Valuable materials in the trash

Overall composition of MSW disposed in CT, 2009

- **Paper**: 25.9%
- **Plastic**: 14.5%
- **Organics**: 26.2%
- **C&D**: 14.1%
- **Metals**: 4.7%
- **Electronics**: 2.2%
- **Other Waste**: 5.4%
- **Glass**: 2.4%
- **Textiles***: 4.1%
- **HHW**: 0.6%

*Textiles category does not include carpet

CT Solid Waste Characterization, 2009
Estimated textiles in CT waste stream

Total 96,520 tons

Non-residential 24,702 tons

Residential 71,819 tons

CT Solid Waste Characterization, 2009
Source reduction and reuse should be the priority for managing textiles
Types of textile recyclers

• Charities or non-profits
  – Revenues from donated textiles further mission of charity
  – Some charities provide textiles directly to clients in need

• For-profit companies
  – Companies which collect textiles and sell for-profit

• Hybrids
  – Textiles donated to charity, for-profit company buys donated textiles from charity (i.e., charity lends name to collection)
  – For-profit company sells donated textiles at retail stores for profit

• Collection methods include donation centers, thrift/consignment stores, donation boxes, curbside collection, event fundraisers, etc.
Economic and environmental impact of textiles reuse and recycling

- Potential for statewide savings of $5.7 million from avoided disposal costs*
- 10,000 tons of reclaimed textiles creates 85 jobs (ILSR, 1997)
- For every 2 million tons of textiles recovered, 5.1 million MTCO$_2$E is avoided, equivalent to 1 million cars taken off the road per year (EPA, 2011)

*Used average tip fee of $60
Municipalities tracking textiles diversion

Textiles Reported Collected in 2011 (Tons)

- Branford: 8.8
- Bristol: 9.0
- Canaan: 3.7
- East Lyme: 6.5
- Eastford: 2.5
- Glastonbury: 59.0
- Granby: 2.4
- Greenwich: 4.1
- Middletown: 13.8
- Middlebury: 0.2
- Portland: 0.2
- Redding: 17.1
- Salisbury: 49.8
- Sharon: 37.9
- Stamford: 8.2
- Stonington: 13.7

More than 236 tons of textiles reported removed from 2011 waste stream
Moving forward

• State Solid Waste Management Plan – 58% diversion by 2024, includes textiles

• Facilitate statewide textiles dialogue

• Assist in promotion of textiles reuse and recycling message
Consistent message for increased diversion

• Collect or donate ALL textiles (clothing, shoes, linens, sheets, etc.) except if wet, mildewed or saturated with petroleum products
  – Not just “gently used” textiles
  – Regardless of how the textiles are collected

• Textiles that are not reused are recycled. Only about 5% of collected textiles are discarded
Some resources

• United Way of CT 2-1-1 [Clothing Donation Programs](#)

• Department of Consumer Protection, [E-License Look-up](#)

• [Charity Navigator](#)
Textiles Reuse and Recycling Panel Discussion

• Today’s Textiles Reuse & Recycling Industry Sectors
  *Larry Groipen*, President, ERC Wiping Products, Inc. and Past President, Secondary Materials & Textiles Recycling Association

• CT’s Donation Bin Law & Compliance
  *John Neumon*, Frauds Division Director, Department of Consumer Protection

• For-Profit Textile Collection Perspective
  *Paul Curry*, CEO, Bay State Textiles

• Non-Profit Textile Collection Perspective
  *James Maynard*, Donated Goods & Facility Manager, Easter Seals Goodwill

• Different Paths for Diverted Textiles
  *Eric Stubin*, President & CEO, Trans-Americas Textile Recycling, Inc.