



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
P R O T E C T I O N**

2019 Legislative Session in Review

Lee Sawyer, Director of Materials Management Planning

Special Guest: Sen. Christine Cohen, Chair, Environment Committee





Budget

The Two-Year State Budget maintains DEEP staffing, protects funds for energy efficiency programs, ensures the Passport to Parks supports parks programs, creates a new and improved rebate program for electric and hydrogen-fueled vehicles, maintains the Community Investment Act Account, maintains the Council on Environmental Quality, and **phases out single use plastic bags**. The budget also set ambitious goals for greening the state vehicle fleet, consistent with Governor Lamont's **Executive Order 1**, which instructed state agencies to reduce energy consumption, water usage, and waste.





Executive Order 1: GreenerGovCT

GHG

45% reduction in GHG emissions below 2001 levels

WASTE

25% reduction in waste disposal from a 2020 baseline

WATER

10% reduction in water consumption from a 2020 baseline



Executive Order 1: GreenerGovCT

DEVELOPING BASELINE

Statewide baseline will be established focusing on large state office buildings

WASTE

25% reduction in waste disposal from a 2020 baseline

ACHIEVING TARGETS

Agencies will report quantitative and qualitative measures reflecting implementation of best practices





Bottle Bill

Multiple proposals were ultimately unsuccessful. Some proposals included:

- Adding sports drinks and teas
- Increasing deposit value
- Increasing handling fees
- Deposits on nips, wine and liquor





Three Tiers for Connecticut & “Nip it in the Bin”

In response to interest in legislation regarding “nip” bottles, stakeholders formed a new 501C(3) called Three Tiers for Connecticut, and pledged:

- 20 litter pickups in collaboration with Live Green CT over five years
- 500 trash or recycling bins purchased and placed throughout the state
- A five-year public service and public education campaign focused on litter eradication and responsible recycling, especially of wine and spirits containers. This part of the campaign will be known as “Nip it in the Bin”





Farm-Based Anaerobic Digestion (HB 5002)



Exempts certain anaerobic digestion facilities at animal feeding operations from DEEP permit requirements; allows the DEEP commissioner to procure up to 10 MW of energy and related products from such facilities; and requires PURA to establish interconnection standards for biogas derived from certain farm and other waste.





Other Legislation of Interest

Packaging

An agency bill, HB 7295, would have solicited plans from producers of packaging to decrease costs of recycling system to municipalities.

Waste-to-Energy

A proposal to increase the value of the class II Renewable Energy Credit for waste-to-energy failed to move forward.

Future of MIRA Project

A proposal to accelerate contract talks between MIRA and Sacyr Rooney was not raised on the floor, but substantial progress was made during the session.

PFAS

A proposal to ban the use of AFFF firefighting foam for training did not receive a vote.





Plastic Bags



Image: New London Day



Thank You

