NewGen Strategies & Solutions

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FINAL REPORT

REGIONAL WASTE AUTHORITY STUDY

OCTOBER 2025

WESTCOG

Prepared for:
Western Connecticut Council of Governments
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Sandy Hook, CT 06482

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Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

List of Appendices

SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION

The Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG) sought assistance in reviewing and updating the June 2021 Barton & Loguidice (B&L) Regional Waste Management Study; evaluating community needs for waste collection, processing, and disposal; and exploring potential for shared services that could potentially include the formation of a Regional Waste Authority (RWA) or joining an existing RWA (the Study) for the member municipalities that are not a member of an existing solid waste authority.

As was described in the prior study conducted by (B&L), there are critical factors impacting solid waste management in Connecticut. The trends described in the previous report, namely, lack of adequate local disposal capacity for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), have the potential to increase operating costs, particularly for smaller municipalities that are not part of a larger solid waste authority or similar consortium[1]. With more changes occurring since the 2021 Study was completed, including more changes in local disposal capacity currently available for MSW, an update to the prior study is imperative to gain a clear understanding of the best path forward for WestCOG member municipalities.

NewGen Strategies & Solutions, LLC (NewGen) was retained in early 2025 to assist with this Study. The first phase of the Study includes updating the previous study and evaluating community needs and interests, then conducting a Benefit-Cost-Analysis (BCA) for the different options for organization and collaboration among the WestCOG member municipalities not currently members of a solid waste authority. The second phase of the Study, if warranted, would include assistance with determining governance structure and preparing legal documents including memoranda of understanding/agreement, bylaws, and municipal resolutions/ordinances.

The purpose of this report is to summarize the findings of the first phase of the Study. As shown in Figure 1-1, the five member municipalities subject to the research include the Town of Darien, the Town of Greenwich, the Town of New Canaan, the City of Norwalk, and the City of Stamford. A Project Advisory Committee (PAC) was formed with representatives from each of the five member municipalities. The PAC met monthly to discuss Study efforts and provide feedback.

[1] While disposal capacity constraints have the potential to increase costs, it is important to note that transporting waste greater distances or even out of state does not necessarily result in higher overall costs, as transportation methods and out-of-state disposal fees can significantly influence total expenses.

