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Unit-Based Pricing Working Group Meeting
November 23, 2020
9am – 11:30am



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Unit-Based Pricing Working Group

- Welcome & Introductions, Co-chairs:

Katie Dykes, DEEP Commissioner

Elinor Carbone, Mayor of Torrington

DEEP Support Staff: Gabrielle Frigon and Jennifer Weymouth



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Unit-Based Pricing Working Group

Agenda:

- Review and Member Discussion re: Implementation Options
- Public Comments
- Next Steps and Schedule



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Unit-Based Pricing Working Group

CCSMM (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-CCSMM>)

- Connecticut is looking to the future of waste reduction and sustainable materials management. DEEP and many municipalities from across the state are joining to form the **Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM)** and explore ways to reduce the amount of waste that is generated in our state, improve reuse, recycling, organics diversion, and other innovative solutions.
- CCSMM is looking to the future to find preferred ways to reduce and manage the amount of waste produced in Connecticut that provide system reliability, environmental sustainability, and fiscal predictability. A full list of the participating jurisdictions is included on the web site and will be updated as more jurisdictions sign on over time.



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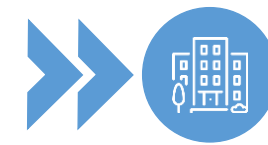
Unit-Based Pricing Working Group

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

Today's Discussion – Implementation Options

1	Traditional Pathway
2	Regional Pathway
4	WTE Pathway
4	Statewide Legislation
5	Program Logistics
6	Program Control



Municipalities individually adopt Unit Based Pricing (UBP) systems with or without waste standard or UBP legislation.

+ Strengths & Opportunities

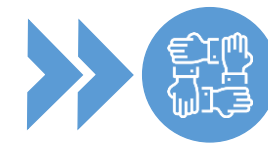
- Enables municipalities to choose the type of UBP program and rate structure that they want
- Legislation would ease the burden municipal officials

- Weaknesses & Threats

- Is time-consuming and must be carried out individually in each of 169 cities and towns
- Is easily derailed by local political considerations
- General lack of waste expertise in decision making process
- Haulers are opposed to change in their business
- Difficult to expand to multi-family and commercial sectors
- Co-collection of organics more challenging

Would work best if coupled with UBP or waste standard legislation to ease the burden on municipal officials

Regional Led Pathway - Overview



Regional government coalitions (10 COGs, 8 SWPGs) adopt SMART systems for their members:

- Each could COG and SWPG creates its own program and decides if participation voluntary or mandatory.
- Revenues from the sale of UBP bags, or cart fees would flow to the COGs and/or SWPGs (see following slide)
- Each COG/SWPG could use those funds to pay the tip fees (waste, recycling, digestion) for members who participate in the SMART program.
- Co-Collection could be added in with UBP bags + Commercial and multifamily could be added with UBP Bags

+ Strengths & Opportunities

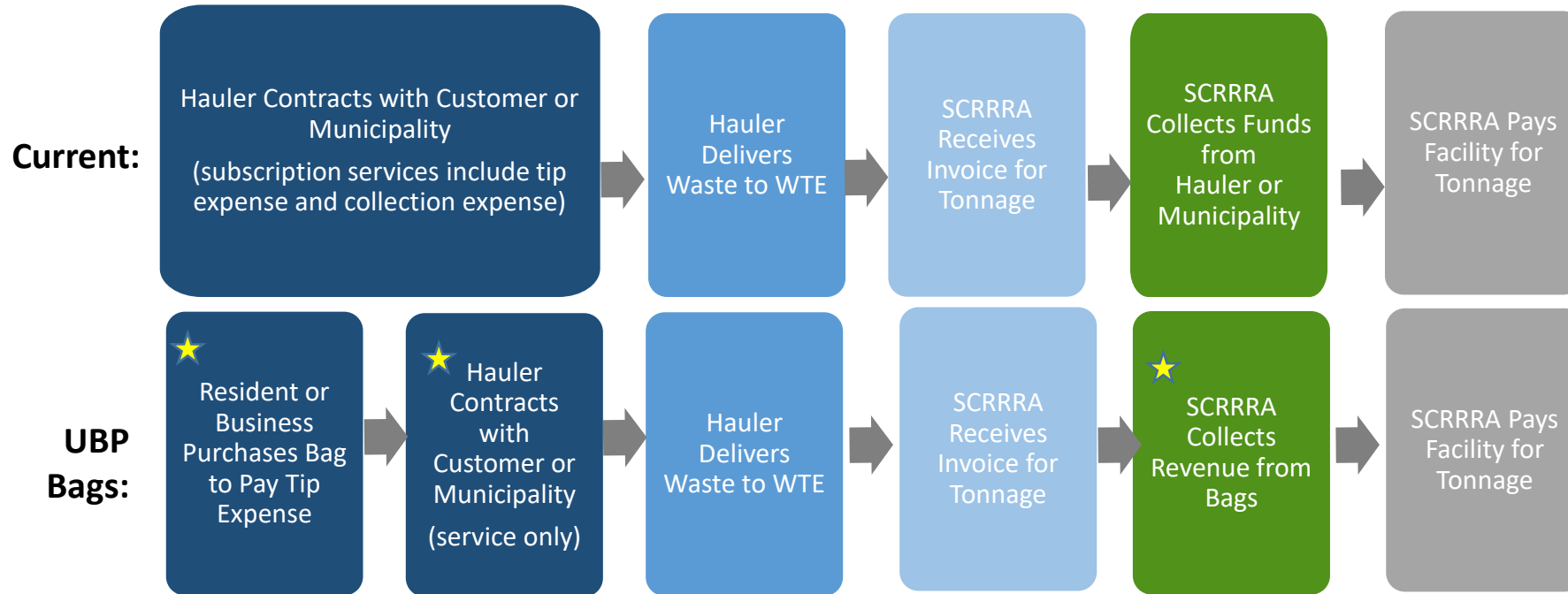
- Could provide an optimized, uniform solution for a region, group or authority – Save time and work for municipal officials
- Could make UBP adoption easier for municipalities (especially if coupled with legislation)
- Would eliminate tip fees for municipalities and haulers and create a revenue stream for the regional group
- Legislation would ease the burden municipal officials

