



Connecticut Department of

**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

September 7, 2011

Via Electronic Mail

RE: Recent Changes in Recycling Laws and Regulations (P.A. 10-87)

Dear Connecticut Businesses:

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) would like to provide you with an update on revisions that clarify and strengthen Connecticut's recycling requirements. While recycling at businesses has been required since 1991, these updates will affect recycling collection requirements and provide opportunities for cost savings. Key provisions of [Public Act 10-87](#) can be found on the following page.

The updates are an opportunity for businesses to look at their contracts for waste management to determine if they have what they need for an effective and successful recycling program. Depending on how waste management services are currently provided, businesses may also need to review the services provided by their building manager, landlord (in lease agreements), custodial service company or resource management company to determine if they adequately provide for an effective and successful recycling program. When reviewing and negotiating new contracts or revisions, businesses should be sure that the resulting contract meets their needs. Consider cost-saving measures such as:

- Bin resizing (smaller for trash, larger for recyclables);
- Provision of office bins through the contracted hauler;
- Re-designation and re-labeling of existing collection bins;
- Identification of collection schedules based on need rather than on a predetermined (e.g., weekly) basis.

Please note that contracts between businesses and custodial services should make clear that custodians are required to comply with Connecticut's recycling requirements.

For further information, please refer to www.ct.gov/dep/recycle, which provides details on how to set up a recycling program and on current recycling requirements. For additional assistance on these issues, please contact your town's [municipal recycling coordinator](#) or me at chris.nelson@ct.gov or (860) 424-3454.

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson, Supervising Environmental Analyst
Source Reduction and Recycling Program

Electronic copy: Municipal Recycling Coordinators

Summary of Updated Recycling Requirements (PA 10-87)

Recycling has been mandatory in Connecticut since 1991. When we recycle, we produce and manage products in a more environmentally preferable manner and the entire state benefits. In 2010, in an effort to bolster and invigorate recycling in Connecticut, legislation was adopted to clarify and expand Connecticut's recycling requirements. Key provisions of Public Act 10-87 legislation include:

Additional CT Designated (i.e., Mandatory) Recyclable Items; [CGS Sec. 22a-241b](#)

The following is a list of CT mandatory recyclables. * **The materials in bold text are new from PA 10-87.**

- **Plastic containers PET (#1 plastic)***
- **Plastic containers HDPE (#2 plastic) ***
- **Boxboard (shoe boxes, cereal boxes, etc.) ***
- Glass & metal food & beverage containers
- Scrap metal
- Newspapers
- Corrugated cardboard
- Residential covered electronic devices
- **Magazines***
- **High grade colored office paper***
- High grade white office paper (**residential*** & non-residential)
- Waste oil (crankcase oil)
- Leaves & grass clippings
- Lead-acid storage batteries
- Ni-Cd rechargeable batteries

Separation of Designated (i.e., Mandatory) Recyclable Items; [CGS Sec. 22a-241b](#)

Residents, businesses, institutions, commercial entities must ensure separation of recyclables from trash. Specifically, existing law was clarified. Please be aware:

- Designated recyclable items (listed above) must be collected in containers that are separate from trash containers. However, it may be acceptable to commingle different types of designated recyclables depending on how your hauler collects these materials.
- Designated recyclables must remain separate from trash.
- Residents, businesses, institutions, commercial entities, etc. **cannot** collect recyclables and trash in the same container and have another party "sort them out later."

Equitable Collection of Recyclables; [CGS Sec 22a-241/](#) and [CGS Sec 22a-241j\(a\)\(1\)](#)

As of July 1, 2012, contracts between haulers and customers (commercial or residential) for the collection of solid waste must also provide for the collection of designated recyclable items (unless the business already has an existing contract with another hauler for such collection).

- Such collection of designated recyclable items from residents shall be included in a hauler's charge for solid waste collection.
- If your business declines recycling collection offered by your trash collector, you may be asked (by that trash collector) to sign a statement indicating that your trash collector complied with this requirement.
- Haulers are required to provide each business customer with written or pictorial instructions on how to separate designated recyclable items.
- Municipalities providing trash collection for residents and businesses must also offer recycling collection for those residents and businesses.

Revision of Zoning Regulations; [CGS Sec 8-2a](#)

Zoning regulations shall not prohibit the use of recycling receptacles for designated recyclable items; shall not require that recycling receptacles comply with certain area provisions; shall not restrict access to or the size of recycling receptacles for businesses; and can require aesthetic screening or buffering.

Public Gathering Venue Recycling Requirement; [CGS Sec 22a-241k](#)

Public gathering venues (e.g., hotels, sports arenas, supermarkets, retail stores, restaurants, etc.), while the public congregates there, must provide recycling collection containers where designated recyclables are generated and at the same locations where trash containers are provided.