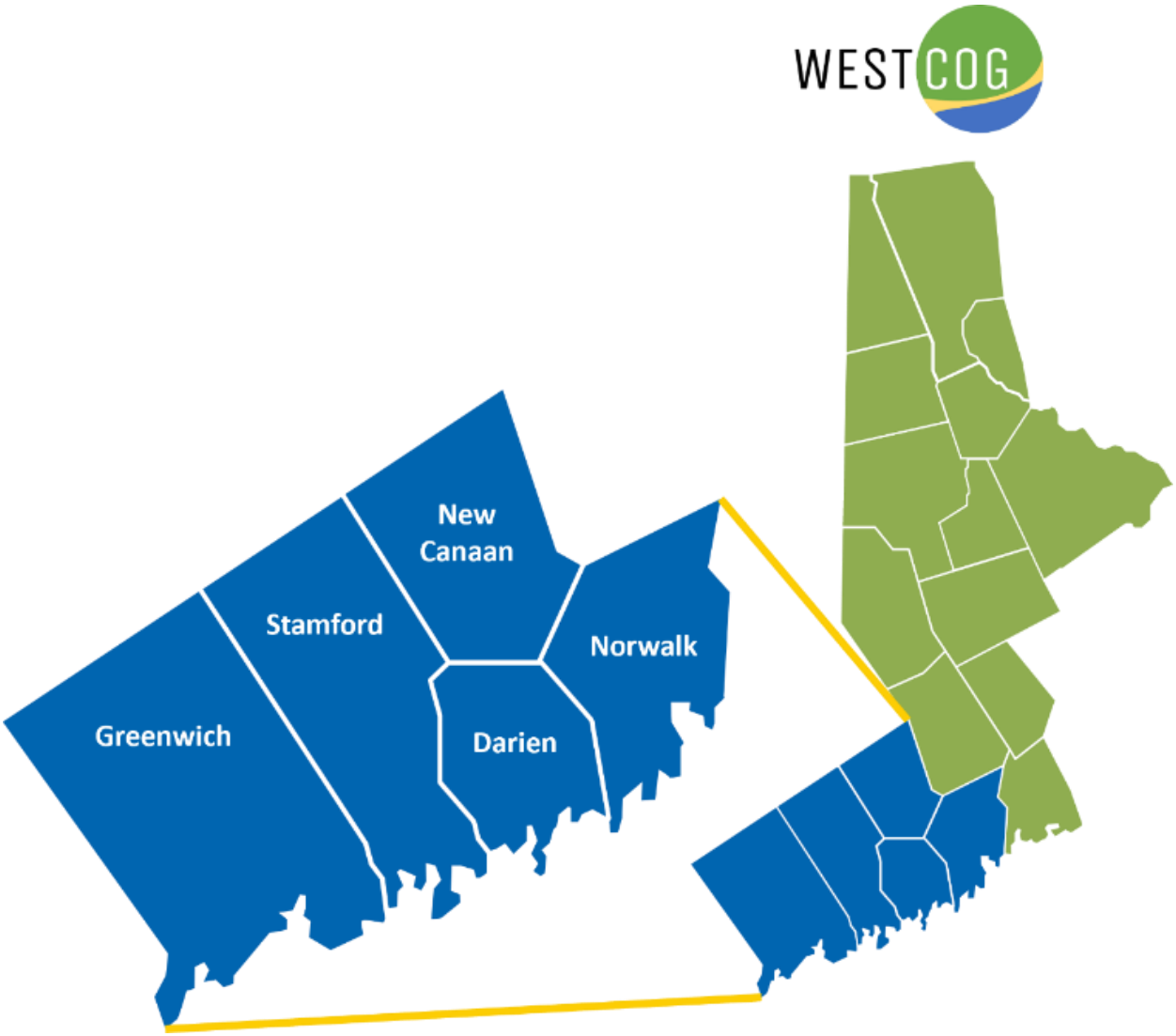

Figure 1-1
WestCOG Member Municipalities

SECTION 2
BASELINE OF THE CURRENT SOLID WASTE SYSTEMS

The first step to developing an effective analysis for the future of solid waste management is to fully understand the current solid waste system. Because the focus of this Study includes five member municipalities, it is important to develop a clear understanding of solid waste management in each. The purpose of this Section 2 is to describe the current solid waste systems and to develop a baseline understanding of the current challenges and opportunities.

Section 2 subsections are divided into the following segments of the solid waste systems: generation, collection, transfer, processing, and disposal.

- **Generation** refers to the amount and type of materials generated.
- **Collection** refers to the act of collecting materials, whether from homes at the curb or alley, or at a local business, and delivering materials to the appropriate facilities.
- **Transfer** refers to the act of transferring materials from a transfer station and delivering materials to the appropriate facilities.
- **Processing** refers to the act of processing materials such as traditional recyclables and yard waste to prepare them for sale or use by others.
- **Disposal** refers to waste that is not recycled or diverted but is instead disposed in a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility or landfill.

Figure 2-1 Solid Waste Management Loop

2.1 Generation

2.1.1 Population Forecast Methodology and Growth Rates

The population estimates are based on the most recent data available from U.S. Census. Using the reported population growth between 2020 and 2024, the annualized growth rate for each municipality was calculated. These rates were derived by applying a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) formula to ensure consistency and comparability across jurisdictions. The U.S. Census projections were selected as the most reliable and standardized data source available; however, these projections are not exact and are intended for general planning purposes only, providing a reasonable basis for comparison rather than precise forecasts of future growth. The resulting annualized growth rates are as follows:

- **Darien**: 1.2%
- Greenwich: 0.43%
- New Canaan: 0.68%
- **Norwalk**: 0.68%
- Stamford: 0.68%

Using the growth rates above, Table 2-1 shows population projections for 2024-2035 for each of the member municipalities.

Table 2-1
Population Forecast

	Darien	Greenwich	New Canaan	Norwalk	Stamford
2024	22,528	66,594	21,160	93,661	139,134
2025	22,798	66,877	21,303	94,293	140,073
2026	23,072	67,161	21,447	94,930	141,019
2027	23,349	67,447	21,591	95,570	141,971
2028	23,629	67,733	21,737	96,216	142,929
2029	23,913	68,021	21,884	96,865	143,894
2030	24,199	68,310	22,032	97,519	144,865
2031	24,490	68,601	22,180	98,177	145,843
2032	24,784	68,892	22,330	98,840	146,827
2033	25,081	69,185	22,481	99,507	147,818
2034	25,382	69,479	22,632	100,179	148,816
2035	25,687	69,774	22,785	100,855	149,821