Weaknesses & Threats

- Would require close coordination among WTE and recycling facilities and municipalities regarding enforcement, dealing with mixed (commercial and residential) loads, etc.
- Variation at the COG and SWPG-level could result in deeply variable results across the State
- Would still require each municipality to pass SMART individually, though it could be easier
- Haulers are opposed to change in their business. Carts would require audits and could be invasive. Carts might also require franchising.
- A cart program would limit co-collection expansion to commercial and multi-family sector⁸

Regional Led Pathway - Bags

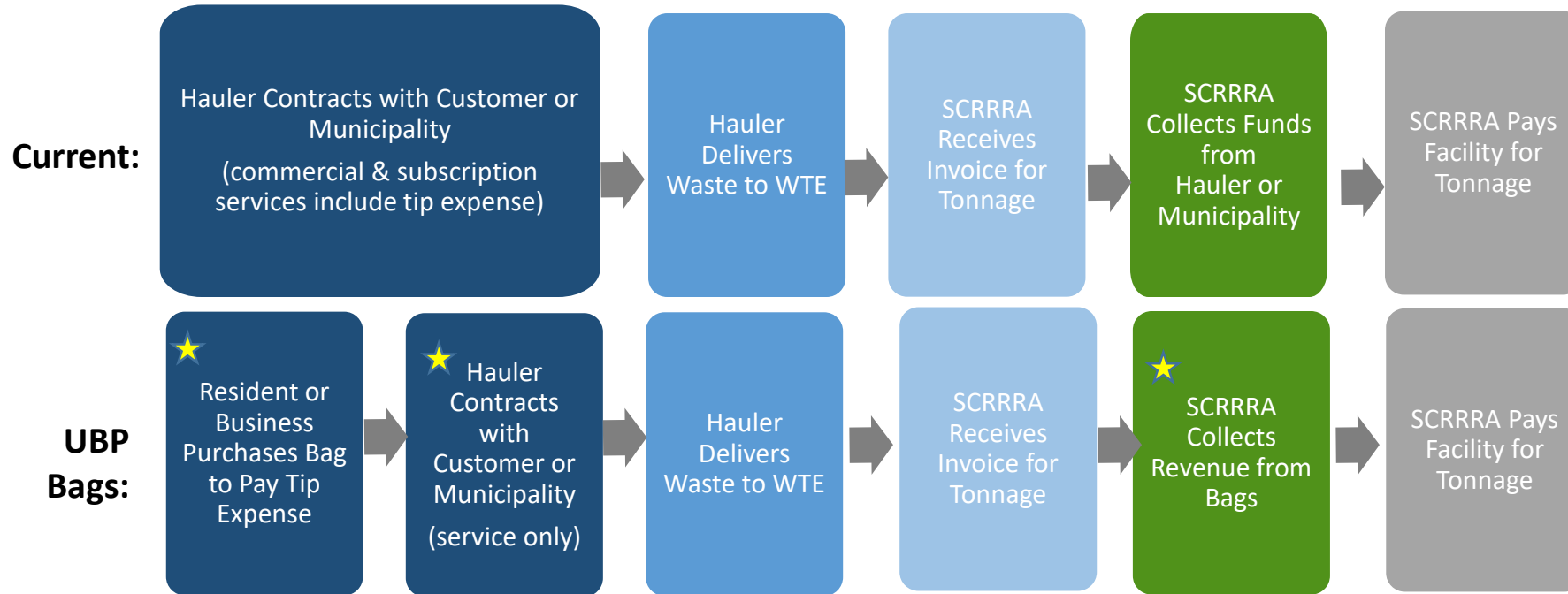
SCRRRA Example (Current vs. UBP)



