

January 7, 2019

Dear Chief Elected Official:

In July 2016, the State adopted the Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS - www.ct.gov/DEEP/CMMS) pursuant to Section 22a-241a of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS). The CMMS reaffirms the solid waste management hierarchy established by CGS Section 22a-228b to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost as a priority over waste-to-energy and lastly landfilling of solid waste. The CMMS focuses in part on the important role of municipalities in waste reduction and recycling, and refocuses state and local efforts to comply with existing laws and implement practices to achieve the CMMS goals. Consistency with the CMMS can have significant cost savings for each municipality, as it is often cheaper to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost solid waste than it is to process for waste-to-energy or to landfill the same waste. In addition to the municipal cost savings, there are significant environmental and societal benefits realized from adhering to the CMMS goals. DEEP is sending this letter to all municipalities as a follow up to DEEP's August 2017 letter to provide you with:

- a. an update on your municipality's compliance status with CMMS;
- b. a reminder about the breadth of resources available on the DEEP website to assist municipalities to comply with the requirements of the CMMS and recycling laws; and
- c. notice of an extended deadline to implement waste reduction initiatives pursuant to CMMS.

CMMS Compliance Status

The attached compliance report is based on your municipality's answers to CMMS-specific questions in the 2016, 2017, and 2018 Annual Municipal Recycling Reports. You can review your municipality's responses to the survey questions over the three-year period and consider whether these answers are accurate and whether you believe there are circumstances impacting your compliance status that DEEP is not aware of. If your municipality declined to answer a question or did not submit a survey response, the report will show the response as "N/R" (No Response). In the cases where questions were not asked in a given year, the response is shown as "N/Q" (Question Not Asked). If you have questions or comments regarding the survey, you can contact DEEP at the address provided on the compliance report form.

Outreach Resources, Grants, and Timeline

DEEP will, within available resources, continue to provide support for municipalities, including educational opportunities to municipalities on municipal CMMS requirements, Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART), public space recycling, and source separated organics collection. Municipalities also have access to valuable programs such as state-led compliance assurance and enforcement of recycling laws and the new statewide “What’s IN, What’s OUT” promotional campaign (www.RecycleCT.com) that includes educational resources that can be used and easily customized to serve municipal needs.

Since 2016, DEEP has awarded more than \$600,000 in grants to municipalities to improve waste reduction and recycling programs and technical assistance to over 30 municipalities on SMART. For more information about DEEP’s programs, please visit the Municipal Recycling Resource webpage at www.ct.gov/deep/MuniRecyclingResources.

DEEP anticipates the following timeline in tracking municipal compliance with CMMS goals:

- Waste Reduction Initiatives Compliance Plan due from municipalities – April 1, 2019
- Letter from DEEP regarding compliance with Waste Reduction Initiatives – July 2019
- Annual Municipal Recycling Report due from municipalities – September 30, 2019
- Letter from DEEP regarding compliance with CMMS – December 2019
- Municipalities may be ordered to take specific actions – 2020
- Updates and report-outs from DEEP including through SWAC meetings and via various listservs – Ongoing

Extended Deadline to Implement Waste Reduction Initiatives

CMMS Objective 1.2.b (CMMS page 49) requires municipalities to implement “waste reduction initiatives designed to reduce total MSW [municipal solid waste] disposed by at least 10%” by 2024 using a baseline year of 2014. Such initiatives may include the implementation of unit-based pricing systems (also known as SMART Programs). The CMMS calls for waste reduction initiatives to be in place on or before December 31, 2018, but DEEP is granting municipalities a six-month extension (July 1, 2019) to implement such measures. **The Waste Reduction Initiatives Compliance Plan specifying which measures will be implemented by your municipality (see attached) is due by April 1, 2019.** While not explicitly stated in CMMS Objective 1.2.b, numerous other strategies with minimal capital expenditures exist which may include initiating or enhancing participation with extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs for items such as electronics, mattresses and paint, and establishing diversion programs for textiles, organics, and donatable items (e.g., swap sheds).

More on CMMS

A collaborative effort between DEEP and municipalities is necessary to prepare for an increase in the demand for available trash disposal capacity at the state’s waste-to-energy facilities and throughout the Northeast region, and the associated increase in the cost of disposal. DEEP estimates that if the state’s rate of waste generation remains constant, the cost of in-state disposal could increase by at least an additional \$20 per ton by 2024. This can be alleviated through a 10% reduction in waste generation, an increase in recycling, and a statewide focus on the

development of new infrastructure for materials management. Through reaching CMMS goals, DEEP estimates that reducing MSW disposed by 10% and increasing recycling rate of the remaining material to 45% from 34% will save municipalities \$42 million a year in aggregate from avoided disposal tip fees.

To keep apprised of DEEP's implementation efforts of the CMMS, we encourage all municipalities to join the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) listserv. Instructions on how to self-subscribe to this list are available at www.ct.gov/deep/SWAdvComm.

If you would like to be added to the CT Municipal Recycling Coordinator E-Newsletter which highlights key issues, upcoming workshops and webinars, and available resources for municipal recycling and solid waste leaders, please contact Sherill Baldwin at (860) 424-3440 or Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov. We also encourage networking and sharing of best practices through the CT Recycling Coordinator Listserv. Interested people can self-subscribe to this list by sending a blank message to ctrecyclers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

If you have any questions about meeting the requirements outlined in the CMMS or corrections on data submitted to DEEP, please contact Peter Brunelli at (860) 424-3536 or Peter.Brunelli@ct.gov. For questions about the Waste Reduction Initiatives Compliance Plan, please contact Jennifer Weymouth at (860) 424-3508 or Jennifer.Weymouth@ct.gov.

Thank you for your commitment to waste reduction and recycling.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Isner
Director
Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division

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