2.1.2 MSW & Recyclables Tonnage Forecast Methodology and Growth Rates

The most recent complete tonnage data available from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is for fiscal year 2023, which spans July 2022 through June 2023. DEEP provided data detailing the tons of MSW disposed and recycled/diverted materials generated in each municipality (i.e., the municipality of origin). This dataset includes materials collected directly by each municipality, whether through curbside collection or drop-off at the respective municipality's transfer station, as well as private hauling operations. In other words, the total tons shown in Table 2-2 are total estimated tons generated in each municipality and not necessarily controlled by the respective municipality. Table 2-2, on the following page, summarizes the actual tonnage data from FY 2023 and the projected tonnage data. To project future tonnage over the next ten years, the same annual growth rate used in the population forecast was applied for each municipality.

It is important to note that when private haulers transport combined loads from multiple municipalities, the haulers typically report to DEEP the entire loads as originating from a single municipality, which may impact the geographic accuracy of the data. DEEP has taken steps to minimize double counting across the reporting methods; however, per DEEP, complete elimination of overlap may not have been achieved. While it is acknowledged that this data is not perfect, it is the most consistent data available for this Study.

Appendix A provides further breakdown of the recycled/diverted tons.

Based on the FY 2023 data provided by DEEP, each member municipality is estimated to have the following overall recycling/diversion rates:

- Darien: 53%
- Greenwich: 45%
- New Canaan: 16%
- Norwalk: 19%
- Stamford: 31%

Table 2-2
Tonnage Forecast

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Darien													
MSW	6,806	6,888	6,970	7,054	7,139	7,224	7,311	7,399	7,487	7,577	7,668	7,760	7,853
Recyclables/Diversion	7,754	7,847	7,941	8,037	8,133	8,231	8,329	8,429	8,531	8,633	8,737	8,841	8,947
TOTAL	14,560	14,735	14,911	15,091	15,272	15,455	15,640	15,828	16,018	16,210	16,405	16,601	16,801
Greenwich													
MSW	34,088	34,235	34,382	34,530	34,678	34,827	34,977	35,127	35,278	35,430	35,582	35,735	35,889
Recyclables	27,405	27,523	27,641	27,760	27,880	28,000	28,120	28,241	28,362	28,484	28,607	28,730	28,853
TOTAL	61,493	61,577	62,023	62,290	62,558	62,827	63,097	63,368	63,640	63,914	64,189	64,465	64,742
New Canaan													
MSW	8,355	8,412	8,469	8,527	8,585	8,643	8,702	8,761	8,820	8,880	8,941	9,002	9,063
Recyclables	1,580	1,590	1,601	1,612	1,623	1,634	1,645	1,656	1,668	1,679	1,690	1,702	1,713
TOTAL	9,935	10,002	10,070	10,139	10,208	10,277	10,347	10,417	10,488	10,559	10,631	10,703	10,776
Norwalk													
MSW	99,518	100,195	100,876	101,562	102,253	102,948	103,648	104,353	105,062	105,777	106,496	107,220	107,949
Recyclables	23,238	23,396	23,555	23,715	23,877	24,039	24,202	24,367	24,533	24,699	24,867	25,037	25,207
TOTAL	122,756	123,591	124,431	125,277	126,129	126,987	127,850	128,720	129,595	130,476	131,364	132,257	133,156
Stamford													
MSW	118,741	119,548	120,361	121,180	122,004	122,833	123,669	124,510	125,356	126,209	127,067	127,931	128,801
Recyclables	53,481	53,844	54,210	54,579	54,950	55,324	55,700	56,079	56,460	56,844	57,231	57,620	58,012
TOTAL	172,222	173,392	175,571	175,759	176,954	178,157	179,369	180,589	181,816	183,052	184,298	185,551	186,813

Recyclables include the following materials:

- Alum - Drinking Water Resid
- Batteries (Other)
- Books
- Brush - Yard Waste
- Brush/Stumps/Land Clearing
- Corrugated
- Electronics
- Food Proc Residual
- Freon
- Grass
- Leaves
- Manure - Horse
- Mattresses
- Mixed C&D
- Newspapers
- NIKL - CADM Batteries
- OCC/OMG/ONP
- Office Paper
- Oil Filters
- Paint - Latex & Oil
- Paper - Mix
- Paper - Other
- Plastics - Mixed
- Scrap Metal
- Single Stream
- Storage Batteries
- Textiles
- Tires - Whole
- Waste Oil
- Wood (Furn, Pallets, Logs, Other)
- Yard Waste

