



# Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



# Recycling Initiative

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Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

# Recycling Laws

- Mandatory Recycling has been required for over twenty years.
- Designated Recyclables include:
  - Paper Products (Boxboard, Cardboard, Newspaper, Magazines, Office Paper, Colored Paper...etc.)
  - Metal and Glass Food & Beverage Containers
  - #1 and #2 Plastic Containers
  - Scrap Metal
  - Batteries (Lead Acid & NI-Cd)
  - Waste Oil
  - Leaves
  - Grass Clippings



# Recycling Laws

Public Act 14-94, approved June 2014, requires Department to:

- Revise state-wide Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Include a strategy to divert not less than 60% of solid waste generated in the state by 2024.



# CMMS

- Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS):
  - Will replace the current Solid Waste Management Plan.
  - Submitted to the General Assembly’s Environmental Committee and made available for public comment through April 2016.
  - Undergoing minor revisions in consideration of public comments.
  - Department will adopt by July 1, 2016, make it available on our web-site soon after.
  - Will serve as the “Roadmap” to achieving the state’s vision for 60 percent diversion of materials from disposal by 2024.



# CMMS Critical Points

- To achieve the goal of 60% diversion of solid waste from disposal by 2024:
  - The Statewide recycling rate must increase from the current rate of 35%.
  - **A stronger program of state-led enforcement is absolutely necessary to achieve the diversion goal.**



# CTDEEP : Ramping Up

Two internal programs will expand recycling inspection and enforcement efforts.

1. Multi-media enforcement coordination
2. WEED: Business Recycling Checklist



# Multi-media Enforcement Coordination: Training

- Cross media communication and coordination was reviewed, assessed, enhanced and rolled-out in February 2016.
- Field personnel, enforcement analysts & engineers were trained by experts in each media.
- Training included:
  - Detailed Regulatory overview
  - Visuals of “What to Look For in the Field”
  - Recycling was covered in detail



# Multi-media Enforcement Coordination: Roll-out

Field personnel from all media, will now observe:

1. Is the business lacking an established Recycling Program?
2. Is the business lacking more than one container at the “Back of the Building” to collect Designated Recyclables separately from trash?
3. Is there more than an incidental amount of Designated Recyclables in trash containers or dumpsters?



# Recyclables Mixed with Trash



# WEED: Business Recycling Checklists

- Much more intensive, performed by WEED field personnel.
- Comprehensive Evaluation Inspections at:
  - Large Quantity Generators
  - Small Quantity Generators
  - All Treatment Disposal Facilities.
- Other Discretionary Inspections:
  - Sector Analyses:
    - Multi-tenant Housing
    - Retail Stores
    - Franchises
  - Complaints.



# WEED: Business Recycling Checklist

## Comprehensive checklist:

All items covered by multi-media observations, plus the following:

- Does the company have a “recycling or green team”?
- Are there adequate recycling collection areas internal to the facility?
- Are there Recycling contracts in place?
- Itemized list of Designated Recyclables generated at the facility and identification of whether or not they are recycled.



# Recycling Initiative TEAM

- Meet Weekly to assess all Recycling Notifications
  - Complaints;
  - Multi-media Referrals;
  - Completed WEED Business Recycling Checklists.
- Determine the appropriate course of action:
  - Gather Additional Information;
  - Provide Compliance Assistance; or
  - Provide an Enforcement Response.



# Where are we now?

- Two internal programs: More trained eyes in the field.
- Recycling Initiative Team: Meets weekly.
- Dozens of completed WEED Checklists since April.
- Several NONs & NOVs have been or are prepared to be issued.
- Common Violations:
  - No “Recycling Plan” in place.
  - No internal recycling containers.
  - No external recycling containers (“back of the building”).
  - Recycling cardboard only, other recyclable items mixed in with trash.



# Learn More :

- Multi-media checklist
  - Available upon request
- [Business Recycling Assistance webpage](#)
  - Updated WEED Business Recycling Checklist to be posted here soon
- [CMMS webpage](#)
- [DEEP Website](#)



# Questions?



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