



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection





Recycling Enforcement Initiative (REI)

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Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

CT Recycling Laws: Brief Overview

CT recycling laws have been in place for almost 30 years

- **First 20 years:** Saw relatively minor changes.
- **Last 10 years:** Significant changes.

<u>Public Act 10-87</u> (Expansion & Clarification of CT Recycling Requirements)	<u>Commercial Organics Recycling Law</u> Recycling of Source Separated Organics (CGS Sec. <u>22a-226e</u>)
<u>Public Act 11-24</u> (Paint Stewardship Law)	<u>Public Act 13-42</u> (Mattress Stewardship Law)
<u>Public Act 13-285</u> (An Act Concerning Recycling & Jobs)	<u>Public Act 14-94</u> (An Act Concerning CT's Recycling & Materials Management Strategy...)



Recycling laws you should be familiar with

[CGS Section 22a-241b\(c\)](#): Every person who generates solid waste from a residential property shall... separate from other solid waste the items designated for recycling...

[CGS Section 22a-241b\(e\)](#): Every person who generates solid waste from a property other than a residential property shall... make provisions and cause the separation from other solid waste the items designated for recycling...

[CGS Section 22a-241b\(e\)](#): No person shall knowingly combine previously segregated designated recyclable items with other solid waste.



What are Designated Recyclable Items (“DR”)

DRs include:

- Paper Products (boxboard, cardboard, newspapers, magazines, office paper, colored paper...etc.);
- Metal and Glass Food & Beverage Containers;
- #1 and #2 Plastic Containers;
- Scrap Metal;
- Batteries (Lead Acid & NI-Cd);
- Used Motor Oil;
- Leaves; &
- Grass Clippings.



Other important recycling laws

CGS Section 22a-220a(d)(1): Any collector hauling solid waste within a municipality, shall register annually in such municipality.

CGS Section 22a-220a(e): The door of any vehicle used to haul solid waste shall be clearly marked with the business name and address of the hauler.

CGS Section 22a-229: Any action taken by a person, municipality or regional authority that is governed by the solid waste management statutes shall be consistent with the CMMS.

CGS Section 22a-230: Provides the authority to the Commissioner to issue, modify or revoke any order issued pursuant to solid waste management statutes which he deems necessary to implement the CMMS.



CMMS Key Points

To achieve the goal of 60% diversion of solid waste from disposal by 2024:

- The Statewide recycling rate must increase from the current rate of 35%.
- We must improve the performance of municipal recycling programs and reduce waste, including increasing participation and compliance with mandatory recycling provisions.
- **We must establish a stronger program of state-led enforcement.**



Recycling Enforcement Initiative (REI)

In 2016, created REI team to provide a stronger program of state-led enforcement of recycling law

REI team:

- Developed internal tools and procedures to evaluate compliance quickly and provide timely response to the regulated community
- Cultured ability to assist local enforcement efforts
- Trained inter-agency staff to look for recycling noncompliance
- Provided Field Compliance unit with revised “[Business Recycling Checklist](#)”



What will field staff be looking for?

All items for an effective/compliant recycling program:

- Is there a recycling team in place?
- Are there appropriate interior containers for DRs?
- Are there appropriate exterior containers for DRs?
- Does the MSW contract provide for collection of DRs?
- Have employees or tenants been properly educated?
- Is there more than an incidental amount of DRs mixed in with MSW in the back of the building dumpster?

