

Town Ordinances Banning Fracking Waste

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Issue

List examples of Connecticut towns that have adopted ordinances banning fracking waste.

Summary

At least 19 towns in Connecticut have adopted ordinances banning fracking waste: Andover, Ashford, Branford, Chaplin, Coventry, Glastonbury, Hampton, Hebron, Lebanon, Litchfield, Mansfield-Storrs, Middletown, New London, Portland, Rocky Hill, Washington, Windham, Windsor, and Woodstock. Connecticut also has a state-level moratorium on certain activities associated with fracking waste.

Town Ordinances Banning Fracking Waste

The table below lists towns that have adopted fracking waste ordinances, the ordinance adoption dates, and links to those ordinances available online. Ordinances not linked are available from the respective town.

Fracking

Fracking, also known as hydraulic fracturing, is the process of pumping fluid into or under the surface of the ground to create fractures in rock for the exploration, development, production, or recovery of natural gas. It does not include drilling or repairing a geothermal water well or any other well drilled or repaired for drinking water purposes.

Fracking waste includes wastewater, wastewater solids, brine, sludge, drill cuttings, or any other substance used or generated in the process of fracking. ([CGS § 22a-472](#)).

Table 1: Examples of Towns with Fracking Waste Ordinances

<i>Town</i>	<i>Ordinance</i>	<i>Date Adopted</i>
Andover	Ordinance	10/6/2016
Ashford	Not available online	11/21/2016
Branford	Ordinance	12/14/2016
Chaplin	Not available online	5/8/2017
Coventry	Coventry Code §§ 38-91 to 38-96	10/1/2015
Glastonbury	Ordinance No. 336	9/12/2017
Hampton	Not available online	4/3/2017
Hebron	Not available online	4/20/2017
Lebanon	Ordinance (p. 11 & 12)	5/1/2017
Litchfield	Ordinance	5/10/2017
Mansfield-Storrs	Mansfield Code §§ 127-1 to 127-4	10/26/2015
Middletown	Middletown Code § 171-10	1/3/2017
New London	Not available online	3/6/2017
Portland	Portland Code § 12-4	6/1/2016
Rocky Hill	Not available online	12/4/2017
Washington	Not available online	3/5/2015
Windham	Ordinance	10/18/2016
Windsor	Not available online	1/3/2017
Woodstock	Not available online	4/12/2017

State Moratorium on Fracking Waste

Connecticut has a state-level moratorium on certain activities associated with fracking waste ([CGS § 22a-472](#)). The moratorium lasts until the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) adopts regulations to, among other things, control fracking waste as a hazardous waste. The law requires DEEP to submit regulations to the legislature’s Regulations Review Committee between July 1, 2017 and July 1, 2018. DEEP may, under certain conditions, choose not to adopt the regulations, in which case the moratorium would remain in force.

Under the law, the moratorium is on any person accepting, receiving, collecting, storing, treating, disposing of, or transferring between vehicles or modes of transportation any fracking waste. The law also (1) requires DEEP to collect fracking waste product information, (2) requires anyone transporting fracking waste in Connecticut after the regulations are adopted to obtain a DEEP permit, and (3) exempts certain research on small amounts of fracking waste from the moratorium.

For related information, see OLR Reports [2015-R-0178](#) and [2017-R-0299](#).

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