

April 25, 2019

Dear Recycling Coordinators:

As follow-up to the DEEP letter sent to municipal Chief Elected Officials in January 2019, we would like to provide an update regarding progress made on Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS - www.ct.gov/DEEP/CMMS) goals and a reminder of the resources available to assist your municipality. Thank you to the 40 municipal partners that submitted Municipal Waste Reduction Initiative Plans outlining the great programs and policies that are being implemented to reduce waste and improve reuse and recycling of materials. From expanding options for residents to recycle mattresses, paint, and electronics through extended producer responsibility programs to reducing recycling contamination through the What's IN, What's OUT promotional campaign, it is clear that municipalities are engaged in strengthening their sustainable materials management programs. DEEP has also provided assistance to over 50 municipalities on benchmarking progress using solid waste and recycling data, reporting, and implementation of policies and programs to improve operations and save on costs.

As a reminder, the CMMS Municipal Waste Reduction Initiative Plans (www.ct.gov/deep/MuniRecyclingResources) were targeted for submission by December 31, 2018, and DEEP extended this date to April 1, 2019. If you have not already done so, please complete your municipality's Plan and submit it to Jennifer Weymouth at Jennifer.Weymouth@ct.gov. Feel free to reach out to Jennifer should you have any questions or need assistance.

Also included in the DEEP January 2019 letter was a 2016-2018 CMMS Compliance Report. This report allowed municipalities to review their responses to CMMS related questions in the Annual Municipal Recycling Report (AMRR) Part 6 Survey. Each municipal recycling coordinator was then contacted with a link to a 2019 CMMS Update survey which will allow for consolidated responses. If you did not receive a notification, have not completed the survey, or have questions about CMMS implementation please contact Peter.Brunelli@ct.gov for assistance.

Below are resources for your municipality as you continue to refine your municipal waste reduction programs.

- Municipal Recycling Resource webpage (www.ct.gov/deep/MuniRecyclingResources) with information on Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART) programs, public space recycling, source separated organics collection, textiles reuse and recycling, extended producer responsibility programs, and more.
- Statewide "What's IN, What's OUT" promotional campaign (www.RecycleCT.com), includes educational resources that can be used and easily customized to serve municipal needs.
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) listserv (www.ct.gov/deep/SWAdvComm).

- 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 Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov.
- CT Recycling Coordinator Listserv, interested people can self-subscribe to this list by sending a blank message to ctrecyclers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

In addition, in response to feedback received by municipal officials, DEEP is working with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities to convene a forum on recycling markets later this summer. We look forward to hearing from recycling coordinators and others about the challenges and opportunities facing municipal recycling programs. We will send information on the date and location in the coming weeks.

Waste reduction and diversion can have significant cost savings for each municipality, as it is often cheaper (even during the cycling lows solid waste markets are currently facing) 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 meeting the CMMS goals.

If you have any questions 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 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

Cc: Municipal Chief Elected Officials