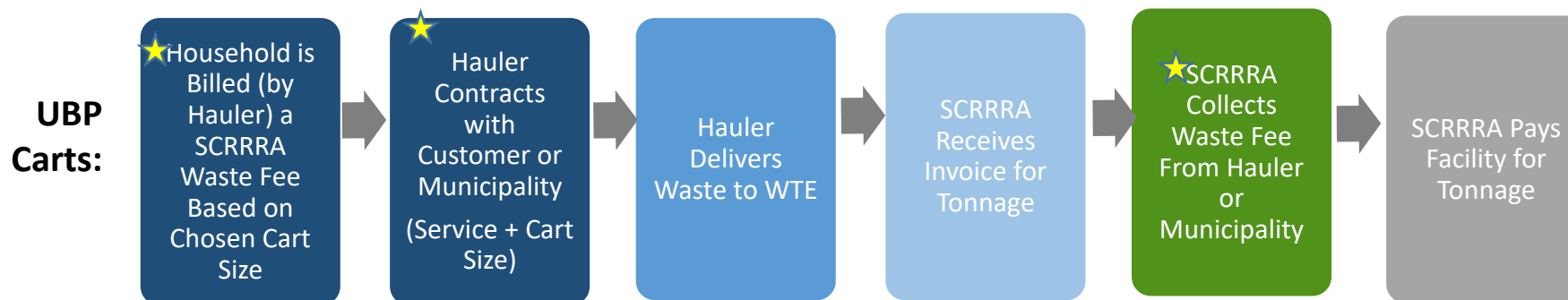
Bag system easily accommodates co-collection of food and will work for multi-family and commercial waste

Regional Led Pathway – Volume based

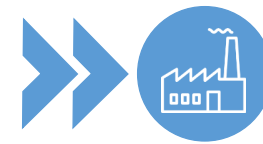
SCRRRA Example (Current vs. UBP)



Bag system easily accommodates co-collection of food and will work for multi-family and commercial waste



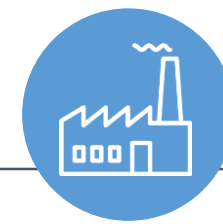
Cart system could be achieved by franchising the region; would not work with commercial or co-collection



WTE's or MIRA could facilitate a UBP program with UBP bags. Municipalities may choose to participate:

- **Municipalities that choose the UBP option:**
 - Require their residents to use the WTE facility's official trash bags
 - Send all residential trash to the WTE in official bags
 - Pay no per-ton tip fees to the WTE facility
 - Revenue goes to facility to cover tip costs – could include recycling and food waste tips – could be done through a rebate.
- **Municipalities that choose not to use the UBP option:**
 - Continue as they do today
 - Would pay higher tip fees

Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facility-Led Pathway

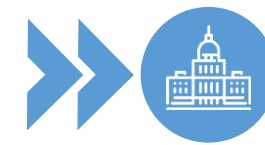


+ Strengths & Opportunities

- Would make SMART adoption politically easier for each municipality,
- Zero disposal costs for municipalities
- Would provide an optimized, uniform solution for a WTE facility's service area
- Would reduce residential waste, leaving more capacity for higher-fee commercial waste
- Steady revenue and guaranteed tip fee
- **Would provide an opportunity to co-collect all residential-food waste**
- Could be scaled to multi-family waste and commercial waste as in Europe
- For subscription hauling, haulers would have no tip fees. In initial months, they would realize a financial benefit; within a short period market pricing would likely lower monthly / quarterly pricing to residents

Weaknesses & Threats

- If optional, would still require each municipality to pass SMART individually, though it would be easier
- Haulers could be opposed to change
- Residents might see this as a way for municipalities to free up tax revenue in a way they oppose



Waste standards legislation would shift from measuring diversion to measuring per capita waste. Standards could “waterfall” over time (i.e. 600lbs by 2023, 450lbs by 2025, etc.) OR other UBP Legislation.

