



SECOG Solid Waste Subcommittee

January 28, 2025

8:30 AM

Via Zoom

MINUTES

I. Introductions

Fred Allyn III, Mayor, Town of Ledyard; Rob Brule, First Selectman, Town of Waterford; Bob Carlson, First Selectman, Town of North Stonington; Danielle Chesebrough, First Selectman, Town of Stonington; Dave Aldridge, Executive Director, SCRRA; Erin Banfield, Casella; Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director, SECOG; Emily Bigl, Environmental Planner I, SECOG; Lana Melonakos-Harrison, Planner II, SECOG.

II. Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the minutes of the October 22, 2024 solid waste meeting.

III. Updates and Projects

a. CT DEEP MMI Grant

SECOG staff provided an update on their application to CT DEEP’s Materials Management Infrastructure Grant (MMI), in which they partnered with the Town of Windham to apply for \$425,000 in funding to support a comprehensive collection, composting, and distribution system in the town. DEEP is expecting to make announcements on successful applicants by the end of February.

b. Spring Bus Tour

SECOG staff affirmed with the committee their interest in having SECOG staff coordinate a solid waste facility bus tour in the Spring. Fred Allyn expressed his support for planning the bus tour for April or May and offered the Ledyard facility as a potential example of municipal food scrap collection. The committee discussed the

newly proposed ReWorld thermomechanical treatment facility (TTF) in Preston, which is in very early planning stages. Erin Banfield of Casella announced that they would be open to hosting a tour at their Windham campus once their MRF is completed in the Spring, as well as showing their scrap metal recycling yard, mattress recycling facility, and C&D processing facility. The committee also expressed their support of inviting legislators to the tour in addition to elected officials and relevant municipal staff.

c. Legislative Session

The committee discussed solid waste legislative advocacy for the current session, as well as anticipated WTE capacity increases in the region. SECOG staff has compiled a list of solid waste bills proposed during this legislative session and will share that list with members of the committee. Dave Aldridge reported out that he will be speaking with the co-chairs of the legislative environment committee, in addition to working on a position paper that he will be sharing with the committee.

IV. Resources

a. CT Climate Action Forum

SECOG staff attended the Connecticut Climate Action Forum in October 2024, which was an event geared towards stakeholders with climate and sustainability-related responsibilities to gauge input on actionable climate implementation strategies (in the regional context of CPRG). Various solutions for solid waste management were discussed and prioritized by attendees. A summary of findings can be found in [this report](#).

b. CT Recyclers Coalition Annual Conference

SECOG staff attended the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition Annual Conference in October 2024, an event that provided information on a variety of topics such as MRFs, municipal composting efforts, and extended producer responsibility for cylinders, tires, and solar.

c. Northeast Recycling Council (NERC)

SECOG staff continue to attend Northeast Recycling Council committee meetings, including the Organics Management, Bottle Bill, and Regional Recycling Market Development Committees.

d. Zero Waste Legislation Model Toolkits

SECOG staff shared resources published by Just Zero, a national waste solution nonprofit organization, including zero waste legislation model toolkits. Just Zero provides legislative toolkits for the topics of beverage containers, food waste, greenwashing, packaging waste, and single-use plastics. These resources can be found [here](#).

e. CCSMM Meeting

January 14th, DEEP held their first CCSMM (CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management) full coalition meeting in over a year. Important takeaways from this meeting include the trajectory of regulations to be rolled out for organics collection in schools and other facilities via the Commercial Organics Recycling Law, and that DEEP is preparing to release an RFA for the second round of the Sustainable Materials Management Grant soon. Approximately \$7 million will be available through this round of SMM grant funding. DEEP is also looking for municipal elected officials to participate in the CCSMM Steering Committee, and any interested CEOs should reach out to Chris Nelson and Commissioner Katie Dykes. Danielle Chesebrough agreed to exploring the possibility of reaching out to DEEP to serve on the CCSMM Steering Committee.

f. DEEP Solid Waste Advisory Meeting

DEEP's January Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 9:30am on January 28, 2025.

V. Open Discussion for Direction of Committee

The committee discussed the operations model of SCRRRA and the differences between SCRRRA member towns and non-member towns. Rob Brule emphasized the importance of cost-effective options for getting rid of trash as tipping fees and other disposal costs continue to rise. Bob Carlson expressed interest in seeing the committee continue to cover various topics, as he feels he can gather solid waste information and knowledge through committee which he can then pass on to potential future elected officials. Bob also expressed his appreciation for non-municipal expertise and participation in the committee, such as from organizations like SCRRRA and Casella. Amanda Kennedy discussed solid waste efforts within various other COGs, suggesting that those efforts be reported out on during future

SECOG solid waste meetings to keep informed. Fred Allyn additionally stressed the importance and benefits of multiple COGs being supportive of any piece of solid waste legislation. SECOG staff proposed to begin tracking municipal solid waste projects and solid waste concerns within SECOG towns in an effort to provide more tailored technical assistance with finding suitable grants or other opportunities. SECOG staff will present a template of what this type of outreach may look like at the next quarterly meeting. The committee agreed to continue forward with a quarterly meeting frequency.

VI. Adjournment

Committee members adjourned without scheduling the next quarterly meeting (April), to be set via email.

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Rúguǒ nín xūyào cáncàng huò yǔyán bāngzhù, qǐng liánxì SCCOG, diànhuà:860-889-2324, Diànzǐ