



79 Elm Street • Hartford, CT 06106-5127

www.ct.gov/deep

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

January 22, 2019

Via Electronic Mail

RE: Mandatory Recycling Laws and Regulations

Dear Connecticut Businesses and other Solid Waste and Recyclables Generators:

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) would like to remind you about your responsibility to comply with Connecticut's mandatory recycling laws, many of which have been in place since 1991. Connecticut's 2016 [Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy \(CMMS\)](#) embodies the established legislative statewide goal of achieving sixty percent (60%) diversion of solid waste from disposal by 2024. To meet this goal, every person (individuals and businesses) must do their part and comply with all applicable recycling laws.

Amongst Connecticut's recycling laws is the requirement that a business (i.e., customer) have a contract with a hauler (i.e., collector) to provide collection of designated (i.e., mandatory) recyclable items separate from other solid waste and implement a program to collect such recyclables in dedicated containers separate from other solid waste. To assure compliance, businesses and other locations which contract for their own solid waste collection service are advised to review their current contracts to determine if they have an effective and successful recycling program meeting these requirements. Alternatively, businesses and other locations which do not contract for their own solid waste management should also review the services provided by their building manager, landlord (in lease agreements), custodial service company or resource management company to determine if an effective and successful recycling program is in place to provide for and cause the separation of designated recyclable items separate from other solid waste.

When reviewing and/or negotiating new contracts or revisions, businesses and other locations should be sure that the resulting contract meets their needs and should consider cost-saving measures such as:

- Bin resizing (smaller for trash, larger for recyclables);
- Provision of collection bins directly or 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
- Ongoing education and reminders, on the state's recycling laws and your business' policies.

Please note that contracts between businesses and custodial services should make clear that custodians are required to comply with Connecticut's recycling requirements, which include always maintaining separation of designated recyclable items from other waste.

For further information, please refer to www.ct.gov/deep/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 Chris Nelson of my staff at chris.nelson@ct.gov or (860) 424-3454.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Isner".

Robert C. Isner, Director
Waste Engineering & Enforcement Division

Summary of Key Recycling Requirements for Businesses

Recycling has been mandatory in Connecticut since 1991. When we recycle, we produce and manage products in a more environmentally sustainable manner, save money, create jobs, and the entire state benefits.

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

As of July 1, 2012, **contracts between haulers and customers** (commercial, institutional, or residential) **for the collection of solid waste must also provide for the collection of designated recyclable items** (unless the business or location 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.

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

The following is a list of CT mandatory recyclables:

- 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
- 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
- Residential covered electronic devices (E-Waste)

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

Residents, businesses, institutions, commercial entities and other locations must ensure separation of recyclables from trash. Specifically, 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. For clarification regarding what materials can be typically collected in a mixed recycling container in Connecticut, please refer to the [What's IN, What's OUT](#) informational materials on the www.RecycleCT.com website.
- Designated recyclables must remain separate from trash.
- Residents, businesses, institutions, commercial entities, and other locations, **cannot** collect recyclables and trash in the same container and have another party "sort them out later."

Considerations for Implementing a Sufficient Recycling Program

The following are factors that should be considered when implementing a sufficient and convenient recycling program that meets the needs of the amount of recyclables materials generated at your location:

- Number, size and location(s) of recycling bins provided
- Clear labeling and color-coding of provided bins
- Educational materials for the occupants of that location (e.g., tenants or employees).
- Periodically evaluate and adjust your recycling program as needed. If recyclable items are still ending up in your trash containers, that may be an indicator that your program is not sufficient.
- Provide ongoing education and reminders on the state's recycling laws and your business' policies