

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

Telephone (203) 563-0100
Fax (203) 563-0299

Email to: lynne.vanderslice@wiltonct.org



Lynne A. Vanderslice
First Selectwoman

Joshua S. Cole
Second Selectman

Kimberley Healy
Selectwoman

Basam Nabulsi
Selectman

Ross H. Tartell
Selectman

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Monday October 3, 2022
Held Electronically

PRESENT: First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Joshua Cole, Kimberley Healy, Basam Nabulsi, Ross Tartell

GUESTS: Frank Smeriglio-Dept of Public Works Director/Town Engineer, CFO-Dawn Norton
Town Administrator Matt Knickerbocker

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

B. Executive Session to Discuss Commissioner Reappointments

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to move to Executive Session at 7:02 pm to Discuss Commissioner Reappointments and invite Town Administrator Matt Knickerbocker for the discussion. Motion moved by Ms. Healy, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

Out of Executive Session and back in Regular Session at 7:17pm.

C. Public Comment

None

D. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Mr. Tartell seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as amended to show under Update on the Negotiations with the state on Allens Meadow to read Item inadvertently skipped:

- Minutes
 - Board of Selectmen Special Meeting – September 20, 2022

E. Discussion and/or Action

1. Approval to submit LOTCIP application for Scribner Hill Road Improvements – Frank Smeriglio

Frank Smeriglio reviewed the proposed LOTCIP application for Scribner Hill Road Improvements. He noted the Town previously engaged Cardinal Engineering for the project. After detailed discussion and review, motion moved by Mr. Nabulsi to approve submitting the LOTCIP application for Scribner Hill Rd improvements. Motion seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.

2. Agreement with Morton Salt, Inc. for the Purchase of Road Salt – Frank Smeriglio
Mr. Smeriglio noted an RFP was published, one bidder, Morton Salt, Inc. with a price of \$85.59 per ton compared to approximately \$83 per ton for the previous year. After a discussion and review, motion moved by Mr. Cole to authorize the First Selectwoman to execute the agreement with Morton Salt. Motion seconded by Mr. Cole and carried 5-0.
3. Update – Waste Management and Recycling – Matt Knickerbocker
Matt Knickerbocker who serves as the town's representative to the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA) and the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Material Management (CCSMM) gave an update on Waste Management and Recycling (see attached presentation). He reviewed future plans for Wilton Transfer Station.
4. WARF Request for Change to Stadium Bathroom Practice Policy
Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the WARF request and information in the attached memo. Mr. Knickerbocker met with BOE Superintendent Kevin Smith Parks & Recreation Director Steve Pierce and JR Sherman-WARF. Consensus of the board is to move forward with the recommendation and revisit at the end of the season.
5. Establish Infrastructure Improvements Fund
Ms. Vanderslice noted that the town's auditors have instructed that the town create an Infrastructure Improvement Fund separate from the Town Properties Fund. She noted three motions were required.

After further discussion and review the following motions were made:

Motion to establish an Infrastructure Improvement Fund moved by Ms. Healy seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

Motion to move all non-Town Properties Fund funds in the Town Properties Fund to the newly established Infrastructure Improvement Fund moved by Ms. Healy, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

Motion to state intention to transfer the BOS Operating savings for FY2022 to the Infrastructure Improvement Fund moved by Ms. Healy, seconded by Mr. Tartell and carried 5-0.

6. BOS Member Recommendations for Priorities
Ms. Vanderslice began the discussion of the BOS Member Recommendations for Priorities. Mr. Cole, Mr. Tartell and Ms. Healy discussed their recommendations (see attached). The First Selectwoman presented the current goals for October 1, 2022 to the end of March 2023. Mr. Nabulsi noted he presented his recommendations and priorities at a previous BOS meeting.
7. Appointments Planning & Zoning Amenities Master Planning Subcommittee (S. Lawrence, J. Macken, D. Merrill, and P. Temple)
Ms. Vanderslice noted that the chair of the Planning & Zoning Commission has requested the BOS appoint Scott Lawrence, John Macken, Donna Merrill and Patti Temple as members to the Planning & Zoning Amenities Master Planning Subcommittee. After discussion, motion moved by Mr. Cole to appoint the four members as recommended by the P& Z Commission Chair Rick Tomasetti to the Planning & Zoning Amenities Master Planning Subcommittee. Motion seconded by Mr. Nabulsi. After further discussion, motion carried 5-0
8. Resignations/Opening – Parks and Recreation Commission
Ms. Vanderslice noted Kevin Ring and Joe Guglielmo resigned from the Parks & Recreation Commission.

