

# Governor's Modernizing Recycling Working Group

Revised July 3, 2012 based on feedback from Working Group

## Opportunity Statement

The goal of the Modernizing Recycling Working Group is to transform the waste economy in Connecticut.

To do so we need to move from a mindset of waste management to a mindset of value extraction from materials.

The result will be reduced costs for municipalities and businesses.

This further integrated approach to sustainable materials management in Connecticut will drive environmental and economic benefits today and for future generations.

**Please Note:** *This draft opportunity statement reflects an attempt to synthesize succinctly the various thoughts expressed during the April 24 meeting and does not include all the things we talked about. This statement will be further developed and refined.*

# Subcommittees

## Systems and Infrastructure

- **Goal:** To fundamentally redefine the state solid waste infrastructure and management system to enable optimal recovery of materials from the waste stream and to provide economical and environmentally sound disposal of materials not reused or recycled.

## Materials and Markets

- **Goal:**

# 6-Month Overview

Phase 1

## **Diagnostics**

*Due August 31*

**Understand existing conditions**

**Identify challenges and opportunities**

**Identify best practices**

**Preliminary Diagnostics Report due**

Phase 2

## **Resolution**

*Due October 1*

**Identify actionable items**

**Identify long-term needs**

**Preliminary Resolution Report Due**

Phase 3

## **Distribution**

*Due December 1*

**Distribute Preliminary Resolution Report for feedback**

**Schedule listening sessions**

**Revise based on feedback**

**Submit Final Report**

# Phase 1 Core Questions

## Materials and Markets

- A. Who extracts most value and the most materials from the multi-state system?
- B. What economic signals and/or market support systems can we use to create, use and expand the markets we need?
- C. What are the advantages with a regional approach for market development?

## Systems and Infrastructure

- A. What are the challenges with the RRF business model and impact on municipalities and taxpayers?
- B. What infrastructure improvements would we need if diversion increased to 80%?
- C. What is the right point for aggregation and responsibility within the system? – Public? Private? State? Region?

# Phase 1: Due August 31

Diagnostics –current conditions, challenges, best practices

## Step 1

## Step 2

## Step 3

**MATERIALS & MARKETS**

**A. Who extracts the most value and the most materials from the system?**

**B. What economic signals/market support systems can we use to create the markets we need?**

**C. What are the advantages with a regional approach for market development?**

**What are existing conditions?**

1. Recycling sector (collection, processing)
2. Reuse sector (collection, reuse and remanufacturing)
3. Manufacturing new products with recycled content

**What are the opportunities and challenges?**

- Collection systems
- Processing
- Product stewardship

**Should we focus on specific materials?**

**What are best practices from other states and regions?**

- Regional recycling and economic development programs

# Phase 1: Due August 31

Diagnostics –current conditions, challenges, best practices

## Step 1

## Step 2

## Step 3

**SYSTEMS & INFRASTRUCTURE**

**A. What are the challenges in the RRF business model and impact on municipalities and taxpayers?**

**B. What infrastructure improvements would we need if diversion increased to 80%?**

**C. What is the right point for aggregation and responsibility within the system?**  
Public?  
Private?  
State?  
Region?

**What is current landscape in CT?**

- Understand players involved, components, and current ownership
- Understand geographic efficiencies or inefficiencies

**What are the opportunities and challenges?**

- Contract expiration
- Current capacity
- Hauler licensing
- As technology changes, location is important
- ISO NE and how they manage

**Are there infrastructure gaps?**  
**Is aggregation feasible?**

**What are best practices?**

- Unit based pricing
- Franchising, managed, and private hauler collection
- Organics infrastructure

**What models exist inside the US or internationally from which we can learn?**

# Phase 2: Due October 1

## Resolution - prioritization and proposal development

**MATERIALS & MARKETS**

*Step 1*

**A. What public/private capital resources are available to support these industries?**

**How to support the reuse and recycling industries?**

- 1. Is demand side (i.e. recycling market development) best direction?
- 2. What type of program is needed for CT?
- 3. Increase purchasing of locally-made products with recycled-content.

**Do we need additional research or data to assess options?**

*Step 2*

**B. Which action items or easy wins drive the market near term and long term?**

**What are the most actionable items to move towards supporting reuse and recycling industries?**

**What are the long-term needs to support reuse and recycling industries?**

**Do we return to the regional conversation for recycling market development?**

*Step 3*

**C. Are there investment requirements? Who should be responsible?**

**What or who would provide these services and assistance to support these growing industries?**

- 1. How would they be implemented?
- 2. What resources would be needed?

# Phase 2: Due October 1

## Resolution - prioritization and proposal development

**SYSTEMS & INFRASTRUCTURE**

### Step 1

**A. What are the challenges in the RRF business model and impact on municipalities and taxpayers?**

**Do we want a more uniform disposal infrastructure?**

- Incentives for waste reduction
- Universal rate
- Unit based rates
- Franchising or managed collection
- Account for differences in municipalities

### Step 2

**B. What infrastructure improvements would we need if diversion increased to 80%? If organics diversion increased significantly?**

**What are the most actionable items for a sustainable system?**

**What are the long-term needs for a more sustainable system?**

- Financing
- Capacity

### Step 3

**C. What is the right point for aggregation and responsibility within the system?**

Public?  
Private?  
State?  
Region?

**How does the whole system fit together?**

**How do we alter the system or reconfigure our current state?**

# Phase 3: Due December 1

## Distribution - feedback and refinement

### *Final Steps*

Solicit feedback and input from stakeholders including solid waste professionals (e.g. Oct. Summit) and listening sessions (e.g. Environmental Justice, citizenry, regional authorities, CCM, COST, municipalities, CBIA, businesses, etc).

Discuss and revise ideas and plans based on feedback and internal dialogue.

Submit Final Report to Governor's Office

# Working Group Timeline

	Jun				Jul				Aug				Sep				Oct				Nov				
	03.	10.	17.	24.	01.	08.	15.	22.	29.	05.	12.	19.	26.	02.	09.	16.	23.	30.	07.	14.	21.	28.	04.	11.	18.
<b>Phase 1: Diagnostics</b>  Diagnostics Report Due	▲				▲				▲																
<b>Phase 2: Resolution</b>  Draft Resolution Report Due									▲				▲												
<b>Phase 3: Distribution</b>  GWG Report Out at Summit  Final Report Due													▲				▲				▲				

