

**State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection**

**State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
Purpose, Responsibilities and Operating Procedures**



Changing the Balance

Purpose

In December 2006, the Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) adopted the *State Solid Waste Management Plan, amended December 2006*. This Plan replaces the previous State Solid Waste Management Plan dated 1991. The amended Plan is the basis for Connecticut's solid waste management planning and decision-making now and through to the year 2024. This amended Plan is comprehensive and examines the status of solid waste management in Connecticut; establishes goals and objectives; and outlines strategies for achieving the goals set forth. Strategy 6-3 of the Plan directs that a standing Agency Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee of affected stakeholders be established. In March 2007, the CTDEP established this Advisory Committee to help guide the implementation of the Plan.

The Plan sets forth a vision statement consisting of three core elements. The Plan (1) advocates shared responsibility for changing the balance of solid waste management (i.e., everyone producing solid waste needs to be more aware of the ramifications of their actions and decisions and take more responsibility for the waste produced); (2) calls for a reinvigoration of efforts to transform our solid waste management system from one based mostly on disposal to one based on resource management and promotes a shift away from a "throwaway society" toward a system that promotes a reduction in the generation and toxicity of the trash we produce and dispose through increased source reduction, reuse, and recycling; and (3) requires that we ensure that the waste that cannot be reduced, reused, or recycled, will be disposed in an efficient, equitable, and environmentally protective manner.

Achieving this vision will require everyone in Connecticut, including citizens, businesses, institutions, lawmakers, and government, to make wise decisions regarding the management of our wastes. Critical to the successful implementation of the Plan will be the work of the State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee. The purpose of this Advisory Committee is to:

- Assist the Department in implementing the Plan;
- Identify emerging issues and solutions; and
- Participate in any revisions to the Plan as necessary.

The work of this Advisory Committee is chaired and coordinated through the CTDEP's Office of Planning and Program Development which reports directly to the Commissioner.

Responsibilities

The Advisory Committee will be responsible for performing certain functions necessary to guide the Agency in implementing the State Solid Waste Management Plan. These functions include the following:

- Attend regularly scheduled Advisory Committee meetings.
- Provide input and guidance on related solid waste management issues including, but not limited to, review of and comment on strategies; input and comment on program activities and development; input and comment on policy options; and monitoring the progress of subcommittee(s) work products. The Advisory Committee is not intended to come to consensus on any issue, topic or activity nor is Committee participation to be construed as an endorsement of final outcomes.

- Establish and participate on subcommittees.
- Promote efforts and provide outreach to their respective constituents, and similarly bring their concerns forward to the attention of the Advisory Committee.
- Keep informed with regard to the activities of the Advisory Committee.

Operating Procedures

1. Membership

- a. Membership is open to all and the Advisory Committee will endeavor to consist of representation from the interested public and stakeholders – government, regional waste management authorities, the solid waste management industry, the recycling sector, community and environmental organizations, the recycling sectors, business/waste generating industries, professional associations, non-profits, others.
- b. Becoming a member is through subscribing to the DEP-SWAdvComm list serve that is found under Public Participation on the CTDEP website at www.ct.gov/dep or by the direct link at <http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&q=332482&depNav>
- c. The term of membership is on-going or until such time that the individual decides to unsubscribe to the DEP-SWAdvComm list serve.

2. Meetings

- a. All meetings are open to the public and will be held in an open stakeholder forum.
- b. Meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Phoenix Auditorium on the 5th floor of the CTDEP's Offices at 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT.

3. Subcommittees

- a. Subcommittees may be formed by the Advisory Committee as necessary to further the goals of the State Solid Waste Management Plan.
- b. Subcommittee work will be reported out to the full Advisory Committee.

4. Communication

- a. The activities of the Advisory Committee will be placed on the CTDEP website (see above for link). This will include the meeting schedule and agendas, meeting materials, a summary for each meeting, and other related material. The *State Solid Waste Management Plan, Amended 2006* and other related documents can also be found on the CTDEP website.
- b. Advisory Committee members will be notified through the DEP-SWAdvComm list serve and are encouraged to visit the Advisory Committee website.
- c. Advisory Committee members may send emails directly to Tessa Gutowski, Office of Planning and Program Development at tessa.gutowski@po.state.ct.us and can be reached at 860-424-3096.

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