

## 2013 Program Report Card: Program Report Card Update: Recycling in Connecticut, CT DEP/DEEP

**Quality of Life Result:** All Connecticut residents live in a “clean and wholesome” environment in which resources are conserved and protected, and we waste almost nothing.

**Contribution to the Result:** Waste minimization and prevention programs (source reduction, materials reuse, recycling, composting) optimize the percentage of solid wastes diverted from disposal, thereby minimizing the volume of materials burned for energy recovery or disposed. This saves energy, prevents greenhouse gases, conserves natural resources, saves landfill space, reduces pollutants and toxicity, and lowers the potential for degradation of air and water. *Less waste means less problems and a better environment and economy.*

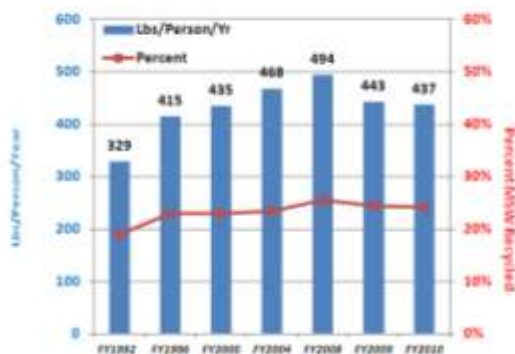
Program Expenditures	State Funding	Federal Funding	Other Funding	Total Funding
Actual SFY 12	\$600,000	0	0	\$600,000
Estimated SFY 13	\$600,000	0	0	\$600,000

**Partners:** Municipalities, CRRA, regional resources recovery and solid waste authorities, DECD, OPM, CT General Assembly, regional solid waste and recycling operating committees, academic institutions, environmental advocacy groups, property tax reform advocates.

### How Much Did We Do?

Perf. Measure 1: STATEWIDE RECYCLING RATE/TONNAGE

CT MSW Reported Recycled

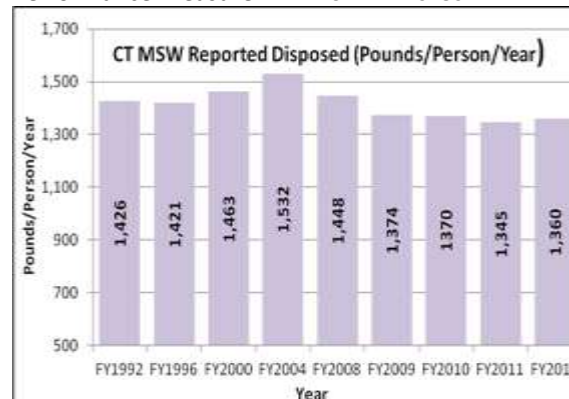


#### Story behind the baseline:

Not all municipalities and facilities timely reported, therefore 2011 and 2012 data is not available for material recycled, preventing calculation of recycling rate. Data pre-dates improvements expected through PA 10-87 implementation in 2011,12. We now use tonnage of recyclables as metric rather than recycling rate, and use a waste audit measurement of what is still in the trash, not being recycled, as a metric. If all municipalities reached the statutory goal of 40% recycling, cost savings statewide would be \$35 million dollars in avoided disposal fees. **Trend:** ▲ Improving

### How Well Did We Do It?

Performance Measure 2: PER CAPITA DISPOSAL RATE



#### Story behind the baseline:

Data in chart includes residential and commercial waste. Data reflects improvements in waste reduction and in part economic downturn affecting rates of material consumption and changes in materials consumed and packaged, such as increasing plastic and decreasing glass packaging, reduced newspaper circulation, resulting in lower tonnages of recycled materials. The lack of a direct market signal [unit-based pricing] to individuals on disposal costs results in a failure to properly value recycling. **Trend:** ▲ Improving

### How Well Did We Do It?

Performance Measure 3: CLOSING THE GAPS IN INFRASTRUCTURE PERMITTED CAPACITY

#### Recycling Infrastructure

Waste type	Permitted facilities (#)	Capacity meeting current need (%)
Bottles, cans, paper	6+	100%
Food Waste	2	15% improving
Electronics	6 + 7	Improving
Soil	1+	Regulatory reform

