Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Bottle Bill Updates
&
Facility Operator Certification Process

SWAC - October 26, 2021
Chris Nelson, CT DEEP

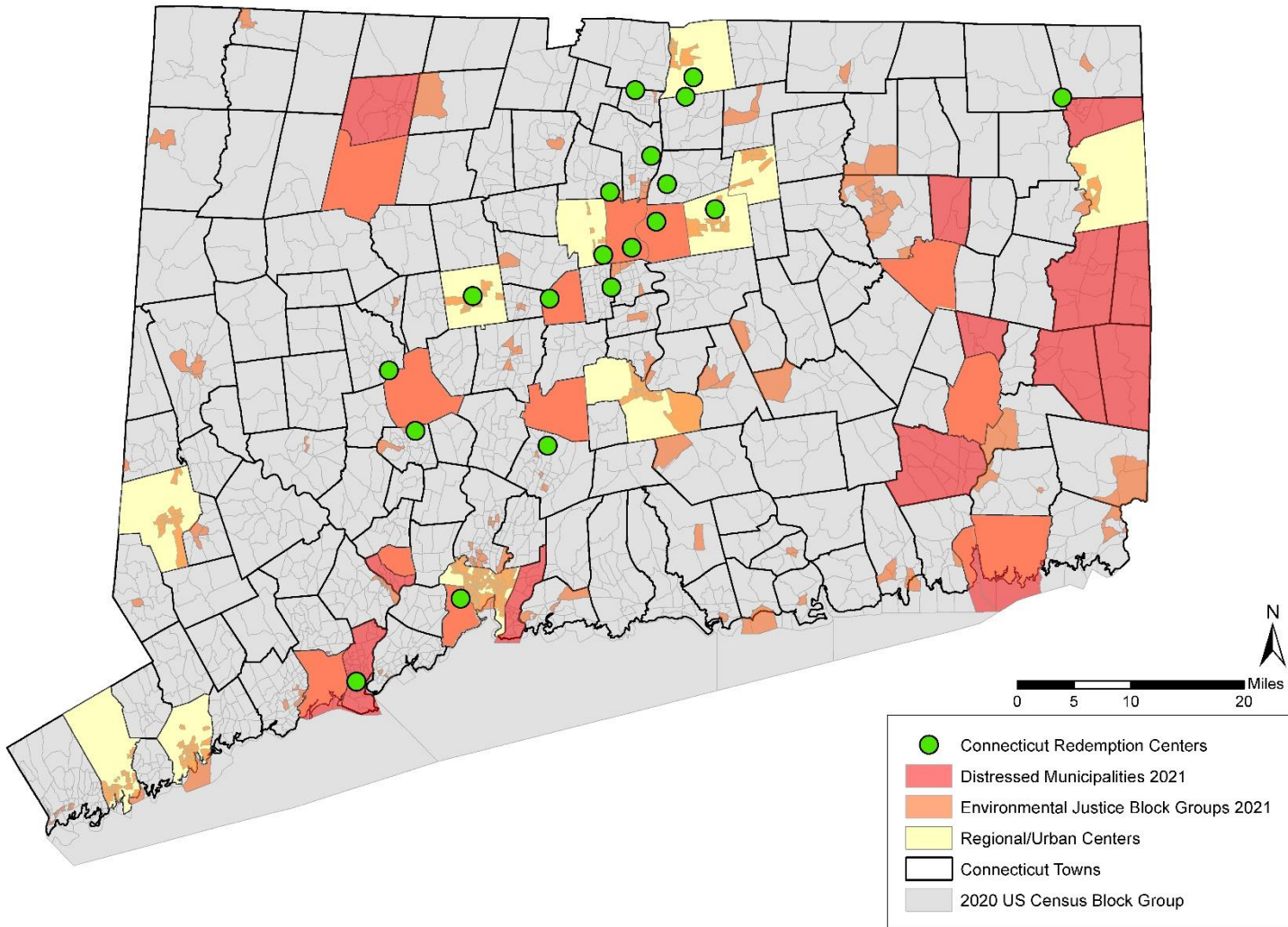Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Special Session Public Act 21-2

