

**State of Connecticut  
Department of Environmental Protection**

**State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee  
Summary of the March 27, 2007 Meeting**



**Changing the Balance**

The first meeting of the CTDEP State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on March 27, 2007 at the CTDEP Headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to: the charge to the Advisory Committee; outline the purpose, responsibilities and operating procedures of the Committee; present a summary of the adopted State Solid Waste Management Plan; provide regulatory and legislative updates; and present, identify and discuss issues/topics as possible subcommittee work to be undertaken.

**Charge to the Advisory Committee**

Commissioner Gina McCarthy addressed the Committee, thanking both the internal and external stakeholders for having become members. The Commissioner indicated that the goals as set forth in the adopted Plan are challenging: a doubling of the State's recycling rates, dealing with emerging issues such as electronic wastes, and bringing manufacturers into the discussion concerning product design, getting the toxics out, and reduction in packaging. The Commissioner indicated that both recycling and source reduction must be addressed. The Commissioner raised the issue of funding and indicated that resources will need to be identified, but we need to continue moving forward with existing resources. The Commissioner outlined her expectations regarding the role of the Committee. The Commissioner requested that the Committee assist the CTDEP in charting a course to deal with the many solid waste management challenges facing the state now and in the future. The Commissioner indicated that the CTDEP was seeking their input and perspectives to assist the Department in their decision-making and indicated that the Committee is not expected to achieve consensus on issues but to provide their viewpoints on issues.

**Purpose, Responsibilities and Operating Procedures of the Advisory Committee**

Tessa Gutowski (Management Analyst 3/Office of Planning and Program Development) identified her role as Coordinator for the Advisory Committee and summarized the handout entitled *Purpose, Responsibilities and Operating Procedures* of the Committee. The handout was distributed at the meeting and can be found on the CTDEP website entitled *Advisory Committee Information and Schedules* under the listing of the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. As stated in the handout, the purpose of the Advisory Committee is to assist the CTDEP in implementing the Plan; identify emerging issues and solutions; and participate in any revisions to the Plan as necessary. Coordination of the Advisory Committee is through the Office of Planning and Program Development, which reports directly to the Commissioner. The Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee is modeled after another well established Agency Committee known as SIPRAC (Air Quality Planning). This model was used because it: encourages open membership of interested stakeholders (both internal and external stakeholders); has an informal approach and is not consensus driven; allows for a robust exchange of information, concerns and ideas; and has been successful in guiding the State's implementation programs resulting in improved air quality. The Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee will operate under the procedures as presented.

**Presentation of the State Solid Waste Management Plan, Amended December 2006**

Bob Kaliszewski (Director, Office of Planning and Program Development) presented a summary of the Plan to the Advisory Committee. The PowerPoint presentation can be found on the CTDEP website entitled *Advisory Committee Information and Schedules*, under the listing for the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. The focus of the presentation was on source reduction and recycling.

**Legislative and Regulatory Updates**

*Legislative:* Rob LaFrance (Environmental Analyst 3/Legislative Affairs) presented a summary of some key legislation currently being considered by the State Legislature. Included were the following bills voted out of the Environment Committee – (1) solid waste demonstration project; (2) bottle-bill expansion; and (3)

electronic waste recycling. There was a number of related solid waste/resource recovery facilities bills that being considered in the Energy Committee. *Regulatory:* Robert Isner (Director/Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance) provided a regulatory update that included an overview of permitting improvements (processing time reductions; general permits; and beneficial use determinations) and upcoming proposed general permits (proposed general permit for municipal transfer stations; proposed general permit for the beneficial use of contaminated soil and sediment; and a beneficial use determination re/coal ash). Isner indicated that the Department has issued beneficial use determinations for asphalt shingles, tire processing, and the use of tire chips (alternative to gravel) in septic systems.

