

**State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection**

**State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
Summary of the November 17, 2008 Meeting**



Changing the Balance

The sixteenth meeting of the CTDEP State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on November 17, 2008 at the CTDEP headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to: provide an update as to related solid waste management activities; provide regulatory updates; listen to presentations made by Scott Cassells, Executive Director and Founder of the Product Stewardship Institute, and Frank Gagliardo, Supervising Environmental Analyst, DEP Solid Waste Enforcement, on the topic of the State's Solid Waste Enforcement Program.

Opening Comments

Tessa Gutowski convened the meeting, reviewed the agenda and then brought forward a number of current items that could be of interest to the Committee:

- ***DEP's Solid Waste Management Program announced that two outreach and coordination efforts have recently gotten underway:***
 - ***Materials Reuse Network:*** A small network of materials reuse professionals in Connecticut have met a few times and recently identified the need for more trained/skilled individuals who know how to deconstruct/disassemble/salvage. More deconstruction activities may increase reuse and recovery efforts of construction, renovation and demolition debris and surplus/salvage goods in Connecticut. They also see the need to educate trades people and promote the ideas of materials reuse to the general public. For more information, please contact Sherill Baldwin at sherill.baldwin@ct.gov or 860-424-3440.
 - ***Municipal Recycling ListServ:*** DEP has started a recycling listserv for municipalities. This list is for discussing recycling and solid waste recovery challenges and opportunities. DEP is sponsoring this discussion list to encourage cross-pollination of ideas, hear about new concepts, approaches and technologies, share successes, projects and programs and overall support each other in an effort to increase recycling and solid waste recovery in Connecticut so we can reach 58% recovery by 2024. If interested in signing up, please contact Sherill Baldwin at sherill.baldwin@ct.gov or 860-424-3440.
- ***State-wide Solid Waste Characterization Study:*** The DEP and its consultant DSM Environmental Services, Inc. will be scheduling an initial kick-off meeting to discuss the project. One of the first tasks to be undertaken is the development of a Final Study Design which will identify the facilities from which to sample waste and the final listing of materials that will be categorized and sampled. The purpose of the contract is to conduct waste sorts at in-state permitted solid waste facilities, resulting in a comprehensive report that characterizes the composition of municipal solid waste in Connecticut. The study will consist of two waste sorts at up to five permitted in-state solid waste facilities (resource recovery facilities and large transfer stations. Actual waste sorts are expected to begin the early part of 2009. The DEP will be contacting solid waste permitted facilities to seek their participation; the DEP will be speaking with CRRRA, SCRRRA, BRRFOC and Wheelabrator and others for their potential assistance. DEP lead for the study: Tessa Gutowski, 860-424-3096.
- ***Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee – Interim Report: Resources Recovery Facility Ownership: Options and Implications, September 23, 2008:*** In May 2008, the Committee approved a study focused on the future ownership options for the state's four resources recovery facilities currently operating in connection with CRRRA. The interim Report was released September

22nd. The Report covered all RRFs in state and consisted of three sections: an overview of municipal solid waste in Connecticut; information on RRFs now operating in the state; and a description of the roles and responsibilities on CRRA, municipalities and DEP as it relates to RRFs. The Committee is scheduled to conclude in December 2008 and the report is expected to be released soon thereafter. DEP will keep the Agency's Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee informed. The link to the interim Report is: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/pri/year2008studies.htm>

- **MassDEP to conduct a series of Solid Waste Master Plan stakeholder meetings for December and January.** Within our region, MassDEP will be holding a series of stakeholder meetings to revisit their State's Solid Waste Master Plan. Massachusetts has a recycling goal of 56% by 2010; their current rate is 47%. MassDEP has indicated that it does not believe it can achieve this goal by 2010. It will be interesting to follow MassDEP efforts from a number of different perspectives – new programmatic approaches, economic considerations and marketplace current events, and regional opportunities to enhance recycling and end use. More information can be found on the MassDEP website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/public/hearings/smwpmtdgs.htm>
- **Recycling Markets.** A number of Advisory Committee members have contacted the DEP and relayed concern about the impacts of a declining recycling market is having on the collection of recyclables, as well as the stockpiling of recyclables. As everyone knows, the decline in the value of recyclables is a worldwide issue and although markets have been volatile in the past, a drop this large this quickly is unprecedented. As in the past, it is expected that the recycling markets will recover, as the world economy recovers. With regard to stockpiling, the DEP will not allow permitted solid waste facilities to store materials outside of their conditions of their permit. The DEP will be monitoring the situation and will report back to the Committee.

Legislative and Regulatory Updates

Robert Isner, Director/Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, provided a brief summary update on the following regulatory activities:

- General Permit for Beneficial Use of Contaminated Soil and Sediments (regulated fill). Public notice for just the solid waste portion of the general permit is expected for spring 2009.
- Coal combustion ash to concrete products general permit/BUD, still at internal technical revision following the initial public comment period: Public notice of revised general permit is anticipated by mid 2009.
- E-waste Regulations, substantial work in progress, July 1, 2009 deadline for final regulations in place is pushing the development. Public notice of regulations is expected for early 2009.