9. Resolution Authorizing Application for Connecticut Challenge Grant and to Provide Funding for the Required Match
Ms. Vanderslice shared the details of the Town's application for a \$1 million Connecticut Community Challenge Grant. Motion made that the BOS resolves to authorize the Application for Connecticut Challenge Grant and to provide the \$500,000 in required match. Motion seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.
10. FY23 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement (DDHVE) Grant Application
Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the FY23 Grant application. After review, motion moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Ms. Healy to move forward with the DDHVE Grant Application.

F. Selectmen's Reports

1. First Selectman

Ms. Vanderslice noted that Chris Burney-Director Facilities had unexpected surgery and will be out for approximately 3 weeks.

Ms. Vanderslice noted during a BOS meeting an agenda item related to an update on lease negotiations with the State for Allens Meadows was inadvertently skipped. She noted the update was the Town and the State are negotiating a 15-year lease rather than a 1-year amendment to the existing lease.

2. Selectmen

Mr. Cole

Mr. Cole noted that he attended the Wilton Chamber of Commerce Random Acts of Kindness Day event. He also noted that he attended Ambler Farm Day.

Ms. Healy

Ms. Healy noted the Minks to Sinks event went well and thanked the volunteers and donors.

Mr. Nabulsi

None.

Mr. Tartell

None.

G. Public Comment

None.

H. Adjournment

Having no further business, Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:35pm. Motion moved by Mr. Tartell, seconded by Ms. Healy and carried 5-0.

Jacqueline Rochester
Recording Secretary
Taken from Video

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Lynne Vanderslice

RE: Additional Information in Advance of October 3rd Meeting.

- **Item 3. Update-Waste Management and Recycling.** Matt serves as our representative to HRRRA and the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Material Management (CCSMM) and will provide an update from both perspectives.
- **Item 4. WARF Request for Change to Stadium Bathroom Practice/Policy.** P&R currently charges a usage fee to groups registered to use the field and which request the bathrooms be opened. The \$90 fee covers the cost to open, close and clean. We received the following emailed request from Scott Lawrence, Vice President, Government & Community Liaison for WARF. The BOS adopted the current [field usage policy](#), which is silent on the bathrooms.

Lynne,

The WARF youth sports groups would appreciate having stadium complex bathrooms open all day on Saturdays and Sundays for the Fall and Spring seasons as a town-provided service. This would accommodate weekend games, practices and events occurring anywhere on the complex (i.e., softball, baseball, football, field hockey, lacrosse).

Ideally, bathrooms would be open one hour before the first scheduled game/practice of the day (for warm-ups) until close-up after the last scheduled game/event at the of the day, but a default schedule of 8 am to 8 pm (or last event) Saturdays, and 8 am to 6 pm (or last event) Sundays would be a much appreciated starting schedule that could be fine-tuned.

For weekdays, the sports groups would continue to arrange and pay for the portable bathrooms.

*Please let me or JR know if you'd like to discuss this or have any questions.
Thank you for the consideration!*

*Best,
Scott*

- **Item 5. Establish Infrastructure Improvements Fund.** Our auditors have instructed we create an Infrastructure Improvement Fund separate from the Town Properties Fund, commonly referred to as the Infrastructure Fund. The Town Properties Fund was originally set up to capture the rental income from certain properties owned by the town and to use those monies to fund repairs. As such it is classified as a Revenue

Fund. Our budget savings are expense savings and should be allocated to a separate non-revenue fund.

- **Item 7. Appointments Planning & Zoning Amenities Master Planning Subcommittee.** Planning & Zoning Chair Rick Tomasetti has requested we appoint the following individuals to the subcommittee: Scott Lawrence, John Macken, Donna Merrill, and Patti Temple. As a reminder, neither the P&Z Commission nor the Chair have the authority to make appointments of residents who are not commissioners.

All four individuals have served on one or more town board or commission and have served in a leadership capacity in one or more organization. They represent diversity of gender, stage of life and area of interest

- **Item 8. Resignations/Openings-Parks and Recreation Commission.** Kevin Ring has resigned from the Commission and Joe Guglielmo, after 4+ years on the commission, is not seeking reappointment when his term expires at the end of November.
- **Item 9. Resolution Authorizing Application for Connecticut Challenge Grant and to Provide Funding for the Required Match.** We expect to submit an application for this highly competitive grant, 50% of which must be awarded to distressed communities.