- § 65. Establishes a beverage container recycling grant program:
  - <u>All moneys</u> shall be used by DEEP to provide forgivable grants in urban centers and environmental justice (EJ) communities
- § 65. DEEP shall issue a grant application process not later than December 1, 2021

- § 308. (b)(15) $5M for a grant program to support solid waste reduction strategies, including a redemption center grant program

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Special Session Public Act 21-2

Redemption Centers compared to EJ Communities
and Urban/Regional Centers

Legend:
- Connecticut Redemption Centers
- Distressed Municipalities 2021
- Environmental Justice Block Groups 2021
- Regional/Urban Centers
- Connecticut Towns
- 2020 US Census Block Group

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Public Act 21-58

- § 1. Addition of new beverage types (01/01/2023)

- § 2. Increase of deposit amount from 5 to 10 cents (01/01/2024)

- § 3. Increase of the handling fees (10/01/2021)

- § 7. Requirement for certain retailers to install reverse vending machines, or RVMs (10/01/2021)

- § 10. New 5-cent surcharge applied to sale of miniature bottles (<= 50 ml) containing spirits or liquor (10/01/2021)

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Public Act 21-58

- § 8.
  - Development the terms for a memorandum of agreement (MOA) that provides, by January 1, 2023, for the in-state processing of **not less than eighty per cent of the wine and liquor beverage containers sold in this state** into furnace-ready cullet or by-product that is melted or otherwise used in cement, glass or fiberglass products.
  - DEEP "shall **identify the requisite parties** to such an agreement and engage such parties in ongoing discussions…"

Public Act 21-58

- § 9.
  - Approval of the formation of a **beverage container stewardship organization** constituted by deposit initiators if such organization submits an application.
  - Submittal of a plan, for the commissioner's review and approval, to operate **a state-wide beverage container stewardship program**. In developing any such plan, such organization shall obtain input from members of the independent redemption centers community, municipal resource recovery facilities, municipal leaders, wine and spirits distributors and reverse vending machine operators.

Next Steps

- **Grant program** - DEEP plans to share a draft grant program scope soon for stakeholder feedback

- **§ 9.** DEEP will develop and release for stakeholder feedback a draft list of criteria it will expect to see in any submitted state-wide beverage container stewardship program

- **§ 8.** DEEP will convene a meeting of "requisite parties" (and other interested stakeholders) to begin the process of developing an MOA for wine & liquor containers

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Bottle Bill Resources

- [Bottle Bill Stakeholder Process](#) webpage

- To stay informed and participate in the stakeholder process please fill out **this form**.

- Any bottle bill-related questions?

Facility Operator Training & Certification

Previously, DEEP staff offered multiple in-person training sessions across the state over the course of a year.

Now, transitioning to online training & testing

Getting Trained & Certified

Folks interested in getting trained and certified should:

- Fill out a Certification Application Form (available on this webpage)

- Submit completed application form via email (to paula.guerrera@ct.gov) or via regular mail

Getting Trained & Certified (cont.)

- Look for posted training opportunities on the **Certification and Training For Solid Waste Facility (SWF) Operators** webpage

- Register to attend an online training session

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Getting Trained & Certified (cont.)

On day of training:

- Sign into the webinar

- Watch the various training modules

To take the certification exam after the training:

- Applicants must have a webcam on while they are taking the online exam

- Post-exam, those who have received a passing score will get their certificate mailed to them.

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Facility Operator Training & Certification

Next steps:

- DEEP to continue evaluating online platforms for conducting training & testing

- DEEP to update & streamline training modules

- DEEP to finalize training modules for facilities beyond Transfer Stations & MRFs

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