

Resources Recovery Task Force Meeting Notes

Thursday, December 12, 2013

3:00 p.m.

Phoenix Room

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT

Members present: Macky McCleary (Chair), Glenn Lockhart, Joel Freedman, Doreen Zaback, Andrea Keilty, Stephen Diaz, Edward Spinella, Jeff Bridges, Lyle Wray, Mark Bobman, Mark Quinlan

Absent: Mark Lyon.

Meeting Notes

- Members voted on remaining recommendations revised since being tabled on 12/9/13. The following is an accounting of the votes:

Market Assessment

Findings:

- The infrastructure that will facilitate the state's goal to dramatically increase recycling and source-reduction by 2024 is early in its development, necessitating a continued reliance on waste-to-energy. **Approved unanimously.**
- Waste-to-energy revenue is driven at least 60 percent by tipping fees which are negotiated between the operators and their customers. When forming new contracts, operators have the option of raising tipping fees to offset electricity price decline. This has the potential to adversely impact municipal budgets and increase out-of-state disposal, but also allows waste-to-energy operators to account for market factors in their pricing. **Approved unanimously.**

Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)

Findings:

- As the state begins development of the next Solid Waste Management Plan, it will identify the future solid waste management needs of the state. This is likely to include an overall review of the solid waste management system to ensure the state remains a national leader and that the state does not slip back and begin long haul land filling. **Approved 8-1.**
- The state will continue to incorporate the solid waste hierarchy elements including goals for WTE capacity over a multi-decade period, as well as other detailed diversion targets and implementation strategies. **Approved 8-1.**
- The potential greenhouse gas mitigation achieved by waste-to-energy technology could be an environmental benefit to the state. **Approved 8-1.**

Recommendation:

DRAFT – NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY TASK FORCE

- The state should consider restructuring the Class II RECs to more fully account for the value of the greenhouse gas reduction and environmental benefits of WTE facilities relative to landfills. In its analysis, the state should consider REC structures in other states, as well as measurements of the net lifecycle greenhouse gas mitigation achieved by waste-to-energy technology. **Approved 8-1.**

Next Steps

- Final report to be circulated to the Task Force for edits / approval by end of week.