The submission requires documentation of authorization by the Board of Selectmen for the application and the required match. We expect to submit the Schenck's Island Merwin Meadows Plan with additional enhancements. The minimum project amount is \$1.5 million, \$1 million grant award and \$500,000 town match. Any related expenditures after 7/31/20 can be counted towards the match.

We expect prior expenditures plus final approvals for the MM playground, Schenck's Parking Lot and P&G barn will total close to \$500,000. We'll have a final accounting at Monday evening.

Have a good weekend.

Waste Management & Recycling Update

Monday, October 3rd, 2022

Connecticut's Waste & Recycling Crisis

A photograph showing a massive, overflowing pile of municipal waste, including plastic bags, cardboard boxes, and other debris, at a transfer station. In the background, a large, dark industrial building is visible, with several seagulls perched on its roof. The sky is clear and blue. The image is framed by a green geometric overlay on the right side.

Pictured: Municipal waste backlog at Danbury's regional transfer station due to unplanned maintenance shutdown of Wheelabrator WTE plant, July 2021

CT's Growing Waste Crisis

- ▶ Once a national leader in Waste-To-Energy incineration, Connecticut's oldest 1980's era WTE plants are aging out.
- ▶ MIRA plant (Hartford) closed permanently in 2022, eliminating 720,000 tons of annual WTE capacity, one-third of total state capacity.
- ▶ Excess MSW now shipped to out-of-state landfills, contrary to DEEP material management plan.
- ▶ Landfilling and shipping costs have caused disposal fees to skyrocket.
- ▶ Darien example:
 - ▶ MSW tipping fee 2021: \$98 per ton
 - ▶ MSW tipping fee 2023: \$120 - \$150 per ton (projected)

National Recycling Crisis

- ▶ Single stream recycling introduced in 1990's
- ▶ Effective at increasing recycling rates but suffers from high contamination levels, which reduces resale value.
- ▶ Most recycling materials had been shipped overseas for processing.
- ▶ China's "***Operation National Sword***" environmental policy (2017) - stopped all inbound recyclables from US.

“China Sword” Effect on Municipal Budgets

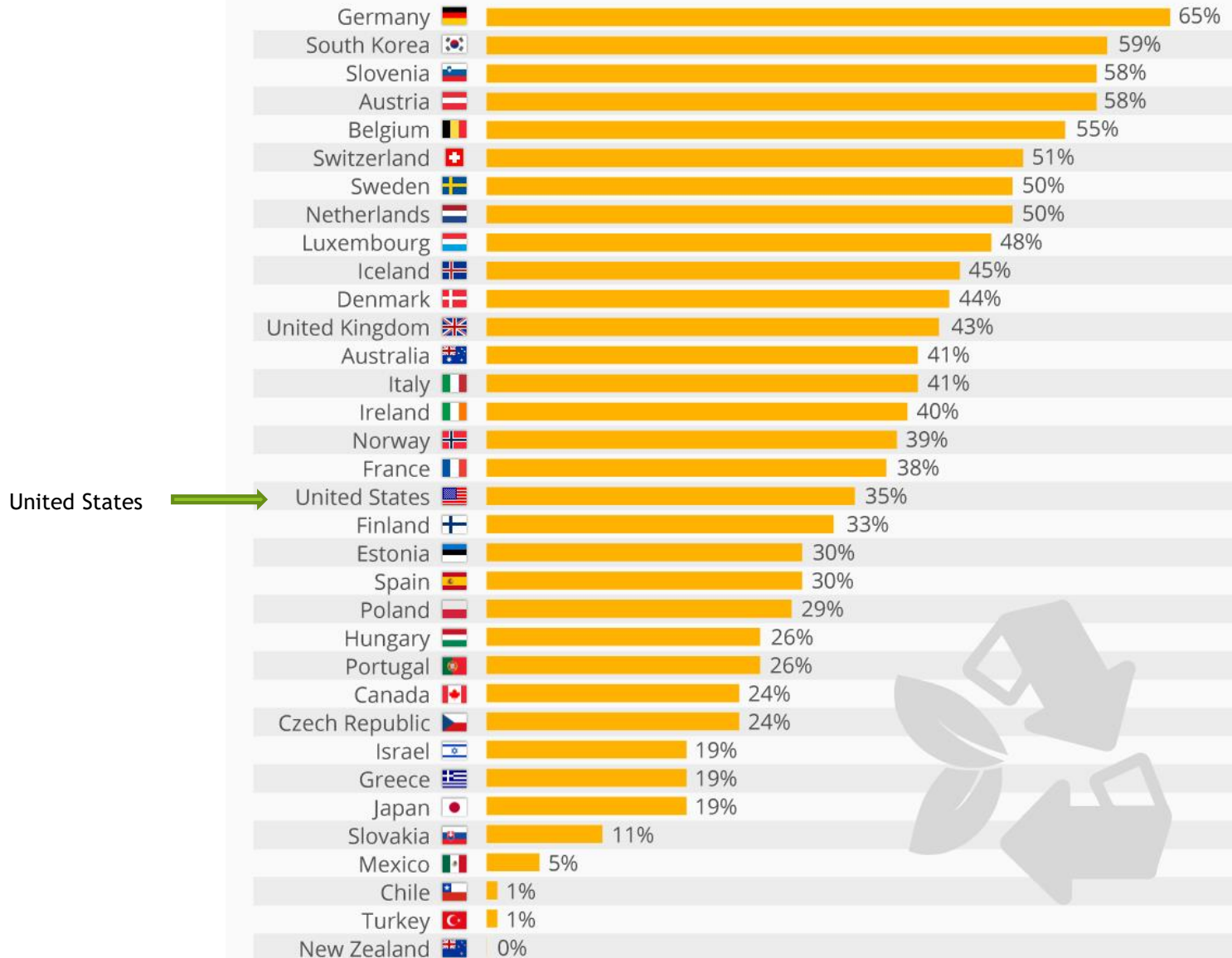
- ▶ Prior to China Sword, many municipalities operated recycling centers at a net profit, offsetting the cost of MSW disposal.
- ▶ Example: City of Bridgeport, CT - Change in net revenues from sale of recyclables:
 - ▶ Prior to China Sword: \$130,000 per year profit
 - ▶ *After China Sword: -\$400,000 direct cost to taxpayers*