2.1.3 MSW & Recyclables Handled by Municipalities

MSW and recyclable materials tonnage data specific to municipally operated Transfer Stations were obtained from DEEP. These figures represent materials managed directly by each municipality through their respective local Transfer Stations. In contrast to the broader dataset summarized in Table 2-2, which includes all materials generated within each municipality regardless of the entity managing the materials, the data presented in Table 2-3 reflect only those tons over which the municipality exercises operational control. Fiscal Year 2023 serves as the baseline year for the actual tonnage, with projections extending through 2035. The same annual growth rate used in the population forecast was applied to each municipality's baseline tonnage to project future volumes. It should be noted that data for the Town of New Canaan is not included, as DEEP has not received Transfer Station reporting from the municipality since FY 2012.

Based on the FY 2023 data provided by DEEP, each member municipality is estimated to have the following recycling/diversion rates for materials managed through its municipally operated Transfer Station. In many cases, these rates are higher than the overall municipal recycling rates presented in Section 2.1.2, reflecting the relatively stronger diversion performance of materials handled directly through local Transfer Station operations.

- Darien - Darien Transfer Station: 50%
- Greenwich - Holly Hill Resource Facility: 38%
- Norwalk - City of Norwalk Transfer Station: 29%
- Stamford - Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center: 39%
- Stamford - Harborview Avenue Transfer Station: 16%

Table 2-3
Transfer Station Tonnage Forecast

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Darien													
MSW	3,844	3,890	3,937	3,984	4,032	4,080	4,129	4,179	4,229	4,280	4,331	4,383	4,436
Recyclables/Diversion	3,857	3,903	3,950	3,998	4,046	4,094	4,143	4,193	4,243	4,294	4,346	4,398	4,451
TOTAL	7,701	7,794	7,887	7,982	8,078	8,174	8,273	8,372	8,472	8,574	8,677	8,781	8,886
Greenwich													
MSW	38,381	38,544	38,708	38,873	39,038	39,204	39,370	39,538	39,706	39,874	40,044	40,214	40,385
Recyclables	23,494	23,594	23,694	23,795	23,896	23,998	24,100	24,202	24,305	24,408	24,512	24,616	24,721
TOTAL	61,875	62,138	62,402	62,668	62,934	63,201	63,470	63,740	64,011	64,283	64,556	64,830	65,106
Norwalk													
MSW	23,486	23,645	23,805	23,965	24,127	24,290	24,454	24,619	24,785	24,952	25,121	25,290	25,461
Recyclables	9,729	9,794	9,860	9,927	9,994	10,061	10,129	10,198	10,267	10,336	10,406	10,476	10,547
TOTAL	33,215	33,439	33,665	33,892	34,121	34,351	34,583	34,817	35,052	35,288	35,526	35,766	36,008
Stamford 1													
MSW	2,006	2,020	2,033	2,047	2,061	2,075	2,089	2,103	2,117	2,131	2,146	2,160	2,175
Recyclables	1,274	1,282	1,291	1,299	1,308	1,317	1,326	1,335	1,344	1,353	1,362	1,371	1,381
TOTAL	3,280	3,302	3,324	3,347	3,369	3,392	3,415	3,438	3,461	3,484	3,508	3,532	3,555
Stamford 2													
MSW	76,301	76,816	77,335	77,857	78,382	78,911	79,444	79,980	80,520	81,064	81,611	82,162	82,716
Recyclables	14,716	14,816	14,916	15,016	15,118	15,220	15,322	15,426	15,530	15,635	15,740	15,847	15,953
TOTAL	91,017	91,632	92,250	92,873	93,500	94,131	94,766	95,406	96,050	96,698	97,351	98,008	98,670

Recyclables include the following materials:

- Asphalt
- Batteries (Other)
- Books
- Electronics
- Food Proc Residual
- Freon
- Goodwill
- Mattresses
- Organic Waste
- Paper - Other
- Propane Tanks
- Scrap Metal
- Single Stream
- Textiles
- Tires - Whole
- Waste Antifreeze
- Waste Oil

2.2 Collection

2.2.1 Darien

In the Town of Darien, the Town offers residential drop-off at the Town's transfer station for garbage and recyclables among other materials. Residents must renew their permit annually to drop materials off at the transfer station and/or may subscribe for collection service with one of the eight licensed haulers. Yard waste may be dropped off at the transfer station, or the resident may subscribe for collection. The Town collects bulk items from residents once per year with municipal crews, or residents may bring bulk items to the transfer station. Residents may also drop off food scraps at the transfer station. Paint may be brought to the transfer station. Household hazardous waste (HHW) may be dropped off at a designated area once per year through a collaborative agreement with the other member municipalities operated by Clean Harbors. Businesses may subscribe to collection services with private haulers or may drop off at the transfer station.

