



Navigating the Connecticut Waste Crisis

December 6, 2023

Camp Nett, Niantic



Agenda

- I. Introduction**
- II. Purpose of Meeting**
- III. Description of SCRRRA**
 - a. Brief History
 - b. Services Provided
- IV. Situational Analysis**
 - a. State of Solid Waste in CT
 - b. DEEP – Comprehensive Material Management Strategy (CMMS)
- V. SCRRRA Future Outlook & Projections**
 - a. Key Contracts
 - i. Municipal Recycling Contract
 - ii. Waste Disposal Contract
 - iii. Municipal Services Agreement
 - b. Graphical Analysis
 - c. SCRRRA Mitigation Strategies
- VI. Municipal & State Support**
- VII. Q&A**

SCRRRA Fact Sheet

About SCRRRA:

- Formed in 1984 by joint resolution of 12 municipalities:
East Lyme, Griswold, Groton, Ledyard, Montville, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Preston, Sprague, Stonington, Waterford
- Responsible for recycling & solid waste recovery systems
- Board of Directors: 1 representative from each municipality, including 5 board officers
- Employees: 6

Key Contracts:

- **Recycling:** Casella – Expires 10/01/2024
- **Solid Waste Disposal:** WIN Waste Innovations – Expires 12/31/2030
- **Municipal Service Agreements:** Expire 12/31/2030

Key Financial Data:

- **Member Municipality Service Fee:**
 - 2000: \$59.00/ton
 - 2024: \$61.25/ton
- **Debt:** Defeased in 2015
- **Assets:** Property under lease to Covanta WTE in Preston

Key Operational Data:

- **Annual Solid Waste Disposal:** 132,000 tons
- **Annual Municipal Recycling:** 18,000 tons
- **Other Services Provided:**
 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection
 - Wood Grinding and Disposal
 - Transfer Station Support
 - Regional Education and Outreach Programs
 - Post Closure of Montville Ash Landfill

SCRRRA Leadership

Executive Director: David Aldridge

Board Officers:

- **President:** Joe Bragaw, Director of Public Works, East Lyme
- **Vice President:** Todd Babbitt, Director of Public Works, Griswold
- **2nd Vice President:** Stacey Leitch, Public Works Supervisor, Groton
- **Treasurer:** Patrick McLaughlin, Director of Public Works, Norwich
- **Secretary:** Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, Waterford

Board Representatives & Alternates:

- **East Lyme:** Joe Bragaw, Director of Public Works
- **Griswold:** Todd Babbitt, Director of Public Works
- **Groton:** Stacey Ohlman Leitch, Public Works Supervisor
- **Ledyard:** Steve Masalin, Director of Public Works
- **New London:** Brian Sear, Director of Public Works
- **North Stonington:** Don Hill, Highway Foreman
- **Norwich:** Patrick McLaughlin, Director of Public Works
- **Preston:** Jim Corley, Public Works Manager
- **Sprague:** Cheryl Blanchard, First Selectman
- **Stonington:** Jill Senior, Director of Solid Waste
- **Waterford:** Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works

Key Terms

Casella: Owner and operator of the MRF in Willimantic, CT

CMMS: Comprehensive Material Management Strategy (from CT DEEP)

Covanta: Owner and operator of the WTE in Preston, CT

CRRA: Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, created in 1973

DEEP: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): Legislation that holds producers responsible for product management through the product's lifecycle and can encourage product design changes that minimize environmental impacts. Connecticut's has EPR laws for electronic waste, paint, mattresses, mercury thermostats, gas cylinders, and tires.

MIRA: Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority, successor to CRRA

MRF: Materials Recovery Facility; a recycling facility (pronounced "murf")

MSA: Municipal Services Agreement

MSW: Municipal Solid Waste

RRF: Resources Recovery Facility

Service Fee: SCRRRA's fee to member municipalities for all of its services, including MSW disposal fees, recycling, and more

Tip Fee: Fee for disposal of MSW, sometimes including hauling and other costs

Unit Based Pricing: Method of charging for trash disposal based on the amount disposed, globally recognized as the single most effective action a municipality can take to reduce waste, increase recycling, and reduce climate impact; also known as "Pay As You Throw" or "Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART)".