Addressing the Challenges

- ▶ Up to one third of all MSW could be recycled.
- ▶ Need for public policy initiatives to reduce waste and increase recycling.
- ▶ The US recycling rates trail most OECD nations.
- ▶ Lack of national policy puts the burden on industry, state & municipal governments to find solutions.

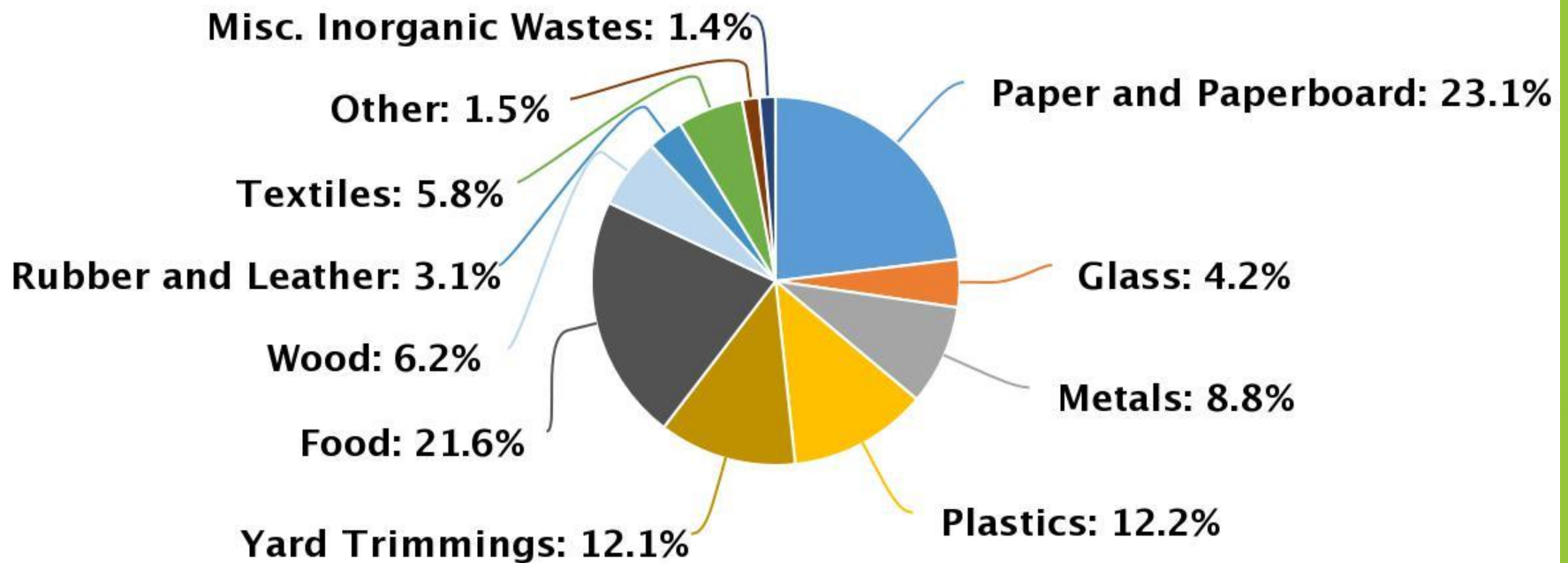
The Countries Winning The Recycling Race

