



CT COALITION FOR SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

The residents and businesses of Connecticut deserve a waste system that: provides reliable disposal options at an affordable and predictable cost; advances our state's leadership on sustainability; reduces adverse environmental impacts and disproportionate burden on certain communities in our state. As State and Municipal leaders, we share a vision of an equitable, sustainable, affordable waste system, and are committed to advancing innovative solutions and supporting critical services needed to achieve that goal.

Four decades ago, state and municipal leaders faced a waste system that was at a critical juncture. State and municipal leaders came together to secure investment in six waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities, which provided adequate in-state capacity to maintain our disposal self-sufficiency. Through these investments in municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal infrastructure, the state was able to close in-state MSW landfills. Since that time, Connecticut municipalities have been leaders in promoting new, innovative mechanisms for MSW disposal that advance the state's waste hierarchy—from designating recyclable items, to hosting the first commercial-scale anaerobic digester, to unit-based pricing for disposal or pay as you throw programs.

In spite of this progress, Connecticut's waste sector is once again at a critical point. In 2016 approximately 100,000 tons per year of MSW were being sent for out of state disposal. In 2018, that tonnage increased to approximately 400,000 tons. In-state WTE facilities are aging and in need of expensive upgrades and more extensive maintenance, and are generating lower revenues from electricity sales—a combination of factors that has increased tip fees at WTE facilities significantly. The closure of the Wallingford WTE facility, and now potentially the MIRA WTE facility, presents the real possibility that Connecticut will take a backward step towards increased reliance on out-of-state landfills to manage our MSW. This will put our state at the mercy of other states to accept our MSW, with negative consequences for the environment and greater volatility in disposal costs over the long term.

We believe that now is the time to take a step forward, harnessing State and Municipal innovation and collaboration to spur action and investment in new programs and services that

will achieve a more affordable, equitable, and sustainable waste system for our citizens. Our collective vision is that this system will:

- Make substantial progress towards reducing several hundred thousand tons of generated MSW statewide by 2027;
- Promote opportunities for innovation, investment, and employment in Connecticut;
- Provide for predictable and (long-term) cost-effective options;
- Seek to minimize and mitigate impacts of waste infrastructure on overburdened communities.

To advance that future, we commit to working together in this initiative to accomplish the following:

1. Share experiences and lessons learned from various efforts to adopt effective waste reduction strategies;
2. Engage market participants and local stakeholders to solicit input and proposed waste reduction solutions;
3. Seek creative means to fund solutions that further our collective goal;
4. Identify and evaluate a menu of options that municipalities and the state can adopt that will help us to collectively make progress towards our goal;
5. By January 1, 2021, report on our progress and announce commitments to action in furtherance of our waste reduction vision.

We recognize that by working together, we have the potential to achieve economies of scale and send a strong signal for private investment and sector transformation. At the same time, we respect the unique needs and policy preferences of each participating jurisdiction, and the importance of flexible approaches. We recognize that each municipality can contribute in different ways, through different measures, to achieve our shared goals.

We welcome all municipal partners that would like to join us in this endeavor.

Participating Entities, as of September 3, 2020:

CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection – Katie Dykes, Commissioner

ANSONIA

BARKHAMSTED

BETHEL

BETHLEHEM

BLOOMFIELD

BRANFORD

BRIDGEPORT

BRISTOL

BROOKFIELD

CANTERBURY

CANTON
COVENTRY
DEEP RIVER
DURHAM
EAST GRANBY
EAST HARTFORD
ELLINGTON
ESSEX
FARMINGTON
GRANBY
GREENWICH
GUILFORD
HADDAM
HARTFORD
HARWINTON
KENT
KILLINGLY
LITCHFIELD
MADISON
MANCHESTER
MANSFIELD
MIDDLEFIELD
MIDDLETOWN
MONTVILLE
NAUGATUCK
NEW BRITAIN
NEW FAIRFIELD
NEW HAVEN
NEW LONDON
NEWTOWN
NORTH HAVEN
NORTH STONINGTON
OLD LYME
OLD SAYBROOK
OXFORD
PLAINVILLE
POMFRET
PORTLAND
RIDGEFIELD
ROCKY HILL
ROXBURY
SALEM
SALISBURY
SHARON

SIMSBURY
SOUTHINGTON
STONINGTON
STRATFORD
SUFFIELD
THOMASTON
TORRINGTON
VERNON
VOLUNTOWN
WASHINGTON
WATERBURY
WEST HARTFORD
WESTBROOK
WESTON
WESTPORT
WINDHAM
WINDSOR LOCKS
WOODSTOCK