

OCTOBER 28, 2025

Connecticut **TIRE STEWARDSHIP**

A New Approach to End-of-Life Tire Management

*Briefing for the DEEP- Solid Waste Advisory
Committee*

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What is CTS?

- Connecticut Tire Stewardship (CTS) is a nonprofit organization created in response to the new state law and is now has an approved Tire Stewardship Organization plan by DEEP.
- Formed with support from tire producers and the U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association, though governed independently.
- Program was approved by CT DEEP to design, operate, and oversee the system.

Where We Are Now

- **Plan approved:** September 22, 2025 by DEEP
- **Program launch:** March 21, 2026
- **Current focus:** Engaging remaining Producers, briefing key stakeholders, building the statewide network of covered entities, finalizing participation agreements, and developing the process for covered entities
- **Communications and reporting:** Launching statewide education and outreach to residents and stakeholders

A New Future for Connecticut's Tires: Powering the Circular Economy

- Hundreds of thousands of tires reach the end of their useful life in Connecticut each year.
- Improper disposal can lead to illegal dumping, fire risk, mosquito breeding, and costly cleanups, often paid for by municipalities.
- Those same tires are a valuable resource at the center of a thriving and profitable economic ecosystem: they can be retreaded, become roads that improve a state's infrastructure, be remade into tire-derived aggregate, and everyday commercial products like mats, garbage cans, flooring tiles, automotive parts, and more.
- **Connecticut passed** the first extended producer responsibility law for tires.

Building a Statewide Tire Management System

- **Producers:** Fund the program.
- **Covered Entities:** Voluntary drop-off sites including municipal transfer stations, waste facilities, retailers, auto shops, fleets, and distributors.
- **Transporters/Tire Haulers & Processors:** Collect and recycle tires into new products.
- **CTS:** Coordinates partners to create a statewide collection and recycling system.

How Extended Producer Responsibility Works

- EPR requires manufacturers, brand/trademark owners, and importers to take responsibility for products at end-of-life.
- Tire producers must fund the statewide system for collection, transportation, and recycling. Fees are paid by the PRODUCERS, not a customer point of sale.
- The goal: make tire disposal free and convenient for residents, improve environmental outcomes statewide, and advance the circular economy by turning end-of-life tires into new products through smart, scalable recycling (market development).

CTS Responsibilities and Commitments

- Establish a free, statewide drop-off network in partnership with covered entities.
- Provide compliant storage containers and coordinate tire pickup.
- Contract with qualified collectors and recycling facilities.
- Supply signage, educational materials, and communication tools.
- Coordinate with municipalities and regulators on measures to help prevent non-eligible tires from entering the system.
- Shift financial and logistical responsibility for tire disposal away from municipalities and toward producers, simplifying local operations and improving outcomes statewide.

Which Tires Are Covered by the Program?

- **Included:**

- Passenger or Light Truck, commercial vehicle, motorcycle, off-road, including those mounted on rims
- Heavy-duty truck and bus tires
- Lawn and Garden tractor, golf carts, ATV
- Agricultural, construction, mining, and industrial tires
- Non-commercial aircraft, trailer, or mobile home tires

- **Not included:**

- Tires from toys, bicycles, personal mobility devices, or commercial aircraft

Covered Entities: What Participation Looks Like

- Covered entities may include: transfer stations, recycling centers, retailers, auto shops, dismantlers, and fleet facilities.
- CTS manages all collection and transportation costs, provided no disposal fees are assessed to residents.
- CTS will provide suitable storage containers when necessary.
- Participation details, including what types or volumes of tires a site will accept, will be determined in coordination with CTS and participation agreements.

Benefits for Municipalities

- Reduces municipal costs for tire collection, hauling, and disposal, freeing up budgets for other priorities.
- Reduces staff time spent on logistics while improving service for residents.
- Expands free, convenient disposal options that reduce dumping incentives and improve site management.
- Improves recycling outcomes and reduces public health and environmental risks from improperly handled tires.
- Provides outreach materials and statewide reporting data to support local education, planning, and enforcement efforts.

Q&A

Connecticut TIRE STEWARDSHIP

This program represents a major step forward for Connecticut's communities. Realizing its full potential will depend on your partnership, and your willingness to speak up in support when the time comes.

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