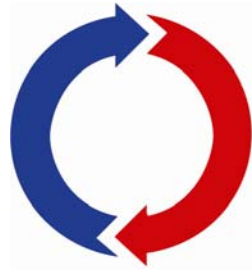


A bulletin from . . .



**CONNECTICUT
RESOURCES
RECOVERY
AUTHORITY**

DEP SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN: YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

You should have received by now the draft of the Department of Environmental Protection's proposed Solid Waste Management Plan. CRRA, the entity charged with implementing the SWMP (CGS Sec. 22a-262), is concerned the SWMP needs to do more to ensure that towns have safe, affordable options for trash and recycling. The plan is on line at <http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/solidw/swplan/index.htm>.

Connecticut should control its own destiny for managing its trash. Yet under current operating agreements, five of the state's six trash-to-energy facilities could be privately controlled – with that disposal capacity sold to the highest bidder, even if those bidders are from Massachusetts or New York or Rhode Island – by 2015. That could force towns to export trash to other states, putting even more trucks on our highways and leaving us at the mercy of out-of-state entities. **The SWMP should advocate for more disposal capacity that benefits the public interest.**

Each year, Connecticut already produces more than 400,000 tons of trash than its in-state disposal facilities can handle. Left unchecked, that number will hit 1.6 million tons by 2023. To address this shortfall, DEP proposes to rely on recycling and beneficial reuse to divert 49 percent of the state's solid waste. The current diversion rate is about 30 percent. Reaching the 49-percent diversion goal – while well worth pursuing – depends on the capability of CRRA and the state's regional solid waste authorities to carry out this mission. **The SWMP should advocate for the publicly-controlled infrastructure needed to substantially increase recycling.**

The substantial increases in diversion the SWMP calls for will require towns to re-double their efforts to get their residents to recycle, but many towns simply don't have the money to allocate to this worthwhile purpose. **The SWMP should advocate for the dedication of these funding sources to help municipalities with their trash and recycling needs.**

DEP will hold three public hearings on the new SWMP:

- Tuesday, Aug. 22, 6:30 p.m. at Bridgeport City Hall
- Wednesday, Aug. 23, 6:30 p.m. at DEP headquarters, Hartford
- Tuesday, Aug. 29, 6:30 p.m., Norwich City Hall

CRRA encourages you to make your voice heard at one of these hearings. If you want to know more, or are interested in commenting at one of these hearings, please call Paul Nonnenmacher at (860) 757-7771.

August 8, 2006