

**State of Connecticut  
Department of Environmental Protection**

**State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee  
Summary of the September 25, 2007 Meeting**



**Changing the Balance**

The sixth meeting of the CTDEP State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on September 25, 2007 at the CTDEP headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to: present to the results and recommendations of a Market Research Study that was undertaken by the Tunxis Recycling Operating Committee (TROC); provide an status update on the State's Disaster Debris Management Plan; provide regulatory and legislative updates; and then, breakout to subcommittee work.

**Guest Lecture: Market Research and Recycling Education**

Mark Bobman, Assistant Director with BRRFOC/TROC, presented the results from a 2006 survey that was undertaken by TROC and the recommendations for improving recycling efforts in the Tunxis region. Mr. Bobman's presentation has been made available on the CTDEP website as well. The objectives of the survey were to:

- Understand the factors that influence participation in recycling; and
- Identify opportunities for increasing recycling participation in the future.

The survey was conducted in 2006, with a target population of adults in the 13 TROC communities and was designed in relative proportion to the population/age distribution in the region. Survey respondents numbered 500. Results from the survey found that people who participate more in recycling are more likely to: live in a single detached home; own their own home; have recycling instructions; and have a recycling bin. Results from the survey indicated that factors *affecting* recycling included:

- Whether trash was picked up by municipal or private haulers
- How old their instructions were
- How strongly they agreed that the instructions were easy to use
- Whether a language other than English was spoken at home
- Whether the recycling bin was big enough

Results from the survey indicated that *participation was unrelated* to:

- How worried they were that materials people recycle end up being thrown away
- Concerns about identity theft
- Whether they have 8-16 year old children at home
- Household size (except that 2-person households participate more than 1-person households)
- Education levels
- Income level
- Community they live in

The following Media Recommendations were made:

- Improve/expand the use of newspapers to convey information
- Increase the percentage of households with recycling instructions
- Increase the percentage of households with bins
- Use billboards in presented information

Mr. Bobman indicated that TROC and the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority have begun undertaking targeted educational efforts, and while still early in the process, very preliminary results indicate a positive response. There will be continued tracking of these efforts and this information will be shared with the Committee at a later date.

### **Legislative and Regulatory Updates**

Robert Isner, Director/Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, reported on:

- Status of Municipal Transfer Station and Recycling General Permit. The General Notice was issued and the comment period closes October 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Announced the formation of the External Electronic Waste Advisory Group. This Advisory Group will provide input as the Department develops regulations specific to Connecticut's new E-waste law Public Act 07-189. The Advisory Group will meet via a series of conference calls. Those who would like to participate should contact Tom Metzner at [tom.metzner@po.state.ct.us](mailto:tom.metzner@po.state.ct.us)

Diane Duva, Assistant Director/Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, reported on:

- The draft General Permit for Beneficial Use of Contaminated Soil and/or Sediment. This draft permit is part of a broader effort that seeks to develop general permits for the management, handling and beneficial reuse of contaminated soils and/or sediment. The DEP has addressed staging areas, and now this draft permit is for the beneficial reuse of the material. The next step will be to address soil blending. The DEP anticipates going to public notice on the draft permit later this fall.

### **Status Update on the State of Connecticut's Disaster Debris Management Plan**

Frank Gagliardo, Supervising Environmental Analyst provided an update with regard to State's Disaster Debris Management Plan and the Request for Proposals (RFPs) for debris removal and debris monitoring:

- The Plan has been drafted as an Annex to the State's Natural Disaster Plan. The Plan is complete pending final review by the Connecticut National Guard. The RFPs have been drafted and the DEP is working with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to finalize and post. The DEP has been working with other State and federal agencies to develop both the Plan and the RFPs. State Agencies include: Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), DAS, Department of Transportation, Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Work, and others. Federal Agencies include: FEMA, EPA, and the US Army Corps of Engineers, and others. Both the Plan and the RFPs are to be released later this fall.
- The Plan identifies the preferred debris management approach as:
  - Divert as much material from disposal as possible through recycling, composting and other legitimate diversion options
  - Utilize volume reduction techniques to improve debris management efficiencies and minimize impacts on landfill capacities
  - Use Connecticut's in-state disposal capacity for disposal of disaster debris as efficiently as possible, recognizing that there is presently an in-state disposal capacity shortfall for municipal solid waste and that most construction and demolition waste is transferred to out-of-state for disposal. Allow for temporary tonnage increases at permitted in-state solid waste facilities on an emergency basis

- Rely on permitted Transfer Stations to transfer waste that cannot be diverted from disposal (recycling, composting) to waste handling facilities out-of-state for disposal
  - Rely on permitted Volume Reduction Facilities to reduce and transfer waste that cannot be diverted from disposal to waste handling facilities out-of-state for disposal
  - Consider alternative technologies for managing portions of the debris waste stream, in-state or out-of-state (i.e., biomass facilities)
  - Use approved Temporary Debris Storage and Reduction Sites (TDSRS) for processing debris for recycling and disposal.
- The Deputy Commissioners from DEP and DEMHS held meetings with coastal towns to brief municipal officials on the State's activities and to encourage local governments with improved planning for disaster debris management. The Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, the Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency and a number of towns are currently addressing this issue.
  - The two RFPs being developed are to establish pre-need, pre-event contracts to assure the immediate availability of coordinated debris removal support following a debris-producing incident.
  - Because of the scarcity on in-state disposal facilities, DEP confirmed with FEMA that reimbursements would address out-of-state disposal.
  - Next steps include: having the Plan approved by FEMA to ensure that Connecticut can receive enhanced reimbursements from the feds; RFPs to be posted and award of contracts in early 2008; DEMHS and DEP working with municipalities in developing their local plans and identifying suitable TDSRS; developing a guidance document for municipalities; working on regional level with NEWMOA on this issue; and developing a communication strategy on how to manage certain waste types that will be shared with the municipalities.

**Suggested Agenda Items for the October 23rd Advisory Committee Meeting**

Upcoming agenda items include Pay-as-you-Throw and Outreach and Educational Efforts.

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

**The next meeting is scheduled for: October 23rd – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; CTDEP Headquarters, 79 Elm Street/5<sup>th</sup> Floor Phoenix Auditorium, Hartford, CT 06106.**

**Adjourned**

Summary of minutes dated October 29, 2007.