling out additional home collection opportunities.

When discussing incentives and procurement, attendees were interested in gaps in the current incentives program for developing infrastructure. Discussion focused on statewide opportunities as well as

encouraging municipalities to exercise their own capacity for attracting infrastructure. Regional strategies for collection and diversion were discussed as preferable to single municipalities. The group also discussed additional opportunities to incentivize development, including virtual net metering and energy benefits as well as the LREC program and opportunities to coordinate procurement with municipalities. Panelists noted the need to make sure that projects are going to continue to be successful even without these incentives as well as reiterating the most important drivers of development are available capital and feedstocks. The group discussed opportunities to create more predictability around feedstocks and the feasibility of optimizing renewable natural gas through transportation options.

Commissioner Dykes reiterated that this developing infrastructure conversation will be an ongoing dialogue and that municipalities are still encouraged to join the CCSMM initiative. Attendees were also invited to respond to a survey to be sent following the meeting with an opportunity to make additional public comment. Questions and answers recorded in the chat will also be sent to attendees with additional responses from panelists where appropriate.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

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

Bud McAllister, Partners in Healthy Communities, suggested a whole systems approach to increasing infrastructure, including planning and development, transportation, water and wastewater, renewable energy, recycling, urban farming and forestry industries. Bud McAllister advocated for public-private partnerships and cooperation rather than competition as well as the opportunity for public banking and a \$100 million revolving fund.

#### **V. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.

Appendix A.

Abigail Ellert
Alex Williams
Ben Devivo
Bert Hunter
BethanyMcWade
Betsey Wingfield
Brian Paganini
Camille Fontanella
Caren Harder
Chelsey Hahn
Courtney Hendricson
Chris Nelson
Coryanne Mansell
Edith Pestana
Elly Moore
Eric Annes
Eric Fredericksen
Gabrielle Frigon
Jon Fife
Jorge Montezuma
Joe Wettemann
Kaitlyn Cyr
Katie Dykes
Kevin Barrett
Laura Francis-Durham
Lidia Howard
Nick Skeadas
Nicole Lugli
Peggy Diaz
Rashi Akki
Ron McDaniel
Robert Isner
Sherill Baldwin
Yvonne Bolton
Denise Raap
Abigail Ellert
Aaron Budris

Ali Ghiorse
Amy Richardson
AnneMarie Hunter
Tony Manfre
April Regan
Rebecca Bunnell
Bethany McWade
Howard Brown
Caleb Bradford
Christopher Antonacci
Shari Cantor
carl fortuna
Carol Bufithis
Cheryl Cappiali
Carolyn Bayne
Chuck Litty
Courtney Lindberg
Connie Mendolia
David Aldridge
Daniel Martens
David McKeegan
Diana McCarthy
David Bodendorf
Deb Denfeld
Debra Darby
Delia Fey
Diane Lauricella
Domingo Medina
Doris Johnson
Donald Stein
Amy Kaneko
Eylul Wintermeyer
Fadwa Najamy
Chris Lippke
Jean Speck
Francis Brady
Gary Catalano
Gene DeJoannis
Greg McCarron
Greg Williams
Matt Hoey
Jim Hyde

Jennifer Pendley
Joe Colello
Joe DeRisi
John DiCarlo
Janice Ehlemeyer
Jennifer Heaton-Jones
Jay Hubelbank
Jose Manuel Naharro Castrillo
John Pizzimenti
John Jolls
Joe Wettemann
John Phetteplace
Julie Cammarata
Julie Paine-Miller
Justin Williams
Katherine Bruns
kristen brown
Kris Kuhn
Kevin Barrett
Kevin Sullivan
Kim O'Rourke
Karen Weeks
Krishna Winston
Luis de la Parte
Lesley Barewin
Louis Burch
Laura Healey
Lucy Hinckley
Laura Hoydick
Lidia Howard
Lori Smith
lynne bonnett
william malitsky
Maya Loewenberg
Rod McNeil
Mary Isaac
Mike Harder
Kristin Distant
Misty Beyer
cheryl moss
KFSUWI

Mike Urgo
Naomi Boccio
Nick Skeadas
nicole Iugli
Dawn Niles
Bud McAllister
Patricia Sesto
Paul Aresta
Pamela Roach
Peggy Diaz
Tyra Penn-Gesek
Janice Plaziak
Jeanine Getz
PETER RATKIEWICH
Patrick Skahill
Patricia Taylor
Paul Collins
Reagan Kenney
Terri Christenson
Robert Ehlers
RAUL GONZALEZ
Ray Harris
Richard Meinert
robin campot
Samuel King
Susan Eastwood
Scott Kalb
Jonathan Secchiaroli
Stacey Leitch
Stacey Ohlmann Leitch
Susan Weisselberg
Tammy Thornton
Terri Cain
Tim DeVivo
Timothy Webb
Vincent Stetson
Virginia Walton - Mansfield (Virginia Walton)
Julie DesChamps
Bill Watkins
Pippa Bell Ader
Amanda Fargo-Johnson

Andrew May
Ashley Muspratt
Ashley Zane
Cynthia Jennings
Barry ONell
Christine Beling
Ben DeVivo
Andrew Tyrell
Brian Sear
Carey Hurlburt
Christian Bratina
Claudette Worth
Connie Manes
Lilian Ruiz
Daniel Mullins
Debbie Angell
David Capacchione
Daria Larson
Diane Lauricella
Frank Petrella
Abe Salorio
Hannah Reichle
Jim Therrien
John Phillips
Josh Hughes
Joseph Toner
Ken Verhelle
Liz Connelly
Linda Kowalski
Lisa Marotta
Mike Martone
Mary Hogue
Megan McCarthy
Matthew Fulda
Mike Calandra
Nate Brown
Peter Ettinger
Rick Dunne
Robert Isner
Raynae Serra
Steve Changaris
Scott Burns



Sharon Lewis
Shubhada Kambli
Lori Martin
Tania Abbatello
Kristin Battisoni
Thomas Swarr
Tracy Chinnici