

**State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection**

**State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
Summary of the August 28, 2007 Meeting**



Changing the Balance

The fifth meeting of the CTDEP State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on August 28, 2007 at the CTDEP headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to: present a lecture on Connecticut's climate change and the implications for solid waste; provide regulatory and legislative updates; provide a status update on the activities of the Subcommittees; and then, breakout to subcommittee work.

Guest Lecture: "Connecticut Climate Change – Implications for Solid Waste Management"

Lynn Stoddard, Environmental Analyst 3 with the Bureau of Air Management's Climate Change and Energy Group, gave a presentation on climate change and its implications as to how Connecticut manages its solid waste stream. The presentation can be found on the CTDEP website. The outline of the presentation covered: Connecticut actions to address climate change; climate change impacts on the Northeast and Connecticut; and implications for solid waste management.

- Connecticut actions: Connecticut signed onto the New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers Climate Change Action Plan (2001). In 2005, Connecticut's Clean Action Plan was released. Both of these plans have goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by certain time frames (2010; 2020; and 2050). Connecticut's Action Plan identifies 55 actions, with five focus areas:
 - Cleaner electricity generation
 - Cleaner transportation and smarter land use
 - More efficient energy use
 - Reduced emissions from agriculture, forestry, and waste management
 - Public education

The Connecticut Action Plan identifies recycling and source reduction as important actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- Impacts of climate change: Findings were summarized from the July 2007 Union of Concerned Scientists report entitled *Confronting Climate Change in the US Northeast: Science, Impacts, and Solutions*. Projected climate impacts include: increased temperatures; greater precipitation events; sea level changes; and coastal flooding.
- Implications for solid waste management in Connecticut includes:
 - Increase source reduction/recycling to a minimum of 40%
 - Support economically viable landfill gas-to-energy projects
 - Procurement of environmentally preferable products
 - Energy efficient measures – compact fluorescent bulb handling/recycling
 - Waste collection and transport – reduce distances, cleaner diesel, rail, intermodal
- Issues for the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee may consider include:
 - Database management system – consider a system that can easily calculate GHG emissions and other co-benefits
 - Increasing source reduction and recycling rates – key to Connecticut's GHG goals, climate change is another reason to recycle

- Construction and demolition – consider GHG benefits from different management practices, emissions and sinks, energy efficiency in processing, low GHG transport
- Statutory and regulatory reform – make connections to State GHG goals and statutes
- Organics recycling and composting – carbon emissions and sinks, energy efficiency in processing, low GHG transport

Additional information can be found at the Connecticut Climate Change website at www.ctclimatechange.com

Comments from the Committee members included concerns raised about collecting landfill gas and a need to measure NOx and SOx as better indicators.

Legislative and Regulatory Updates

Robert Isner, Director/Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, outlined DEP's proposed process with regard to developing key electronic waste program implementation steps and program regulations. Tom Metzner, Environmental Analyst 3/Office of the Commissioner, has been assigned as the project lead and more information will be given to Committee members as this project moves forward.

KC Alexander, Environmental Analyst 3/Bureau Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, presented an overview of the newly reissued *General Permit for the Construction and Operation of Certain Recycling Facilities* (the Recycling General Permit). The presentation can be found on the CTDEP website. This General Permit was reissued on August 15, 2007 with no significant changes and expires August 15, 2010. The next steps include:

- Migrate eligible municipal facilities from the recycling General Permit to the new *General Permit for a Municipal Transfer Station*
- Substantially rewrite the Recycling General Permit to apply only to the commercial sector and have it in place by August 2010

Elaine Coelho, Environmental Analyst 1/Bureau Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, presented an overview of the proposed *General permit for Municipal Transfer Stations and Recycling Centers*. The presentation can be found on the CTDEP website. The presentation outline included: the current permitting structure; the proposed General permit; the benefits; the registration process; the requirements for the operation and management of a transfer station; the list of acceptable materials; a summary of the informal review and comment period; and the proposed timeframes for comment on the proposed General permit. The CTDEP will publish a "Notice of Intent to Issue" the General permit within the next several weeks; there is a 30 day comment period; the CTDEP evaluates comments and makes revisions as appropriate; and issuance of the General permit is expected in the fall.

Status Update on the Subcommittees

Diane Duva, Assistant Director/Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, provided a brief update on status for each of the subcommittees:

- Solid Waste and Recycling Database Management Systems – focusing on efforts to eliminate duplicative MSW and recyclables reporting requirements for municipalities in their annual municipal recycling report and for solid waste facilities required to report specific information back to municipalities
- Increasing Source Reduction and Recycling – discussing full cost accounting with regard to disposing of solid waste, incentive based program for "Pay as you Throw"

- Statutes and Regulatory Reforms – evaluating top five list of issues that includes enforcement, permitting, beneficial use, organics reduction and source reduction
- Organic Recycling and Composting – the Subcommittee submitted a report to the Advisory Committee and identified six recommendations that included: use of the DEP SEP fund to distribute home composting bins; promote food banks as a source reduction strategy; re-format the home composting and grasscycling videos into DVD format; encourage Connecticut compost facilities to register on web for waste exchange; DEP to have written policy that prioritizes applications for organics recycling facilities; and include organics in the DEP waste characterization study that is to be undertaken
- Construction and Demolition – the Subcommittee has visited the Reconstruction Center in New Britain and discussed the need to increase and improve the functionality of these types of facilities; discussed the issues/problems with regard to State statutes and regulations; and economic and technical assistance that is needed and can be provided.

More follow-up discussions on the work of the Subcommittees will be scheduled for later Advisory Committee meetings.

Open Forum

No comments made during this part of the meeting.

Suggested Agenda Items for the September 25th Advisory Committee Meeting

Upcoming agenda items include BRRFOC/TROC marketing research survey.

The full Committee Meeting ended, and the Sub-Committees subsequently met.

The next meeting is scheduled for: September 25th – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; CTDEP Headquarters, 79 Elm Street/5th Floor Phoenix Auditorium, Hartford, CT 06106.

Adjourned

Summary of minutes dated October 30, 2007.