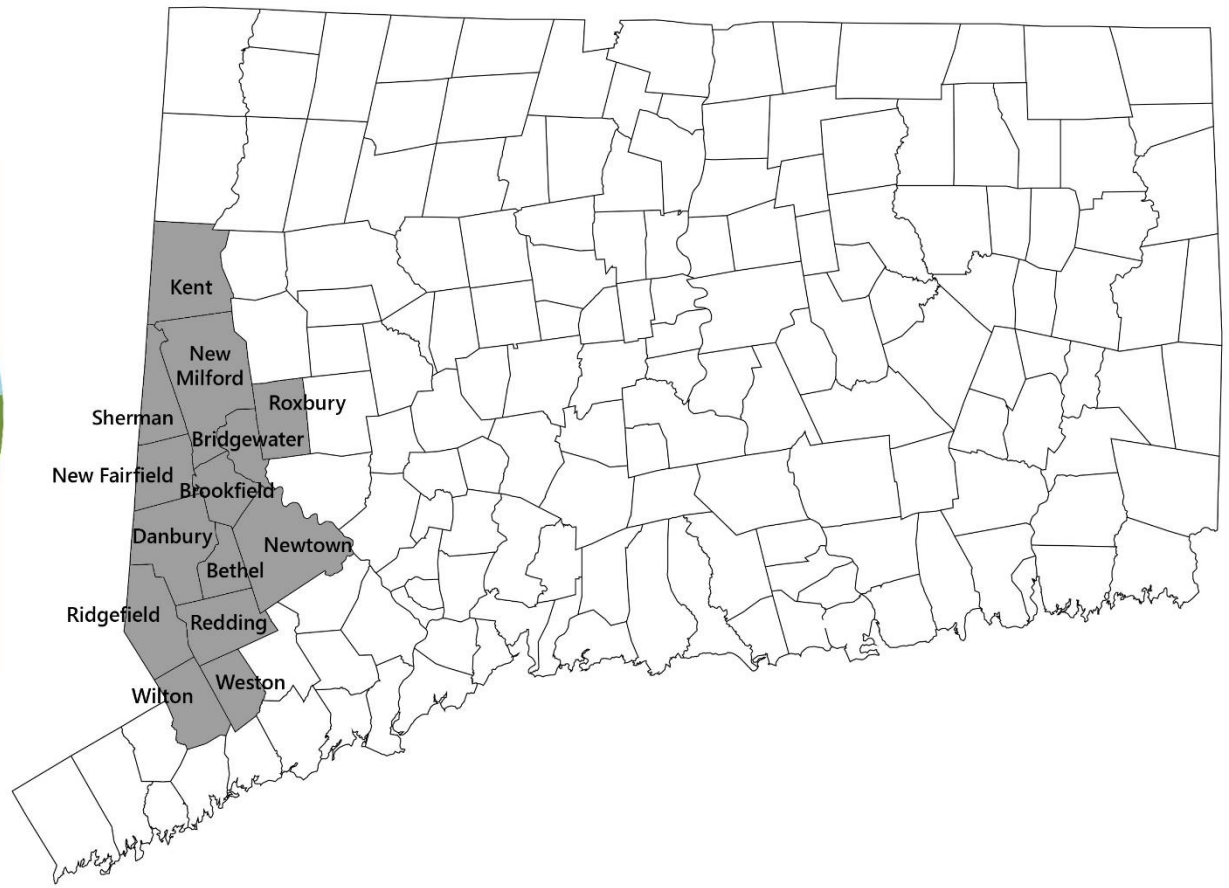
Recycled & composted waste as a share of total municipal waste in OECD countries (2013)



Total MSW Generated by Material, 2018

292.4 million tons





Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority

Regional, governmental, waste management and recycling authority
serving 14 municipalities in Western Connecticut

HRRA Supports Member Towns

- ▶ Negotiates for lowest possible tipping fees.
- ▶ Support materials: “What’s In - What’s Out”
- ▶ Educational programs for area public schools
- ▶ Annual Household Hazardous Waste events.
- ▶ Seminars at local libraries on composting, effective recycling, reducing waste, etc.

