

**State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection**

**State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
Summary of the April 22, 2008 Meeting**



Changing the Balance

The twelfth meeting of the CTDEP State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on April 22, 2008 at the CTDEP headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to: provide regulatory and legislative updates; hold an open forum; listen to two presentations: “Cities, Towns and Waster Haulers” and “Estimating the Environmental Benefits of Source Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling – An Environmental Benefits Calculator”; and then, breakout to subcommittee work.

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:

- Today marks Earth Day that began in April 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson. In the past, the CTDEP used to celebrate Earth Day by tying back to the State’s Environment 2000 Plan and holding state-wide conferences. In April 1990, the CTDEP held its conference and Senator Nelson was the keynote speaker, along with Senator Lieberman, Julie Belaga EPA Region 1 Administrator, and other distinguished speakers. That year marked a Special Publication by the DEP and one of the articles in it was entitled “Recycling Concept Recycled” and it read:

In the 1970s, when Earth Day originated, few in Connecticut realized what a major problem solid waste was destined to be.

Over the past twenty years, we have seen landfills fill up, expand (both out and up) and fill up again. After considerable initial difficulty, we built five waste to energy plants. These are all currently operating well. Not only do they create energy, but they serve 65% of the state’s population by getting rid of trash, from 64 municipalities.

Nevertheless, we are not keeping up with the tide of things we throw away. It has become clear that we must reduce the sheer volume of our waste. We must reuse many of the articles that we are accustomed to throw away. We must recycle.

The Connecticut Solid Waste Management Plan calls for recycling 25% of our trash by 1991. To help this happen, state rules passed last year designated nine recyclable items which can not be accepted at incinerators and landfills after January 1991. They are: glass and metal containers, white office paper, leaves, storage batteries, newspaper, scrap metal, corrugated paper, and waste oil.

In 1987, a ten million dollar recycling trust fund was established. The budget for recycling this year was \$26 million. It is expected that in 1991, more than \$40 million will be spent in Connecticut to help establish recycling as a way of life for all it people.

Currently DEP is working with municipalities and regional recycling groups across the state setting up Intermediate Processing Centers, launching public information programs, encouraging markets, and doing all things necessary to meet the 1991 recycling deadline.

Thus a very old solution is being retrofitted to solve a modern problem.

Today, April 22, 2008, we find ourselves still trying o solve a not so *modern* problem and that we all need to be engaged to increase recycling rates whatever sector of the population we represent – government, private industry, environmental organizations, the individual.

- On April 18th, 2008, Governor Rell led more than a dozen Governors from across the country in signing the Governors’ Declaration on Climate Change at the 2008 Conference on Climate Change at Yale

University. In addition to recommitting state efforts to address climate change, the Declaration sets forth three key principles:

- A federal-state partnership is critical to success – the federal government and the states need to be fully engaged and there needs to be federal support for state innovation and the development of “green” energy technology.
 - State-based climate action plans and programs have paved the way for cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases and they deserve continued support – measures taken at the state level are making a difference and there are many ways these measures can be strengthened and developed further with federal support.
 - Rewarding and encouraging meaningful and mandatory federal and state climate action is key – there must be incentives for states to provide leadership on climate action. These incentives drive change and they can come from existing federal energy, transportation and agriculture programs as well as from auction revenue derived from a federal cap and trade program.
- CRRA will be holding three “Open Hose” Programs on their ash landfill proposal. The meetings are to be held in Franklin on April 30th, May 7th and May 10th.

Legislative and Regulatory Updates

Legislative update: Bob Kaliszewski, Director, provided an update on a number of bills currently active and under consideration at the Legislature. Budget bills will be under consideration next week; a question was raised about the DEP funding bill for solid waste implementation. Bob indicated that the bill was not viable due to a number of issues raised against that bill – primarily, who would be paying.

Regulatory update: Robert Isner, Director/Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, provided a brief summary update on the following activities – the Beneficial Use on Coal Ash to be used in concrete products is under internal review; and the Beneficial Reuse of Contaminated Soils is under internal review and is tied to the remediation standards regulations; it is expected that a redraft will be out for this Fall. Robert indicated that he wanted to reiterate that everyone has a responsibility to increase recycling rates and in view of today’s guest lecturer, identified waste haulers playing an important role.

Open Forum

No comments were offered.

Presentations

Michael Paine, President of Paine’s Incorporated and also the State Chapter Chairman of the National Solid Waste Management Association, gave a presentation entitled *Cities, Towns and waste Haulers, All in the Mix*. Michael spoke to the different levels of service: Private versus Municipal and Contract or Subscription Service and why they are different. He discussed the various types of disposal/recycle facilities: quasi-public facility, public facility, private facility; and the difference among the three. Michael spoke on registration issues: municipalities right to register each hauler in their town; regional permit or individual permit; permitting by disposal facilities; and why is this important.

Athena Lee Bradley, with the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC), presented a talk entitled *Climate Change: Recycling Matters More than you Think*. Athena focused her discussion on the Environmental Benefits Calculator and its application. A copy of her presentation is on the web.

The full Committee meeting ended and members attended the subcommittees.

The next meeting is scheduled for: May 27, 2008, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; CTDEP Headquarters, 79 Elm Street/5th Floor Phoenix Auditorium, Hartford, CT 06106.

Adjourned

Summary of minutes dated May 23, 2008