Single Stream Collection of Recyclables

CT DEP
Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee

September 23, 2008
DEP Recycling Goal

Achieve 58% diversion by the year 2024

- Good = anything that
  - Increases amount diverted from the solid waste stream
  - Increases participation in recycling programs
Recycling Collection Methods

- Dual stream (separated collection)
- Single stream (co-mingled collection)
- Unit-based disposal pricing
- Container options (bigger size, wheeled)
Single Stream Collection

- *Shifts logistics and costs of separation from* residents and haulers *to* IPCs and end markets
- Prompts towns’ *investment* in larger containers
- Requires *investment* in different type of processing capability at the Intermediate Processing Center (IPC) recycling facility
- IPC can still receive either separated [dual stream] or co-mingled [single stream] recyclables
Merits of Single Stream

- Boosts recycling **rates and participation**
- Makes recycling **simple** for **residents**
- For **haulers**, typically combined with switch to automated collection, so **savings** in reduced collection costs
Challenges of Single Stream

- **Towns’** capital outlay for automated equipment & larger recycling bins

- Retrofitting **recycling facilities** = big investment

- If material quality declines, **end markets** may:
  - Pay more for increased residual disposal
  - Realize equipment damage – upgrade equipment
  - Pay towns less for recyclables to recover above costs
  - Reflect decreased consumer confidence in recycled content products
What DEP is doing

✓ Processed facility modification request for IPC to accommodate receipt of either single-stream or dual-stream collected recyclables

  o Conducting a survey with all CT towns to help towns see costs of disposal and recycling options more clearly

  o With EPA, working with Bridgeport and area towns to consider unit-based pricing approach
Simplicity and Education are Key