HRRA EPR Programs

- ▶ Paint Care program
- ▶ Mattress recycling program
- ▶ Electronics recycling program
- ▶ Textile recycling
- ▶ Food scrap/composting (pilot)
- ▶ Glass separation & collection (pilot)



- CCSMM was formed in 2019 by DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes.
- *Mission:* To work proactively with lawmakers and DEEP knowledge experts in developing and advancing solutions to Connecticut's MSW and recycling challenges.
- Support legislative initiatives that address long range goals for sustainable waste management and recycling.
- CCSMM now has over 100 active member municipalities.



Legislative Successes

- Bottle Bill (2021)
 - *Increase bottle deposit to 10¢*
 - *Includes wine, sports drinks, bottled water*
 - *Incentives for new redemption centers*
 - *5¢ fee on alcohol “minis” rebated to municipality*
- EPR for gas cylinders (2022)

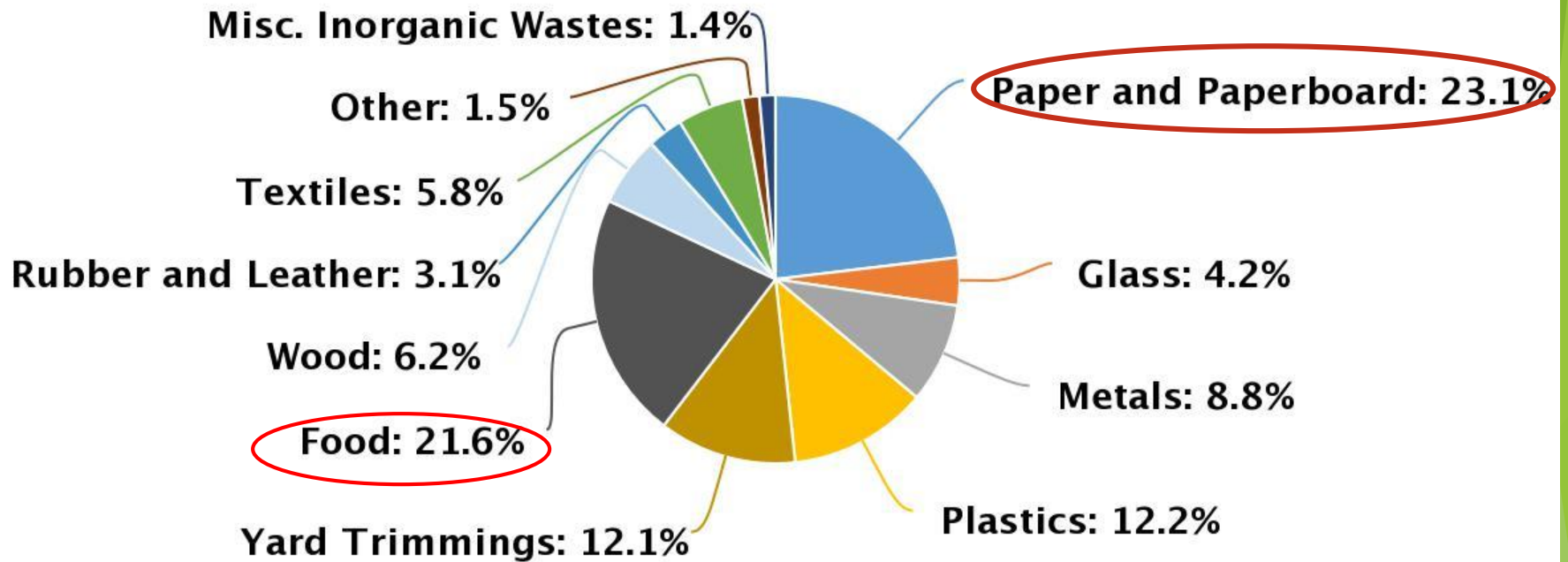


Current CCSMM Working Groups

- Enhanced Producer Responsibility (EPR).
- Increasing recycling rates.
- Promoting food scraps/organics/composting efforts.
- “Pay-As-You Throw” policy legislation.