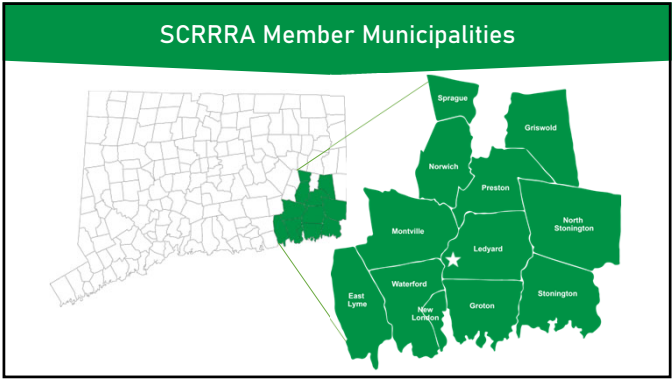
WIN Waste: Operator of the WTE in Lisbon, CT; formerly Wheelabrator Technologies

WTE: "Waste-To-Energy"; a facility that uses MSW to generate electricity

Presentation Slides



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SCRRRA Services

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection & Paper Shredding Events
- Solid Waste Disposal Fees
- Recycling Fees
- Hauling Subsidies
- Brush Grinding

- Recycling programs for:
 - Alkaline batteries
 - Tires
 - Fluorescent bulbs
 - Electronics
 - Freon
 - Used oil & antifreeze
 - Used oil filters & oily debris
 - Mattresses
 - Fuel cylinders (propane tanks)

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SCRRRA Services

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Annual member savings over \$2.9M

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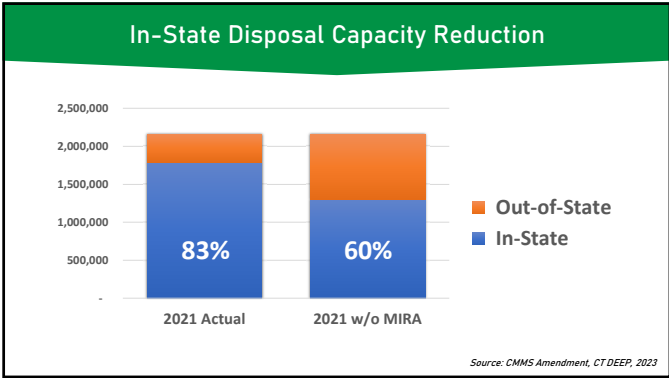
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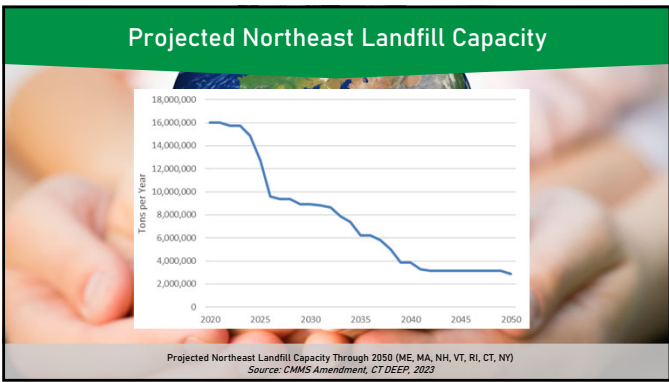
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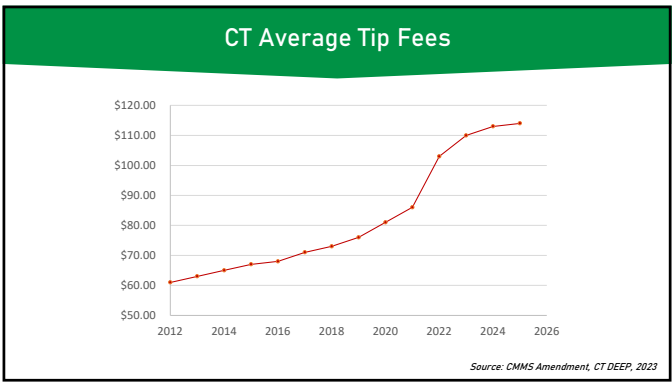
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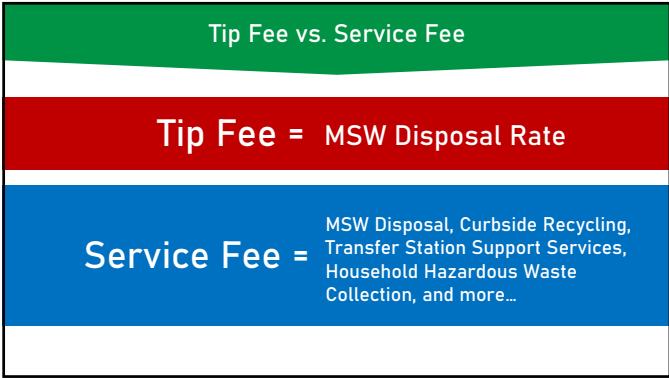
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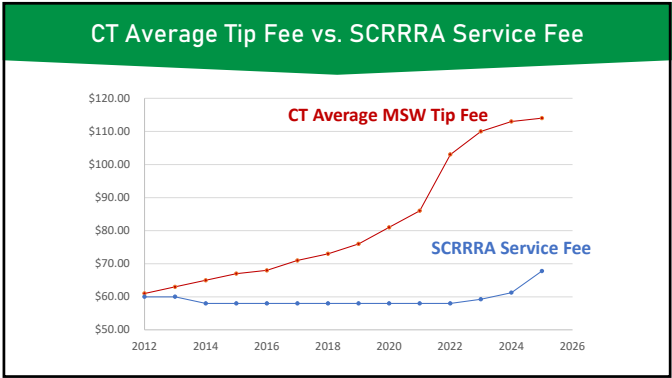
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Key Contracts

