

Trash Talk
The HRRR Hauler Newsletter

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Reduce Reuse Recycle

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State Wants Haulers to Think SMART

The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) wants solid waste haulers as well as municipalities to think SMART about trash, that's SMART as in Saving Money And Reducing Trash. SMART, also known as unit-based pricing or pay-as-you-throw (PAYT), is a method of charging for trash disposal based on the amount disposed. Simply put, those who make more trash, pay more than those who make less trash.

Across the U.S., right here in CT, and across Europe, where SMART programs have been around for many years, changing to unit based pricing has been shown to reduce the amount of trash generated by 40% on average. While some of that decline is the result of waste reduction and reuse, recycling rates also increase significantly when consumers are charged based on how much trash they produce.

SMART collection programs are popular with the public as well. In a recent Wall Street Journal poll 84% of those responding agreed that those who throw out more trash should pay higher disposal costs. Consumers especially like having more control over their trash disposal expenses.

One hauler in the HRRR region already has a SMART program in operation. *Associated Refuse*, owned by Pat Caruso, allows customers to choose between two different sized containers and charges accordingly. Customers who abuse the system and always overfill the smaller container are automatically bumped up to the larger container price.

Commercial customers throughout the region have always paid based on the amount of waste they produced translated into container size and frequency of pulls. Now it's time to consider bringing more SMART programs to residential customers in the region.

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



Trash Talk

Single Stream Comes to the Region

Since March HRRR haulers have been able to collect single stream recycling and deliver it to the regional recycling facility in Danbury.

Most haulers in the region appear to be offering the opportunity for single stream recycling to their customers. All local transfer stations with the exception of Redding now accept single stream recycling from residents who choose not to hire a hauler.

News articles and paid advertisements about single stream recycling have

appeared in all the region's daily and weekly local newspapers.

HRRR members and staff have made single stream recycling presentations to a number of student and civic groups and appeared on cable TV programs as well.

Some haulers have picked up from the HRRR office glossy, colored single stream and e-waste flyers to send to their customers. Flyers are still available for pick up, at no charge, in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

The response from the

public has been very positive, if often incredulous. Residents very much like the ease and convenience of putting all their recyclables in one bag, bin or toter. They especially like the expanded list of recyclable items now accepted.

In the first six months that the new single stream program was in operation, recycling tonnage delivered to the regional recycling facility in Danbury increased by 24%, about 150 tons a month, compared to the same time period in 2010. Further increases are anticipated.

Earth Day Poster Contest Underway

December 1st marked the kick off for HRRR's 5th Annual Earth Day Recycling Poster Contest. More than 3,000 students in grades K-12 from throughout the region participate each year.

This year's sponsors include Union Savings Bank, All American Waste, Winters Bros. Waste Systems CT, and Wheelabrator Technologies along with the Re-

gional Recycling Task Force. Sponsors not only cover the cost of the prizes but also allow HRRR to educate thousands of area children on the importance of waste reduction, reuse and recycling throughout the year.

Students start work on their posters in January and February. Each town or school chooses local winners and awards prizes in February and March.

Regional judging takes place in March culminating in a regional award ceremony during Earth Week in April at Union Savings Bank's North Street branch.

Last year more than 150 students, parents, teachers, etc. attended the regional award ceremony and 39 students received regional awards presented by each town's Mayor and or Selectmen.



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December 15, 2011

Recycling Poster Contest Entry Deadline
 February 24, 2012

HRRR Meeting
 February 16, 2012

Recycling Video Contest Entry Deadline
 April 13, 2012

Newtown HHW Collection
 May 19, 2012

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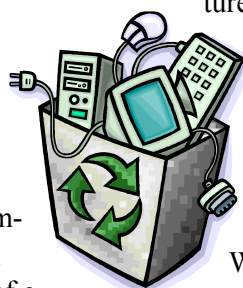
Kent Comes Up Big in E-Waste Recycling Contest

All municipalities in the HRRRA region implemented new e-waste recycling services for their residents last year. As required by state law, these new services are convenient, accessible and provided at no cost to residents.

Residents can drop off any type of electronic device for free at their local transfer station during its regular hours of operation. While no more than 7 devices may be dropped off per visit, there is no limit to the number of visits a resident can make to their local collection site.

To raise awareness of e-waste recycling, WeRecycle!, the certified electronics recycler serving the HRRRA region, sponsored a contest from October 1st to November 15th to see which of the 91 CT municipalities it serves could recycle the most e-waste per capita.

Several HRRRA towns entered the competition but the Town of Kent came up big, finishing in the number two spot state wide, recycling 8.03 pounds of e-



waste per capita during the contest.