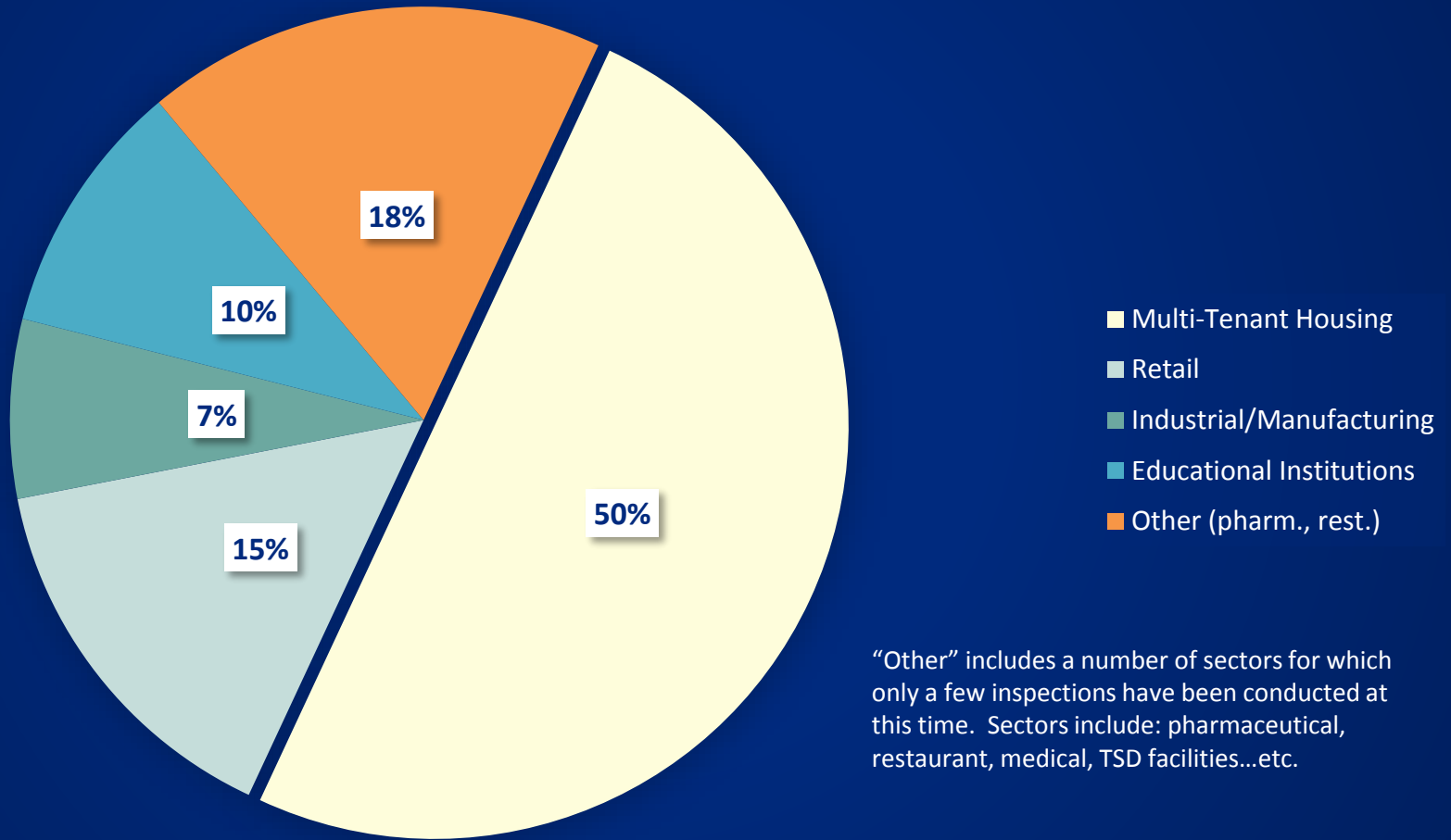


Recyclables Mixed with Trash



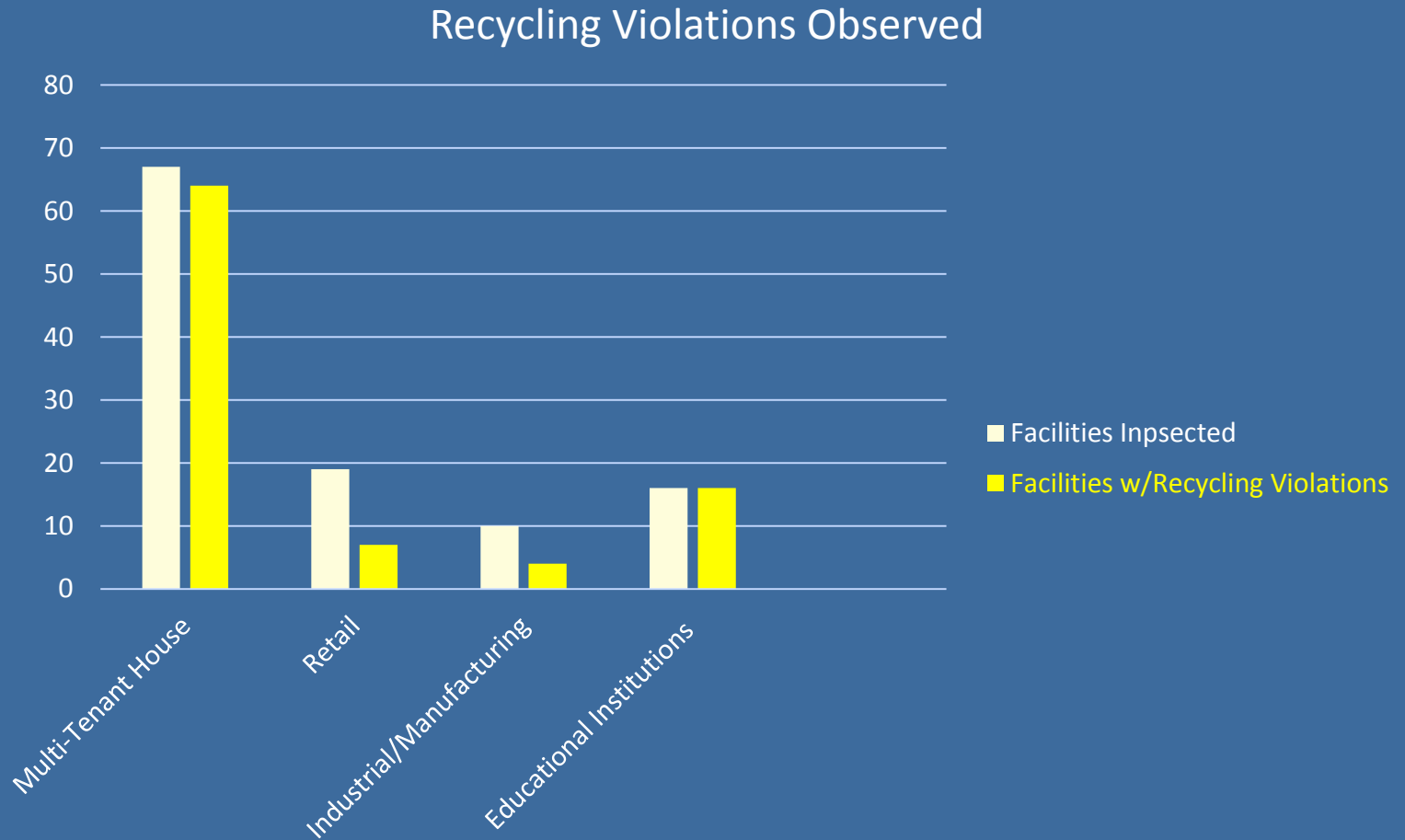
DEEP Inspected approximately 140 facilities

Sectors Evaluated



REI: Field Results

75% of facilities inspected had recycling violations



Typical Violations Encountered

1. No Recycling Program at all:

- Contracts associated with MSW collection not providing for collection of recyclable items.
- No facility staff designated or responsible for recycling.
- No internal collection containers associated with recycling.
- No external collection containers associated with recycling.



Typical Violations Encountered (cont'd)

2. Limited recycling:

Facility recycled only one or a few recyclable items.

- For example, some Retail or Manufacturing facilities recycled cardboard or scrap metal only.
- No recycling provided for other items, such as, bottles, cans, newspapers, magazines or office paper.

3. Mixing of recyclable items:

Facility may have had a recycling program in place, but more than an incidental amount of recyclable material was combined with trash.



REI Actions to Date

NOVs issued to over 40 facilities (Mostly Multi-Tenant Housing Facilities)

- Several have responded well thus far by implementing Recycling Programs.
 - Installed collection containers (internally & externally)
 - Expanded collection contracts with Solid Waste Haulers to include collection of recyclables
 - Provided outreach/education to tenants
 - Developed and implemented SOPs to ensure recyclables remain segregated
- Those that fail to adequately respond will be assessed to determine the need for an escalated action, consistent with the Enforcement Response Policy (ERP), which may include civil penalty.



REI Actions to Date (cont.)

Several NONs issued: No formal response required

- Identifies violations.
- Provides formal notice to facilities of recycling requirements.

Utilized Compliance Assistance for balance of facilities with recycling compliance issues

- Generally, for facilities with minor recycling violations.
- Communication is assistance-based and not enforcement based.



Facilities that have addressed recycling violations

The following facilities have already addressed recycling violations through the REI process:

- Dozens of multi-tenant housing facilities (> 1,300 units)
- 4 hotels
- 6 retailers
- 4 industrial/manufacturing facilities
- 1 convention center



Getting to 60% Diversion

We all must do our part to improve the current diversion rate and increase compliance with recycling laws.

We recently received notifications from a municipality indicating non-compliance at a few multi-tenant housing facilities. DEEP can assist the municipality by sending a letter to the violator outlining state recycling laws.



More Information Available At:

- [DEEP – Main Website](#)
- [Recycling Homepage](#)
- [Municipal Recycling Resource Center](#)
- [Business Recycling Assistance webpage](#)
- [CMMS webpage](#)



Closing...



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