### **Subcommittee Topics**

Yvonne Bolton (Bureau Chief/Materials Management and Compliance Assurance) presented to the Advisory Committee four topics that the CTDEP has identified as short-term priorities for subcommittee work:

- *Solid Waste and Recycling Database Management:* Need to improve our database so that the type and quantity of data needed is collected and used for its intended purpose. CTDEP and others need to use the database so that we can be more effective in managing the state state's waste stream. Need to understand what is the essential information that is vital for measuring actual recycling and diversion rates and what is the best way to collect it.
- *Increasing the Recycling Rates of the Municipal Solid Waste Stream:* The CTDEP needs to undertake a waste characterization study to determine what opportunities are present to increase the recycling rate. Work of the subcommittee could include evaluating and discussing: existing recycling practices and existing mandates, new mandates, identifying stakeholders that could greatly assist in these efforts, review of processing the material and markets, and identifying resource needs and funding.
- *Solid Waste Statute and Regulatory Reforms:* Need to undertake a re-evaluation of related statutes and regulations to ensure that we have the legal basis to get to the desired outcomes.
- *Organics Recycling and Composting:* Need to actively pursue organics recycling and composting because it presents a great opportunity to remove this from the disposal waste stream and put to beneficial re-use. This will require public and private sector involvement and we need this type of input as to how to make this happen.

Discussion was then opened to the Advisory Committee to solicit their ideas on priorities that should be considered for subcommittee participation. Prior to the next Advisory Committee meeting (April), the CTDEP will consider the proposals and report back to the Advisory Committee on the suggested course of action. This could include incorporating some of the concerns raised into the subcommittees listed above, forming additional subcommittees, or tabling certain issues to be taken up at a later time. The following issues/concerns were put forward:

- Source Reduction – Packaging. Source Reduction should be thematic for each of the four subcommittees proposed by the CTDEP;
- Present model recycling efforts (future speakers);
  - More uniform recycling requirements;
  - Enforcement.
- Pay as you Throw (PAYT);
- Waste Characterization Study;
- Financing/funding. Investment incentives for recycling equipment (MA example);
- Funding should be incorporated into all subcommittee work; Funding for education and enforcement;
- Permitting-timelines; barriers to permitting (i.e., NIMBY) and what role the state can assume; community relations during permitting process;
- Construction and demolition waste; deconstruction;
- Bans without an infrastructure in place will not work
- Ownership issues regarding public Resources Recovery Facilities;
- Reuse options of RRF ash residue;
- Develop implementation plan;
- Create materials exchange;
- Use CTDEP offices for media transmittals (Televised).

### **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

The following suggestions were made to be included for the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Guest speaker
- Regulatory and Legislative Updates
- Outline Presentation of Subcommittees:
  - Solid Waste and Recycling Database Management Systems.
  - Increasing the Source Reduction and Recycling Rates of the Municipal Waste Stream.
  - Solid Waste Statute and Regulatory Reforms.
  - Organics Recycling and Composting.
  - Other(s) to be determined.
- Funding – resources needed; present overview of costs associated with disposal and recycling; include markets (plastics; metals).
- Waste Characterization Study.

### **Other**

At the beginning of the meeting, the Advisory Committee was encouraged by the CTDEP to make their comments known – either during the meeting or by submitting written comments on a 3”x5” card at the close of the meeting. The following written comments were submitted:

- Education – emphasize the connection between the Solid Waste Management Plan and climate change; the Commissioner noted that climate change is maybe the biggest current reason for public interest in the environment.
- With regard to food waste composting, when do costs (equipment, labor, maintenance) outweigh the benefits? Will food waste composting ever be legislatively mandated? Why has the OEP classified e-waste as universal when there is no infrastructure in place to handle it?
- There should be mandates for recyclables – anything that can be recycled (for which there is a market) should be required to be recycled at the municipal level.
- There appears to be a number of municipalities that have successfully expanded recycling programs. For example, the Town of Hamden is recycling #1 and #2 plastics in addition to magazines. As another example, the City of West Haven appears to be wondering with leaf composting. It may be advantageous to tap those municipalities for information on how they implemented successful programs.
- Source reduction related to packaging. There seems to be too much waste and too many different kinds of waste associated with current packaging. How can they be reduced?
- Tread cautiously with PAYT. Concern that if there is insufficient forethought, it can lead to littering and illegal disposal, or a shift to a burden on business if residents decide to “recycle” or dispose of their waste at work.
- Can municipalities be given incentives so the Plan does not become an unfunded mandated? Once you are required to collect, will recyclers raise prices? Maybe financial help to both to keep cost down but help profits.
- Boards of Education and commercial establishments need prompting to recycle.
- Subcommittee: Municipal issues versus State Mandates.
- Subcommittee: Regional (municipal) cooperation in disposal.
- Subcommittee: PAYT.
- Subcommittee: Single stream.

**The next meeting is scheduled for:** April 24, 2007 --- 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; CTDEP Headquarters, 79 Elm Street/Phoenix Auditorium – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hartford, CT.

### **Adjourned**

**Summary of minutes dated: March 30, 2007**