Total MSW Generated by Material, 2018

292.4 million tons



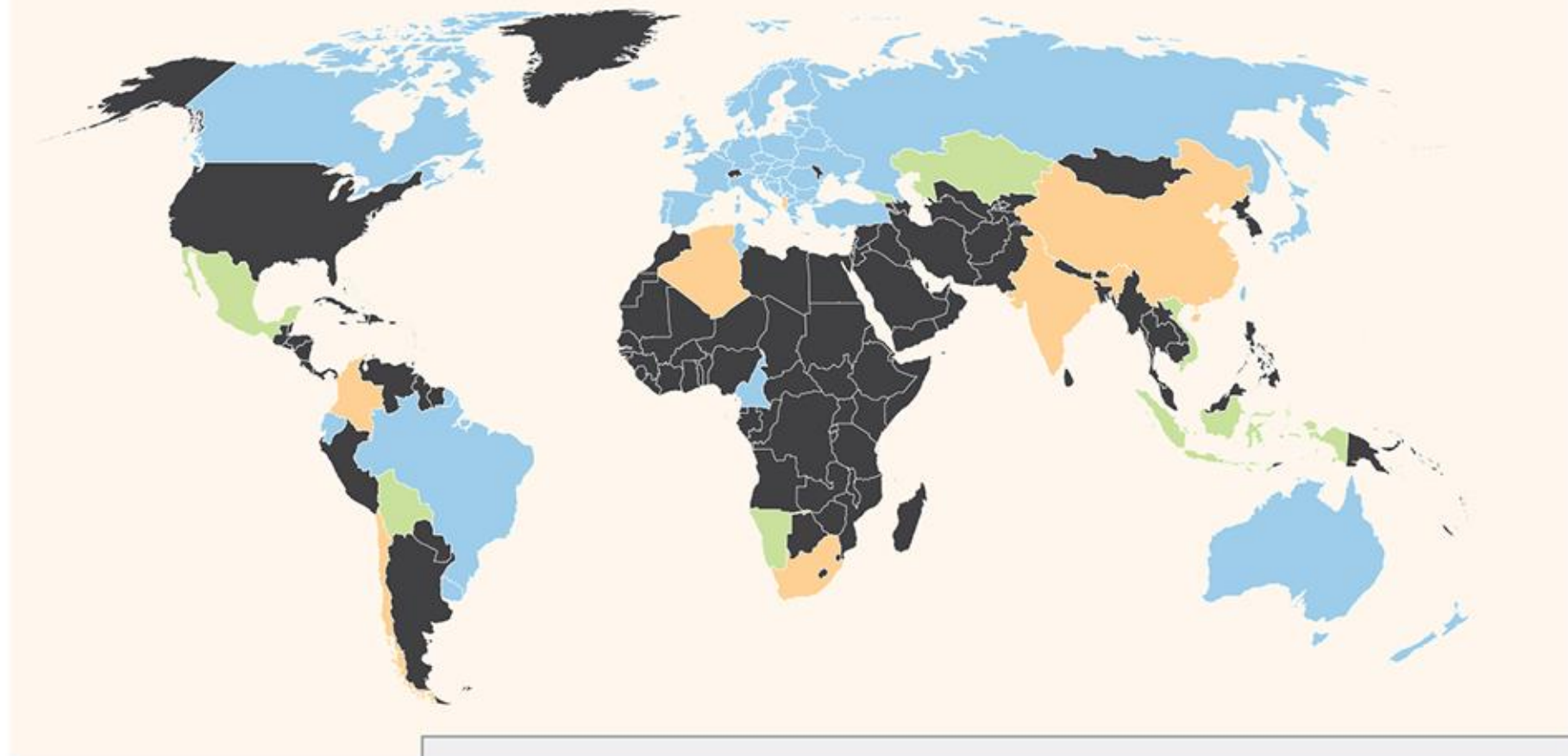


CT Coalition for Sustainable
Materials Management

Legislative Agenda - 2023 Session

- Expand EPR programs:
Packaging
Tires
Smoke alarms
- Pay-As-You Throw Legislation:
Can reduce MSW by up to 60%
- Minimum Recycled Content Legislation:
Increases the value and ROI of recycling markets

Packaging EPR in 2018



- In effect (mandatory and voluntary)
- In implementation (law passed but not yet in effect)
- Framework EPR legislation in place

Wilton Transfer Station: Future Plans

- ▶ Currently processes appx. 3,000 tons of MSW per year.
- ▶ Opportunities expand EPR program offerings.
- ▶ Exploring regional collaboration to reduce costs.
- ▶ Exploring feasibility of food scrap program.

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Thank you!