Pros

- Would address the entire state at once (if properly structured)
- Can remove “political heat” from local officials, making it easier for them to adopt SMART
- Can provide DEEP authority to promulgate and amend regulations to achieve the purposes
- Can provide flexibility for local or regional approaches to achieving standards

Cons

- Takes time to craft, debate, and pass
- May not pass the General Assembly
- Carries a risk that any legislation would be improperly structured, reducing its impact
- Waste Standard would require local data submission on an ongoing basis



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- **Review and Member Discussion re: Implementation Options, 9:20am –11:00am**

James Bunchuck – Solid Waste Coordinator, Southold, NY

Bio: James Bunchuck is the Solid Waste Coordinator for the Town of Southold, on the east end of Long Island, a position he has held since 1990. During that time he has overseen the evolution of the Town's waste management system from essentially the open-dumping of waste and minimal recycling into a modern, fully integrated recycling and waste handling system. He is responsible for all of the Town's waste management activities which include waste, recycling, and C&D transfer facilities, Long Island's 3rd largest yard waste compost facility, maintenance of a 34 acre capped landfill, and for implementing the policies and programs needed to manage them. Among those is the first and most extensive UBP system on Long Island, which is credited with saving millions of dollars in disposal costs and achieving one of the highest municipal recycling rates in New York State. Before his work with the Town, Jim was a consultant in Washington, DC where he worked on a variety of environmental programs for the USEPA and US Department of Energy.

Will Cronin – Recycling Coordinator, Middletown, RI

Bio: Will Cronin was hired in September 2007 to implement the Town of Middletown RI's PAYT program after their transfer station closed. He also manages the town's parks and beaches. He has a background in customer service and marketing. Will lives in Portsmouth, RI (also a PAYT community and Waste Zero customer) with his wife and two boys.

BEYOND FAIR: the benefits of "PAYT"

- Reduced waste generation
- Increased recycling
- Cost incentive reduces need for coercive enforcement of recycling laws
- Resource conservation (using virgin materials in manufacturing consumes more energy and other resources than using recycled content)
- Awareness of our own "waste-full" practices
- Pressure from consumers on gov't. and industry to find ways to recycle even *more!*
- Less waste going to landfills
- Simpler municipal budgeting: when the bag is purchased, the cost of shipping the garbage that will go into the bag is automatically paid.
- Allows immediate control over YOUR OWN garbage costs. Tax-based systems allow no such control, and actually encourage wasteful disposal practices.
- Check out epa.gov and dec.ny.gov for more information on "PAYT" in New York State and around the country.

Town Bag Retailers:

MATTITUCK

- Mattituck Marketplace (Key Food)
- Mattituck 7-11
- Handy Pantry
- Orlovski Hardware
- BP Gas

CUTCHOQUE

- Cutchogue Pharmacy
- Cutchogue 7-11
- King Kullen
- Valero Gas

PECONIC

- BP Gas

SOUTHOLD

- Hart's Hardware
- Southold Town Clerk
- Southold Pharmacy
- Rothman's
- Southold Hardware
- Agway
- Southold IGA
- Polywoda Beverage
- Southold 7-11

GREENPORT

- Riverhead Building Supply
- Greenport 7-11
- Mr. Roberts
- Greenport IGA
- Colonial Drugs
- Patriot Gas
- Layyah
- Village Grocery

EAST MARION

- Fork & Anchor

ORIENT

- Orient Country Store



WASTE NOT, PAY NOT!

About Southold's
Pay-As-You-Throw
(PAYT)

"Town Bag" Garbage Disposal Program



More Recycling = Less Garbage - YAY!!

GARBAGE DISPOSAL is a service just like electricity, gas, and water. You pay for only what you use of these utilities. Why should garbage be any different? This brochure explains all about "pay-as-you-throw" and the Town's "yellow bag" garbage system.



SOUTHOLD TOWN DEPARTMENT OF SOLID WASTE

Transfer Station/Recycling Center/Compost Site:
6155 Cox Lane, Cutchogue, NY 11935. • (631) 734-7685

www.southoldtownny.gov

(click on "Departments", then "Waste Management")

NOVEMBER 2016

What is PAY-AS-YOU-THROW?

It is a system that charges residents for trash disposal based on the amount of waste they throw away. State and federal laws require that waste generation be reduced through recycling and that what's left be disposed of safely. Since today's disposal methods are considerably more expensive than open dumps and burn barrels of the past, thousands of communities around the country have turned to PAYT as a fair way to cover these costs. When combined with a broad recycling program PAYT promotes waste reduction and increased recycling. It gives YOU an incentive to control how much trash YOU produce – and how much YOU pay for it.