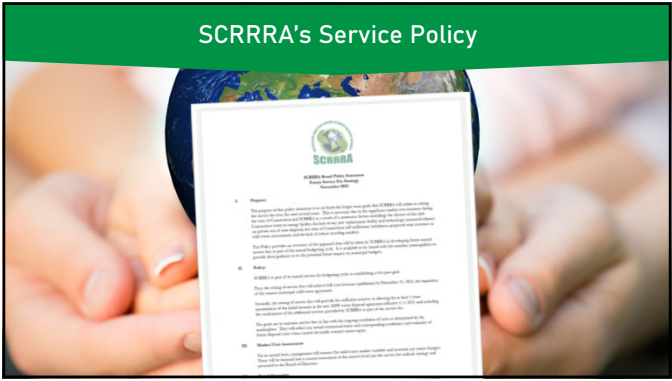
Municipal Recycling
Casella Waste Systems
Willimantic, CT
Expires September 2024

Waste Disposal
WIN Waste Innovations
Lisbon, CT
Expires end of 2030

Municipal Services Agreement
12 SCRRA Member Communities
Expires end of 2030

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SCRRA's Service Policy



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Mitigation Strategies



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Separating Organics



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Separating Organics



OCRRA Compost Facility, New York

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Municipal Recycling



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Separating Glass



Separating Glass



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20

Separating Textiles



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Education & Outreach



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Municipal Support



- Actively support mitigation strategies
- Actively educate residents
- Actively communicate with state legislators

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State Support



- Actively promote legislation for:
- DEEP funding for infrastructure
 - Retaining & increasing WTE capacity
 - Producer responsibility legislation
 - Recycled content laws
 - Unit Based Pricing

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Everyone

Actively work for federal funding, for example:

- EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

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Discussion & Questions

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Service Fee Policy



**SCRRRA Board Policy Statement
Future Service Fee Strategy
November 2023**

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy statement is to set forth the longer-term goals that SCRRRA will utilize in setting the service fee over the next several years. This is necessary due to the significant market cost increases facing the state of Connecticut and SCRRRA as a result of a numerous factors including: the closure of the mid-Connecticut waste-to-energy facility; the lack of any new replacement facility and technology; increased reliance on private out of state disposal; the state of Connecticut self-sufficiency imbalance; proposed state increases in solid waste assessments; and the lack of robust recycling markets.

This Policy provides an overview of the approach that will be taken by SCRRRA in developing future annual service fees as part of the annual budgeting cycle. It is available to be shared with the member municipalities to provide them guidance as to the potential future impact on municipal budgets.

II. Policy:

SCRRRA as part of its annual service fee budgeting cycles is establishing a two-part goal.

First, the setting of service fees will achieve full cost/revenue equilibrium by December 31, 2030, the expiration of the current municipal solid waste agreement.

Secondly, the setting of service fees will provide for sufficient reserves to allowing for at least 5 years amortization of the initial increase in the new MSW waste disposal agreement effective 1/1/2031 and including the continuance of the additional services provided by SCRRRA as part of the service fee.

The goals are to maintain service fees in line with the ongoing escalation of costs as determined by the marketplace. They will reflect any actual contractual terms and corresponding escalations and estimates of future disposal costs when current favorable contract terms expire.

III. Market/Cost Assessment:

On an annual basis, management will reassess the solid waste market variables and ascertain any major changes. These will be factored into a current assessment of the reserve level into the service fee outlook strategy and presented to the Board of Directors.

IV. Board Oversight:

On an annual basis the Board and designated committee(s) will review management's reassessment and adjust the strategy appropriately.

Adopted: _____ Date: 11/13/2023

Action Steps

Municipal Support:

Of our municipal leaders, we ask that you please:

1. **Actively support** our mitigation strategies:
 - a. Example 1: Support SCRRA's application for the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant with letters of support
 - b. Example 2: Participate in our textile recycling program
2. **Actively educate** our residents
3. **Actively engage** our statewide representatives in conversation to adopt effective legislation to fund recycling infrastructure

State Support:

Of our state representatives, we ask that you **please raise these solid waste issues to a level of importance on the legislative calendar, including:**

1. Directing funding to regional infrastructure (e.g., Bottle Bill funds)
2. Retaining and increasing WTE capacity
3. Passing more EPR legislation
4. Passing recycled content laws
5. Considering unit-based pricing

Everyone:

Of everyone involved, we ask that you please **advocate for federal funding**, specifically, by supporting Connecticut's Priority Climate Action Plan being developed by DEEP and the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

Notes



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