#### Story behind the baseline:

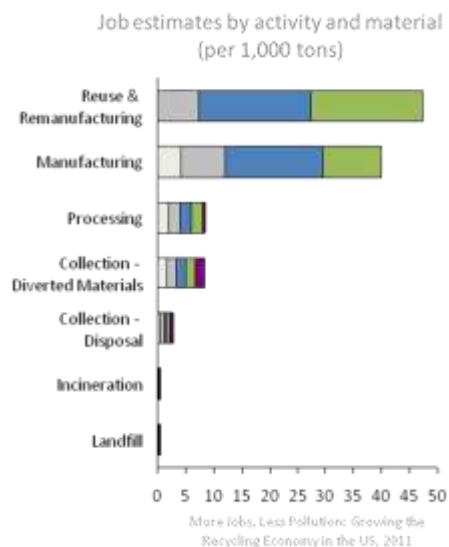
Current infrastructure has sufficient capacity to process current and increased tonnages of commodity recyclables [Infrastructure is lacking for processing certain significant sectors such as food waste, other organics, and soil] and for marketing and using processed recyclables. A 2009 CT MSW waste disposal audit indicated that CT designated (mandatory) recyclables still account for 22.5% of the weight of CT MSW disposed, while food waste accounted for another 13.5%. Infrastructure for collection and recycling of electronics progressed as e-waste recycling program for municipal collection system funded by manufacturers began in 2011. **Trend:** ▲ Improving

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### Is Anyone Better Off?



#### ▲ Yes

*Recycling means jobs. Each year CT keeps more than 865,400 tons of commodities in the stream of commerce by recycling. Reusing and recycling materials that have already entered the stream of commerce have less environmental impact and require less energy to convert to feedstock. Reusing and recycling discarded materials means a steady and local supply of feedstock for manufacturers and are less vulnerable to global supply chain issues [long-distance shipping disruptions, for example].*

*There are significant energy savings from using recycled materials instead of raw for aluminum (95%), steel (61%), plastic (57-75%), newspaper (45%), and glass (31%). Each year Connecticut*

*recycles enough material to save the energy equivalent of 62.5 million gallons of gasoline representing the amount of energy required to power 75,900 American homes for one year. Today approximately 4,800 jobs contribute \$275 million in payroll and \$59 million in tax revenue to CT. An estimated \$35 billion in revenue is created in 5 northeast states from the reuse and recycling industries. Keeping materials in the stream of the manufacturing economy is good for Connecticut's economy.*

#### Proposed Actions to Turn the Curve:

-DEEP will focus on implementation of Public Act 10-87 which removes obstacles to increasing recycling by ensuring partners' actions conform to state solid waste management plan.

-DEEP updating facility permits to clarify existing obligations to improve. Focus continues on improving permitting process and data quality.

-DEEP will educate municipalities about steps to reduce disposal costs such as moving to incentivized unit-based pricing to send transparent signal that recycling saves money and moving to managed collection systems to reduce inefficiencies.

--DEEP will work with regional leadership in moving municipalities to join standardized regional systems in coming years to achieve economy of scale and stability of infrastructure.

--DEEP will work to close infrastructure gaps to achieve economic sustainability in energy recovery facilities that manage materials that can't be recycled.

--DEEP posts data on website and is working to improve data reporting quality. In 2012 DEEP will began procurement effort to implement web-based reporting for municipalities/facilities to improve data quality and reduce reporting burden.

-DEEP continues to prioritize permit applications that close the capacity gap in specific sectors, specifically food waste recycling. --In 2013 DEEP will revise regulations to clarify reuse of soils and construction materials resulting in savings for infrastructure and brownfields projects.

--Ensure partners collaborate in development of industries, technologies, and commercial enterprises within the state that are based upon recycling, reuse, treatment, or processing of solid waste. Leverage private investment.

#### Data Development Agenda:

In 2013 DEEP will move to a web-based system of gathering data from materials processing facilities and municipalities. This is expected to result in more timely and accurate data of material flowing through the state.