PAYT in Southold

Southold started “pay-as-you-throw” in 1993 through its “yellow bag” garbage program. (Other variations of PAYT use special ‘trash tags’ or cans, but bags were felt to be easier since people already used bags for their trash). The program was initially chosen as the way to pay for shipping the Town’s garbage out of town for disposal following a court decision requiring closure of old Cutchogue landfill. As it turned out, not only did the program raise the necessary revenue to cover disposal costs, it helped reduce the amount of waste

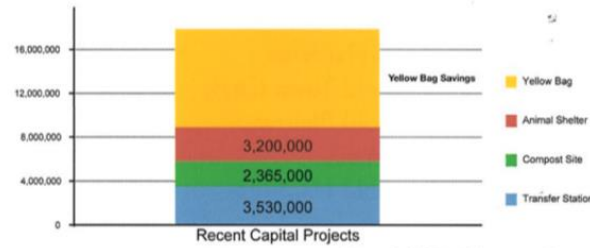


Trailer Loaded With Garbage Leaves Southold

generated and resulted in a MAJOR increase in recycling: Over 70% the first year, bringing Southold into quick compliance with State-mandated recycling goals!

In addition, by the end of 2016, the program will have saved the Town almost \$9,000,000 since it began through avoided disposal costs (i.e., waste that was either recycled or not generated at all) and revenues from the sale of the additional recyclables that were – and continue to be - generated. This is more than the cost of the three largest infrastructure improvements made by the Town over that time: the compost site; the new transfer station; and the new animal shelter.

Stacking Up Savings From “Town Bags” (since 1993)



Source: Solid Waste Management District

The “YELLOW BAGS” ...

are *supplied only by the Town*, and are intended for the disposal of everyday household garbage. (Bulky items or waste that is difficult to bag are paid for at the Transfer Station scales by weight). The bags come in three different sizes and are required both for self-haulers as well as residents who use private carters. They are priced to cover the cost of disposing the waste they contain, and are available at many local retailers as well as at the Cutchogue Transfer Station and Town Hall in Southold.

Town bag retailers are listed on the back of this brochure.

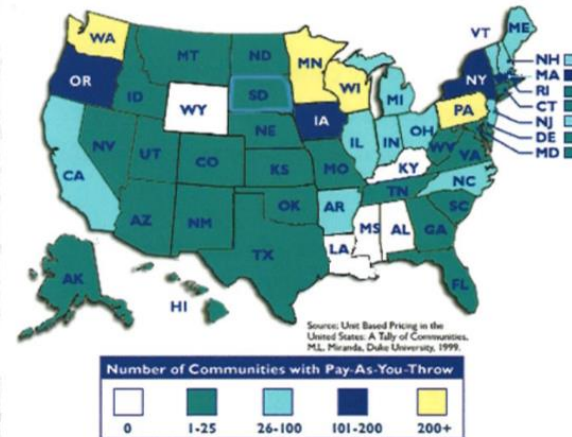


PAYT elsewhere...

You’ve likely seen some form of PAYT in places other than Southold. It is used in Southampton and on Shelter Island, as well as in over 7,000 communities across the US. It is especially common in New England, the Midwest, and the Pacific Northwest. And not just in small towns either: Cities such as Seattle, Kansas City, and Omaha have used it for many years, and New York City has reportedly been looking into the feasibility of it as well.

The success of “Pay-As-You-Throw” in driving down waste and driving up recycling has made it the key strategy in the New York State Solid Waste Management Plan adopted by DEC in 2013, which mandates solid waste planning at the local level throughout the state.

Pay-As-You-Throw Programs by State



Source: US Environmental Protection Agency



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- **Public Comments, 11:00 – 11:15 am**

NOTE: For non-municipal attendees, to submit comments, use the CHAT box or submit them through [the public engagement request for comments and solutions](#)



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- **Next Steps, 11:15 – 11:30 am**
 - Review UBP Menu of Options for CCSMM Final Report



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- **UBP Working Group Meeting Dates:**
 - Wednesday, December 9, 9 – 11:30 am
- **Full CCSMM Coalition Meeting Dates:**
 - December 16, 1 – 3 pm
 - January 5, 1 – 3 pm



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Co-Chairs:

Katie Dykes, CT DEEP Commissioner

Elinor Carbone, Mayor of Torrington

CT DEEP Contacts:

Gabrielle Frigon, Gabrielle.Frigon@ct.gov

Jennifer Weymouth, Jennifer.Weymouth@ct.gov