



**DRAFT 2023 COMPREHENSIVE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AMENDMENT  
(DRAFT 2023 CMMS AMENDMENT)**

**SECTION 22A-228 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES**

**NOTICE OF WRITTEN COMMENTS AND PUBLIC HEARING**

**Issue Date: January 24, 2023**

DEEP is initiating an amendment to the 2016 Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS) as a result of the closure of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) Hartford resources recovery facility in July of 2022, including the cessation of waste to energy (WTE) activities, and the subsequent loss of disposal capacity. This loss of capacity has resulted in insufficient in-state capacity for recycling, processing, and managing disposal of waste generated in state and is expected to result in the exportation of an estimated 860,000 tons per year or 40% of the State's generated Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). As a result, there is an urgent need to identify actions consistent with the State's waste hierarchy to restore self-sufficiency in Connecticut's waste management practices. The draft 2023 CMMS Amendment outlines the self-sufficiency imbalance and highlights several potential solutions to address this urgent public policy challenge.

The CMMS, effective July 19, 2016, is the Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan ("Plan"), adopted pursuant to sections 22a-228 and 22a-241a of the Connecticut General Statutes. In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes section 22a-228 and section 22a-228-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may prepare an amendment to the statewide solid waste management plan and may schedule a hearing on the proposed amendment.

While the Plan is not itself a statute or regulation, statute and regulation do give the Plan the force of law in certain, specified circumstances. Most generally, Conn. Gen. Stat. section 22a-229 provides that "any action taken by a person, municipality or regional authority that is governed by this chapter shall be consistent with such plan."

**Draft 2023 CMMS Amendment:** Stakeholders can access a copy of the draft document at the following link: [Public Notices \(ct.gov\)](#)

**Public Hearing:** Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies section 22a-22a-1(b)(4), the Commissioner has determined that, in her judgement, a hearing is in the public interest. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) hereby provides notice that a public informational hearing will be held on **February 16, 2023, from 10 am** until the



completion of public comments from all stakeholders who wish to provide comments that are participating in the meeting. DEEP will also accept written comments on the Draft 2023 CMMS Amendment until **March 10, 2023**. DEEP welcomes comments from stakeholders on any topic, including: data and assumptions utilized in the Draft 2023 CMMS Amendment; the policies and strategies recommended; and any conclusions or observations included in the document.

DEEP also welcomes responses to any or all of the following questions:

1. The Draft 2023 CMMS Amendment projects that 44% of the 860,000 TPY “self-sufficiency” deficit can be addressed or eliminated through diversion programs: extended producer responsibility (“EPR”) for Packaging and accelerated organics diversion by 2028. Do you agree with this conclusion? Are there different programs or approaches that DEEP should consider that to achieve the same or greater tonnage diverted than the programs recommended in the 2023 CMMS Amendment, and if so why do you feel an alternate approach is preferable?
2. The Draft 2023 CMMS Amendment concludes investment in new waste disposal infrastructure should be pursued to address the 475,000 TPY remaining after implementation of diversion programs. Do you agree with this conclusion?
3. Do you feel that equity and environmental justice considerations are adequately reflected in the 2023 CMMS Amendment? How could the analysis and recommendations in the document better address equity and environmental justice priorities?
4. The draft CMMS Amendment suggests a measure to provide universal access to source separated food scrap collection for all residents and businesses. What factors should be considered in preparation for providing this service? What legislation, programs, or policies might be needed to incentivize participation? Are there alternatives to this strategy DEEP should consider, such as adding food scraps to the list of designated recyclables?
5. What models are there for successful food donation programs or policies? Does Connecticut have any unique barriers or challenges for improving food donation efforts? What specific food waste reduction and recovery strategies should the state consider? What legislative action might be needed? What could be done through administrative or programmatic efforts without the need for new legislation?
6. What strategies best support efforts to collect and transport food scraps (and other recyclable materials) for multi-family residences, apartments, and condominiums?
7. What is the right mix of organics processing infrastructure needed in Connecticut to achieve the diversion goals of this draft CMMS Amendment? How can DEEP support new organics processing infrastructure?



8. Should additional materials be prioritized for diversion, including through EPR programs? What materials?
9. DEEP has been working with municipalities and regional entities through the Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Grant Program to support the development of food scrap collection and unit-based pricing pilot programs. How could DEEP revise or expand the SMM Grant Program to best accelerate and scale up cost-effective diversion strategies?

**Zoom or Teams Info:** The February 16<sup>th</sup> public informational hearing will be held via Zoom. Individuals wishing to attend are required to register via the link provided below.

[bit.ly/2023cmmsupdate](https://bit.ly/2023cmmsupdate)

**Recording:** DEEP will record the hearing; copies of the recording will be made available.

**Public Comment Period During the Informational Hearing:** There will be an opportunity to provide oral comments (3 minutes per person) at the informational hearing. Participants may sign up in advance by emailing Elly Moore at Elizabeth.Moore@ct.gov by **February 13, 2023**

**Written Comment Period:** Written comments may be filed via email on or before **5:00 PM on March 10, 2023**. Comments should be emailed to DEEP.MMCAPlanning@ct.gov with the subject line "Draft 2023 CMMS Amendment." Any questions may be directed to the same address.

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