From: Cole, Joshua
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 9:14 PM
To: boardofselectmen
Subject: Additional Proposed 2023 BOS Goals

All:

I'd like to offer a couple of additional proposed 2023 BOS goals for consideration:

1. Although we were able to use ARPA and Infrastructure Fund monies to address certain deferred repair and maintenance projects, there are likely more deferred repairs and maintenance projects for the school and municipal buildings and new upcoming maintenance projects over the next several years. Since we now typically look at future expenditures over a 5 year view, we should consider whether to instead adopt a 10 year view and whether we have the necessary resources in-house to perform the required analysis or whether we need to engage an outside consultant to perform the analysis.
2. A couple of years ago we talked about the need for mobility and accessibility improvements at our some of our public spaces. I recall that one example we discussed was Merwin Meadows. We should consider an ADA assessment be performed to determine current status and then develop a multi-year action plan, including the cost to implement the plan.
3. Now that we are negotiating a new 15 year lease with CT DOT for Allen's Meadow, I would like us to reaffirm our commitment to site a new turf field there and outline the steps we need to take to make that happen.

Josh

Ross Tartell: Draft Areas for 2023 Objectives

Mental Health Objectives for Wilton

There are a range of groups working to address current and emerging mental health issues in Wilton. (i.e., Good Morning Wilton <https://goodmorningwilton.com/letter-residents-forming-mental-health-task-force-wiltons-needs-are-acute-current-services-are-inadequate/>, an informal group of parents looking to sponsor: Teen Suicide - Kevin's Afterglow, and the work of the Wilton Schools, Wilton Youth Council, and Wilton Social Services. Wilton needs to work to understand the needs and then take steps, as appropriate, to address the identified issues. Two objectives are recommended:

- 1) Conduct detailed needs assessment with committed funds to ensure ongoing provision of services.
- 2) Work with town and local resources toward a coordinated strategy of crisis care and ongoing service provision to ensure all needs are met on all levels.

Alignment of conservation and open space land use

The 2019 POCD outlined a number of actions indicating how Wilton can make further use of its open space. In addition, over the last several years, a number of not-for-profits have developed that have a vested interest in how Wilton uses and develops its open space (i.e., Wilton Land Conservation Trust, Ambler Farm, Woodcock Nature Center and Weir Farm, Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited, etc.). In addition, there are community groups beginning to emerge to deal with local issues (Friends of Bradley Park). Alignment of these groups will advance Wilton's overall goals and make more efficient use of public and private funds.

- 1) Create an "umbrella" organization sponsored by the Town of Wilton (Planning & Zoning Department and Conservation Commission) to identify and provide a structure for alignment and coordination among the different groups.
- 2) Use the 2019 POCD as a vehicle to align and coordinate action among the identified parties in service of town goals and objectives.
- 3) Ensure town of Wilton land use management (Environmental Affairs Department) has sufficient resources and staffing to meet the increasing complexity and volume of citizen and business needs.

Alignment of municipal services with neighboring communities

WestCog and Wilton have a number of efforts that will coordinate and align services with the dual goals of improving service and saving tax dollars.

- Creation of a regional firing range for Law enforcement officers

- Partner with HRRRA to coordinate transfer station activities and gain regional efficiencies, expand services (i.e., extended operational hours, composting, etc.) and cut costs.
- Broadband Survey – “WestCOG is collecting internet survey data and internet bills to inform a study to explore options for fast, affordable, and reliable broadband for member communities, their residents, and businesses.”

Land use

I don't have an objective for this area, but I see three issues:

- 1) There is tremendous interest in developing a number of prime real estate locations – that interest and process must be managed so that Wilton yields the best outcome.
- 2) There is an enormous need for diversified housing. As the town ages, seniors want to downsize, and with ASML moving 1000 jobs to Wilton, their employees need to have a place to live.
- 3) Wilton has created an affordable housing plan. That plan needs to be taken to its logical next steps.

Marketing Plan/branding

Wilton has a strong implicit brand – those who Have moved to Wilton cite a vital few reasons: schools, great place to live (i.e., culture, citizen spirit), real estate value and quality of town government. I would hope this can be operationalized, and a publicity campaign be created to help ensure that Wilton citizens, and people interested in Wilton, can find out more about our town.

Vanderslice, Lynne

From: Healy, Kimberley
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 10:32 PM
To: boardofselectmen
Subject: My BOS priorities

1-Prior to joining the board, I know there were discussions about performing a review of fees, including a comparison with other communities. This summer there was a discussion of possible consideration of fee relief for small businesses. I recommend we prioritize this.

2-We currently present a proposed budget plus two years of projections. During the budget review process, we didn't discuss the projections. I recommend we do so for the FY2024 budget review and consider developing projections beyond just the two years.

Thanks,
Kim Healy