

Quick Highlights of the 2016 Draft Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS)

The CMMS is a clear, action-oriented roadmap to achieving the state’s vision for 60 percent diversion of materials from disposal by 2024. It fulfills the requirements set by the Legislature in Public Act 14-94, and when adopted, it will replace the state’s current Solid Waste Management Plan, which was last updated in 2006.

The past decade has seen significant changes in the state’s materials management system, including new recycling mandates, new product stewardship programs, and changes in the economics of waste-to-energy and recycling. The CMMS accounts for these changes, as well as drawing on recent studies of the statewide composition of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Construction and Demolition Waste (C&D). It builds on several years of planning work conducted by DEEP in partnership with the General Assembly, including integrating recommendations of the 2010 LPRI report *Municipal Solid Waste Management Services in Connecticut*, and those of the Governor’s Modernizing Recycling Working Group, and the Resource Recovery Task Force.

All of the actions called for by the CMMS are aimed directly at achieving the state’s goal of 60 percent diversion from disposal by 2024. It is a bold plan focused on meeting three objectives that are fundamental to achieving the state’s goal:

- Connecticut must improve the performance of municipal recycling systems and increase compliance with mandatory recycling provisions.
- Connecticut must develop and improve recycling and waste conversion technologies.
- Corporations that design, produce, and market products must share responsibility for stewarding the end of life of those materials in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Specific Actions

To meet these objectives, specific actions called for by the CMMS include:

- Increasing state-led enforcement of existing recycling provisions.
- Making continuous improvements to municipal recycling programs, including implementation of unit-based pricing approaches that incentivize waste reduction.
- Increasing outreach and education to enhance effective participation in single-stream recycling.

- Creating the regulatory environment and public incentives to make way for the development of new materials management infrastructure, with a focus on greener alternatives to existing waste-to-energy facilities.
- Developing new programs to relieve the financial burden of recycling programs on municipalities and share responsibility for stewardship with the producers of materials.
- Aligning materials management planning and policy with the state’s greenhouse gas reduction goals and clean energy priorities.

A Strategy that Begins Today

The CMMS focuses resources on immediate implementation of several key programs, including grants for municipalities; new collaborations between DEEP, the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority, and the CT Green Bank for infrastructure development; and progress towards an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for packaging and printed paper.

More Information and Supporting Documents

The waste characterization reports and other supporting documents will be posted online as they are finalized. The final adopted CMMS will include a bibliography with links to these materials. The website for the CMMS adoption process is www.ct.gov/DEEP/CMMS.