



## QUESTIONS FOR NOMINEES TO MIRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### **MATERIALS INNOVATION AND RECYCLING AUTHORITY (MIRA) (CGS §§ 22A-260A, 261, AND 262)**

- MIRA is a quasi-public agency that plans, designs, builds, and operates solid waste disposal, volume reduction, recycling, intermediate processing, and resources recovery facilities. It is the successor organization to the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA).
- 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 members must represent towns with a population of 50,000 or fewer and two must represent towns with populations greater than 50,000.
- Five members 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.
- Members 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.

- The chairman, with approval of the board of directors, appoints MIRA's president, who supervises the authority's administrative affairs and technical activities.

## **CURRENT ISSUES**

1. The act that dissolved CRRRA and established MIRA ([PA 14-94](#)) requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner to consult with MIRA about proposals to redevelop the Connecticut Solid Waste System Project.
  - a. Has the commissioner begun consulting with MIRA on the project's redevelopment?
  - b. Do you envision a shift away from trash-to-energy? If so, what other methods of solid waste management should be considered for the project?
2. During MIRA's recent November regular meeting, the board approved a resolution to disburse to member towns \$10 for each ton of acceptable recyclables they deliver to MIRA. How does this per ton disbursement compare to those of recycling competitors?
3. This past fall, MIRA's solar panel facility on top of the closed Hartford landfill began operation.
  - a. How successful is the facility at generating electricity?
  - b. Are there plans to build similar facilities at other closed landfill sites in Connecticut?
4. MIRA operates the Trash Museum in Hartford, which helps educate the public about recycling, the environment, and trash-to-energy facilities.
  - a. Over time, has the museum's attendance increased, decreased, or remained constant?
  - b. [PA 14-94](#) specified that MIRA's purposes do not include activities related to statewide recycling education and promotion. Will this change impact the museum's operation?
5. What do you believe will be the most pressing issues for MIRA's board this year?

## **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING**

1. During previous sessions, the legislature passed product stewardship laws to manage discarded mattresses ([PA 13-42](#), as amended by [PA 14-170](#)), architectural paint ([PA 11-24](#)), electronics ([PA 07-189](#)), and mercury thermostats ([PA 12-54](#)). Are there other products whose disposal could be addressed through product stewardship programs?
2. How effective is Connecticut's five-cent bottle deposit and redemption law at removing recyclables from the waste stream? Are there ways the state could improve its bottle redemption system?
3. About 25% to 30% of municipal solid waste is food and lawn waste.
  - a. How can municipalities encourage residents to reduce food and lawn waste?
  - b. What are the barriers to increasing composting?

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