



QUESTIONS FOR NOMINEE TO CRRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY (CRRA) ([CGS §§ 22a-261](#) AND [262](#))

- CRRA is a quasi-public agency that plans, designs, builds, and operates solid waste disposal, volume reduction, recycling, intermediate processing, and resources recovery facilities. The chairman, with approval of the board of directors, appoints the president of the authority, who supervises the authority's administrative affairs and technical activities.
- The authority's board of directors consists of 11 members appointed by the governor and legislative leaders. The governor appoints three members, and the Senate president pro tempore, House speaker, Senate minority leader, and House minority leader each appoint two members.
- Three directors must represent towns with a population of fewer than 50,000 and two must represent towns with populations greater than 50,000.
- Five directors represent the public and must have extensive, high level experience in a specified field. Three must be experienced in finance, business, or industry; one in an environmental field; and one in an energy field.
- Directors serve four-year terms and must be confirmed by both houses. The governor designates one member to serve as chairman, with the advice and consent of both houses. The chairman serves at the governor's pleasure.

CURRENT ISSUES

1. This session the governor proposed legislation that would create a successor authority to CRRA ([Governor's SB 27](#)). Under the bill, the energy and environmental commissioner must seek proposals from solid waste management services providers for the purpose of redeveloping the Mid-Connecticut Project. The proposals may include such things as recycling, reuse, energy recovery, and organic materials processing. The bill would also decrease the authority's statutory staffing cap from 70 to 45 employees.
 - a. What would be the negative and positive consequences of changing the services provided by the authority?
 - b. What effect would decreasing the staffing cap have on the authority?
2. A [report](#) released last fall about CRRA's operation highlighted near-term revenue shortfalls due to such things as decreasing energy prices, increased competition, and an anticipated increase in capital replacement needs. What steps is CRRA taking to address the shortfalls?
3. After their contracts with CRRA expired, many municipalities chose to contract with other solid waste management providers. The number of municipalities contracting with CRRA has decreased from 70 to 51.
 - a. What do you believe caused so many municipalities to seek solid waste management services elsewhere?
 - b. Are there ways that CRRA can increase the number of municipalities it contracts with in the future?
4. A recent [article](#) about Manchester's decision to change recycling contractors highlighted the difference between the recycling rebate available from CRRA and other contractors. While CRRA was unable to guaranty a recycling rebate, another firm offered \$22.50 per ton of recyclables to the municipality. This amount is over twice the rebate CRRA provided most recently. Why is CRRA unable to (1) guaranty recycling rebates and (2) provide rebates similar to those of competitors?

5. CRRA is in the final phase of capping the Hartford landfill. Part of the project involved installing a six-acre solar panel field to generate about one megawatt of electricity, enough to power about 1,000 homes. Is CRRA considering similar installations elsewhere?

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING

1. Connecticut's recycling rate has remained near 30% for a number of years. The state's Solid Waste Management Plan calls for increasing the state's recycling rate to 58% by 2024. [Governor's SB 27](#) would increase it further to 60% by the same year.
 - a. Do you believe that doubling the recycling rate in the next ten years is a feasible goal?
 - b. What can the state and the authority do to ensure that Connecticut reaches its recycling goal?
2. Connecticut law requires certain materials to be recycled, including cardboard, glass and metal food and beverage containers, newspapers, and certain plastics. The mandatory recycling law was introduced in 1991.
 - a. What percentage of the state's mandatory recyclables is recycled?
 - b. Do you believe that Connecticut residents are aware of the recycling requirement? If not, what more can be done to increase awareness?
3. Connecticut's bottle bill encourages people to recycle certain beverage containers by charging a five-cent deposit on the containers and returning the deposit amount when the containers are recycled at certain facilities. A bill ([SB 67](#)) before the legislature's Environment Committee this year would expand the bottle bill to include bottled juices, teas, and sports drinks.
 - a. Do you favor an expansion of the state's bottle bill?
 - b. How effective are bottle redemption laws at removing recyclables from the waste stream?

- c. Aside from expanding the beverages covered by the law, are there other ways that the state can increase beverage container recycling?
 - d. What effect would a repeal of the bottle bill have on recycling?
4. How effective are unit-based pricing systems for solid waste disposal (also called "Pay-As-You-Throw") at encouraging recycling and reducing solid waste disposal?
 5. How has the state's experience been with single-stream recycling?

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