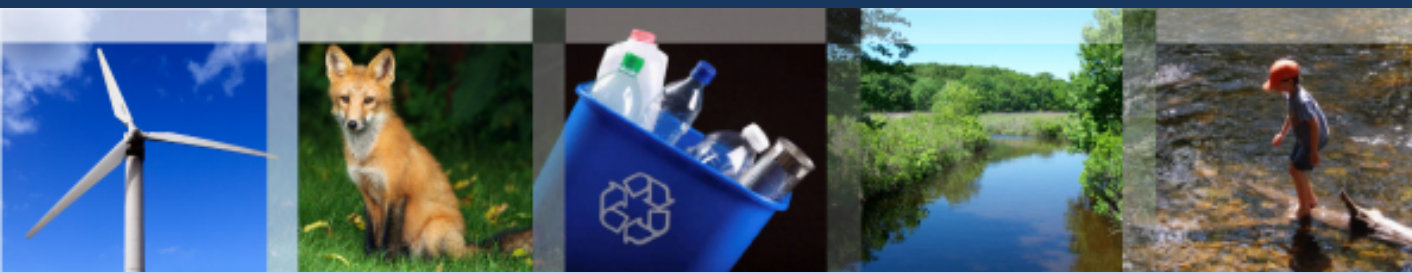




Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



Waste and Recycling Services

- At the start of COVID-related shutdowns, Governor Lamont deemed the waste and recycling industry (collections and processing) to be an essential service (EO 7N).
- DEEP held calls with haulers and processing facilities on multiple occasions to discuss their concerns and challenges and to come up with timely solutions such as relief for load monitoring inspections, conducting facility audits and for prioritized access to the rapid COVID test site in New Haven.



Bottle Bill (1/3)

- Effective March 17, 2020, DEEP temporarily suspended enforcement actions against CT retailers for failing to accept empty beverage containers for redemption.
- The primary purpose of such “enforcement discretion” was to allow grocery stores to better utilize available staffing to stock shelves and to dedicate more time to keeping stores clean. This is a very important point, as DPH epidemiologists found the bottle redemption process was NOT a risk hazard for spread of COVID.
- DEEP communicated with the CT Food Association and other stakeholders throughout the period of enforcement discretion, and worked with these same stakeholders on messaging, signage and restart best management practices for retailers.



Bottle Bill (2/3)

- While a large majority of retailer chose to cease redemption services during this time, CT's independent bottle bill redemption centers continued to operate throughout.
- Limited redemption activities began again on May 20, 2020, during which time limitations were in place for the max # of containers that could be redeemed in one session and hours of operation for container redemption rooms
- Full redemption services were scheduled to resume by June 3, 2020.



Bottle Bill (3/3)

- Though retailers have now largely returned to normal, the new “normal” includes protocols to encourage proper social distancing (e.g., one or two people in the redemption room at any one time, marked spots for customers waiting to redeem containers, instruction to not use shopping carts for transporting and/or sorting empty containers).
- TOMRA will be providing an update on redemption services later in this meeting.



Shopping Bags (1/2)

- Per EO 7N, Section 4, Governor Lamont suspended the \$0.10 fee on single-use plastic bags offered at retailers. This suspension ends on June 30, 2020.
- Retailers should prepare to resume collection of the state-level plastic bag fee on July 1, 2020.
- The use of reusable shopping bags was never prohibited by the state, but some retailers independently decided to either disallow reusable bags in their stores, or required that customers “bag their own” items if using reusable bags.
- According to guidance from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), given the most current scientific information available, reusable bags do not serve as a significant source of infection for COVID-19.



Shopping Bags (2/2)

- DEEP strongly encourages state residents who use reusable bags for shopping to continue to do so.
- Reusable bags can be cleaned between uses through laundering, hand washing, or wiping with disinfecting solution.
- DEEP continues to work with CT DPH and DRS to communicate information on the temporary suspension and resumption of the plastic bag fee during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Masks and latex/nitrile gloves are not recyclable
- These items should be placed in the trash when you are done using them
- These items should not be just dropped on the ground (e.g., in a supermarket parking lot). This creates litter and potential health risks to others.
- To hear more on this topic, the CT Recyclers Coalition (CRC) is hosting a webinar on this topic on Thurs 6/25 at 10am.