Prizes included scholarships from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for the top three winners as well as prize packages that included a transfer station makeover complete with appliances, furniture and heater/ac unit; an update of electronic equipment at the transfer station including radios, walkie talkies, electronic signage, etc.; and a ticket package with six tickets to any UCONN football or basketball games or to Danbury Whalers hockey games.

Congratulations to the Town of Kent!

CT Municipalities Pursues Mattress Stewardship Legislation

Just as they did with paint last year, many CT municipalities, with the support of DEEP, are pursuing mattress stewardship legislation in this legislative session.

Mattresses have become a national problem. They do not easily compress in landfills and their springs get trapped in equipment at waste to energy plants. This has resulted in high per-unit disposal fees that get passed

on to either individuals or to municipalities. Hartford, for example, spends \$400,000 per year to dispose of 18,000 mattresses left along streets and roads and in its parks.

Under a mattress stewardship program, consumers would pay an in-



cluded fee at the time of purchase to cover the cost of an industry operated mattress take back program.

Mattresses can be refurbished for reuse, but there are specific procedures that must be followed to prevent the spread of bedbugs. Not all mattress refurbishers now follow those procedures.

It's the Law! Declaring the Town of Origin for Each Load Tipped

CT General Statutes Section 22a-220a(k) says, "If a collector hauls municipal solid waste generated in the state, including recyclables, and delivers such municipal solid waste, including recyclables, to a facility that has obtained a permit or authorization pursuant to this chapter,



then, upon delivery, such collector shall identify to the receiving facility for each load of municipal solid waste or recyclables, as applicable: (1) The originating regional facility, (2) the originating municipality if such waste did

not pass through a regional facility, or (3) the originating regional facility or state if such waste originated outside of the state. If such municipal solid waste load comes from more than one municipality, the collector shall estimate the amount of waste from each municipality." HRRRA checks the town of origin records monthly for both MSW and recycling.

Hawleyville Rail Transfer Facility Cited by State

Since the clean Railroads Act of 2008 was passed by Congress, states have been able to require that solid waste facilities operating in conjunction with a railroad be required to adhere to the same environmental and permit standards as required for any similar solid waste facility not associated with a railroad.

The Housatonic Railroad Corporation (HRRRC) submitted a solid waste permit application to the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) in 2009 and con-



tracted with Newtown Transload to operate the facility. The permit application currently remains under technical review at DEEP.

In September 2011, DEEP officials made an inspection of the Hawleyville solid waste site which resulted in Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued to both the site owner and operator.

The NOV alleges, among other things, that the operation altered the design and operation of the facility without DEEP approval, failed to unload waste within an enclosed structure, and failed to exclude certain wastes such as hazardous wastes and recyclable electronics.

Both HRRRC and Newtown Transload responded to the NOVs in mid-November. DEEP officials are reviewing those responses to determine whether the facility has come into compliance with state law.

1st Annual Video Contest for Middle and High School Students

Open to students in grades 6 to 12 who live in HRRRA municipalities, Winters Bros. Waste Systems CT, in conjunction with HRRRA, is sponsoring what is planned to be the first annual Recycling Video Contest. Students can work alone or in teams of 2 or 3 to produce a 3 minute video that answers the question, Where Does Our Garbage Go? The deadline for submission is April 13, 2012.

Local coordinators will judge entries at each middle school and high school in the region and choose local winners as well as one video per school to submit to the regional competition. Home school students will also be able to enter through a local coordinator.

The Regional Recycling Task Force will choose the top three regional winners based on technical expertise, creativity and appropriateness to the theme. Scholarships will be awarded to the



top three finishers.

Holiday Hours at HRRRA Transfer Stations and 2012 Tip Fee

Newtown Transfer Station
Sat, Dec 24—Close at 11 a.m.
Mon, Dec 26—Closed
Sat, Dec 31—Close at 11 a.m.
Mon, Jan 2—Closed

Ridgefield Transfer Station
Sat, Dec 24—Close at Noon
Mon, Dec 26—OPEN
Sat, Dec 31—OPEN
Mon, Jan 2—Closed

Danbury Transfer Station
Sat, Dec 24—Close at 2 p.m.
Mon, Dec 26—Closed
Sat, Dec 31—Close at 2 p.m.
Mon, Jan 2—Closed

2012 Tip Fees
MSW—\$83.72/ton (est.)*
Recycling—\$28.50/ton

* The tip fee rises each calendar year at 1/2 the prior year's increase in the Consumer Price Index or 1.7% this year. Since the CPI for 2011 will not be officially published until late February, the tip fee charged at the start of each year is an estimate. March invoices will show an adjustment based on whether the estimate was too high or too low.