Robert also presented a report on the work of the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee for 2008:

- Construction and Demolition Subcommittee:
 - Proposed regulatory change in solid waste definitions
 - Regulated fill/Conditional fill/Conditionally exempt solid waste (clean fill etc)
 - Promoted Asphalt Roofing shingles reused/recycled in Connecticut
 - Two additional Asphalt Roofing Shingles General Permit Registrants (Stratford and Suffield)
- Organics Subcommittee:
 - Created new Home Composting Brochure and is GrassCycling on-line
 - Digitized Organics Videos, now on-line, free to download
 - Drafted a Permit Prioritization Policy memo, and Supplemental Enforcement Policy (Agency SEP) template language and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a home composting bin distribution project
 - Continued developing partnerships for pilots and demonstrations

- Data Subcommittee
 - Focus was on eliminating duplicative reporting:
 - Annual Municipal Recycling report will be amended (FY2009) to eliminate reporting amounts of bottles, cans, or paper recycled through or disposed at permitted CT Solid Waste Facilities
 - Those facilities will no longer be required to submit a report to each municipality reporting amount received from the municipality
 - Instead, DEP will aggregate that information from those facilities and will forward that information to the municipalities
- Regulations and Statutes Subcommittee
 - Followed legislative session and e-waste recycling regulations development
 - Initiated effort to promote funding options and is developing a memo for reviving legislation to expand the solid waste assessment fee (\$1.50 per ton); and develop product stewardship programs.

Guest Lecture

The topic for this month's guest lecture was "Product Stewardship Institute – Sustainable Solutions to Protect Our Environment" and the speaker was Scott Cassells, Executive Director and Founder of PSI. Scott's PowerPoint presentation can be found on the DEP Website. Some of their main points from the presentation are summarized below:

- PSI is a non-profit, based in Boston and was founded in 2000. Membership includes state and local agencies and some business, environmental/organizations
- PSI Projects include electronics, paint, fluorescent lamps, pharmaceuticals, mercury thermostats, other
- Key elements of current product stewardship systems include legislation, manufacturers responsible for financing, retailers voluntarily collect products sold, stewardship organizations manage program allowing for individual producer responsibility, and performance goals
- Product stewardship outcomes include greater environmental protection, market innovation/economic driver, and saves money for government

Presentation: State's Solid Waste Enforcement Program

Frank Gagliardo, Supervising Environmental Analyst of the Solid Waste Enforcement Program, made a presentation on the State's Solid Waste Enforcement Program. Franks' presentation can be found on the DEP website. Some of the major points are summarized below:

- There are two categories of solid waste permitted facilities:
 - Individual permits – number 200
 - General permits – number 81
- Managing environmental compliance requires an effective integration of three key elements – permitting, assistance and enforcement
- DEP investigates 150 complaints per year and the types of complaints include illegal dumping, recycling violations in business and residential sectors, and permit violations
- DEP prioritizes enforcement efforts and cases are evaluated for environmental risk and regulatory program harm
- DEP Solid Waste Enforcement Program recently undertook a Lean Continuous Process Improvement Project and included as project goal: reducing the average processing time between inspection and issuance of draft formal action; developing a new and revised Standard Operating procedure for the process; increasing inspection rates of permitted facilities including recycling facilities; and developing a case management tracking system.

Following the presentation, there was some discussion as to what recycling enforcement activities were taking throughout the state. Some towns reported that they have been active in enforcing the recycling mandates but that there remains a lot of work to be done in educating the public to ensure that recycling is being done. Brian Bartram, Manager of the Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station shared with the group the

outreach and enforcement work taking place in those two towns. Please see the DEP Web links for the outreach and educational material that is made available to residents.

Open Forum

The January Advisory Committee meeting will focus on the topic “Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART)”. Kristin Brown, President of Waste Solutions, will present her work on the “SMART” which is a solid waste management Initiative. Kristin will be making a presentation on how several Bridgeport area/southwest Connecticut towns are considering integrating the SMART approach which motivates citizens to produce less trash. Kristin has been working as a consultant for EPA and meeting with communities to assess their actual solid waste disposal costs and identify opportunities to reduce those costs and increase recycling rates associated with shifting to unit-based pricing. Also during this meeting, the DEP will present a preliminary overview of statewide recycling survey results that was conducted this past summer.

The February Advisory Committee meeting will focus on the topics of E-Waste regulations, DEP legislative proposals and other related legislation, status of the State’s waste characterization study, and more detail on the statewide recycling survey.

Schedule for 2009:

- **January 27: Guest Lecturer will be Kristin Brown, President of Waste Solutions, and will present the “Smart” Solid Waste Management Initiative; 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; CTDEP Headquarters, 79 Elm Street/5th Floor Phoenix Auditorium, Hartford,**
- February 24
- March 24
- April 28
- May 26
- June 23
- September 22
- October 27
- November 24

Adjourned

Summary of final minutes dated December 16, 2008.