

Attended: Susan Hemenway – BRRFOC/TROC; Dave Duleavey – Automated Waste Disposal-TSI; Joe Lentini – Manchester DPW; Judy Belaval – DEP Office of Source Reduction and Recycling

Duplicative Reporting

The Department is not going forward this legislative session with the package of proposed solid waste statute technical changes – which included proposed amendments to the solid waste reporting requirements related to duplicative reporting for solid waste facilities and municipalities.

Options to have these changes implemented without waiting for future legislative sessions include: (1) other entities can elect to submit legislative proposals in the upcoming session to change current reporting requirements; (2) the Department can adopt a policy – to implement some of the changes now (without changing regulations or statutes) since the intent of the following statutes can be met as follows:

- **Solid Waste Facility Reporting**: Currently certain solid waste facilities (recycling facilities, landfills, and resource recovery facilities) are required to report to both DEP and to the municipalities the amount of MSW and recyclables the facility received from within the borders of each city or town. Instead of sending that information to each municipality the facility would just report that information to DEP, and as long as the facility is accurately reporting that information, DEP will aggregate the information and send the information to the towns. In essence the facilities are still providing the data to the municipalities but with DEP acting as a conduit. However facilities need to assure that they are accurately collecting information regarding the town of origin for MSW (including recyclables) received at their facilities. One of the earlier barriers to such accurate reporting has now been removed, since CRRA can now record data at their scale house for split loads.

It was noted during the subcommittee discussions that some facilities are currently in violation of the requirement that they report that information back to the cities or towns in which the MSW or recyclables were generated. So having DEP report that information back to the towns and cities might provide more complete information than is currently reported.

- **Annual Recycling Reports submitted by municipalities** : Municipalities are currently required to submit the information described above to DEP as part of their Annual Municipal Recycling Report (AMRR). However, DEP already receives some of the information required by the AMRR i.e. the amount of solid waste (MSW including recyclables) received by CT permitted solid waste facilities from each town. Therefore the municipalities *will not need to include the tonnages that went to those facilities on their AMRR.*

However, in order to help assess the accuracy of the data reported to DEP by the facilities – the towns will need to include in the AMRR the names of the haulers registered to operate in their city or town and will need to report where the haulers are taking their solid waste and recyclables.

It is also proposed that the municipalities report (in their AMRR) tonnages of solid waste or recyclables delivered directly to out-of-state facilities or directly to end markets (i.e. without passing through a CT permitted reporting solid waste facility), since DEP is not

getting that data from the solid waste facility reports. The other option for getting this information would be to require solid waste haulers to report those tonnages directly to the CT DEP.

The municipalities would be required to report in their AMRR tonnages of recyclables such as leaves, waste oil, yard waste, etc. which are handled by the town at municipal facilities (see attached proposed amended Municipal Annual Recycling Reporting Form).

If it is found that these changes provide the needed solid waste data in a less burdensome manner – then statutes, regulations, and permits can be amended at a later date.

Hauler Responsibilities: As described above, municipalities will need to provide information about the destination of MSW and recyclables collected within the borders of their city or town. Currently state statute requires haulers of solid waste (including recyclables) to register in the towns and cities in which they operate. Statutes need to be amended as soon as possible to require haulers (as part of their current requirement to register in the municipalities in which they operate) to:

- report to the municipality the destination of the waste and recyclables generated within the borders of the municipality; and
- report (either to the municipality or to DEP – to be decided) the tonnages of solid waste and recyclables which they are delivering directly to an end market or out-of-state facility (i.e. without first going through a CT permitted solid waste facility).

Some local municipal ordinances already require haulers to report that information to the municipality. However, some towns have expressed difficulty in getting the haulers to comply with current registration (and local ordinance reporting) requirements. There needs to be effective enforcement for hauler registration requirements and for any hauler reporting requirements currently required by local ordinance and any that are adopted by state statute. Statutes need to be amended to provide authority for municipalities to bar any haulers from operating in their municipalities if the haulers are not in compliance with registration and reporting requirements.

The subcommittee attendees also agreed that that any solid waste data required to be reported should:

- be entered in the DEP Solid Waste Database (i.e. DEP: (1) needs to hire someone to enter the data and assure quality control of data – and (2) needs to implement electronic reporting options for solid waste data as soon as possible);
- be analyzed and actually used by DEP, municipalities, regional solid waste entities, and other solid waste stakeholders for solid waste and recycling planning; for assessing and improving state and municipal solid waste reduction, recycling, and disposal efforts; for assuring that facilities are in compliance with permit requirements; to provide recycling and disposal information to recycling businesses, manufacturers using recyclables as feedstock; etc.
- Should be made available on the DEP website

If data is not being used, it should not be collected.

DEP is in the process of reviewing and confirming solid waste data needs and establishing a position for solid waste data entry.