2.2.2 Greenwich

In the Town of Greenwich, the Town offers residential drop-off at the Town's transfer station for garbage and recyclables among other materials. Residents must renew their permit annually to drop materials off at the transfer station and/or may subscribe for curbside service with one of the twenty-three licensed haulers. Yard waste may be dropped off at the transfer station, or the residents may subscribe for collection; the Town collects leaves in prescribed districts in the fall of each year. Residents may drop off bulk items at the transfer station, or they may subscribe for curbside collection service. Residents may also drop off food scraps at the transfer station and two other drop-off locations. Household hazardous waste (HHW) may be dropped off at a designated area once per year through a collaborative agreement with the other member municipalities operated by Clean Harbors. Businesses may subscribe to collection services with private haulers or may drop off at the transfer station.

2.2.3 New Canaan

In the Town of New Canaan, the Town offers residential drop-off at the Town's transfer station for garbage and recyclables among other materials. Residents must renew their permit annually to drop materials off at the transfer station and/or may subscribe for curbside service with one of the eleven licensed haulers. Yard waste may be dropped off at the transfer station, or the residents may subscribe for collection; leaves are not allowed to be dropped off at the transfer station and must be taken to a separate compost site. Residents may drop off bulk items at the transfer station. Residents may also drop off food scraps at the transfer station. Household hazardous waste (HHW) may be dropped off at a designated area once per year through a collaborative agreement with the other member municipalities operated by Clean Harbors. Businesses may drop off materials at the transfer station or subscribe to collection services with private haulers. Brush from contractors is also accepted at the transfer station if proof of originating in New Canaan is provided.

2.2.4 Norwalk

In the City of Norwalk, the City provides curbside collection of garbage through an exclusive contract in the 4th District and curbside collection of recyclables citywide through the same exclusive contract. Residents in other districts in the City may drop off garbage at the transfer station and/or may subscribe for collection service with one of the eight licensed haulers. Residents must renew their permit annually

to drop materials off at the transfer station. Yard waste may be dropped off at the City's yard waste site, or the residents may subscribe for collection. Seasonal yard waste collection is provided by City crews in the 4th district twice in the Spring and twice in the Fall. Bulk items are now included in the exclusive curbside contract for the 4th district, or residents may drop off bulk items at the transfer station. Residents may also drop off food scraps at the transfer station and two other drop-off locations. Household hazardous waste (HHW) may be dropped off at a designated area once per year through a collaborative agreement with the other member municipalities operated by Clean Harbors. Businesses may subscribe to collection services with private haulers.

2.2.5 Stamford

In the City of Stamford, the City provides curbside collection of residential garbage and recyclables to approximately 75% of households. The other 25% may drop off garbage and recyclables at the City's transfer stations. Yard waste is collected curbside by municipal crews seasonally; the rest of the year, residents may drop off yard waste at designated municipal facilities. Bulk items may also be dropped off at designated municipal facilities. Residents may also drop off food scraps at the designated locations. Household hazardous waste (HHW) may be dropped off at a designated area once per year through a collaborative agreement with the other member municipalities operated by Clean Harbors. Businesses may subscribe to collection services with private haulers.

2.2.6 Collection Summary

Table 2-4 provides a summary of collection mechanisms and contract expiration dates as applicable for each of the member municipalities.

Table 2-4
Collection Approach and Contract Term

	Darien	Greenwich	New Canaan	Norwalk	Stamford
Garbage Collection	License/Subscription or Drop Off	License/Subscription or Drop Off	License/Subscription or Drop Off	WIN Waste for residential in 4th District; subscription/license for other districts and commercial; Contract term: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2032; one 3-year renewal option	Municipal collection; license/subscription; or drop off
Bulky Collection	DPW by appt. or drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Win Waste 4th district; remaining districts drop off at TS	Drop off at TS
Traditional Recyclables Collection	Drop off at TS or License/Subscription	Drop off at TS or License/Subscription	Drop off at TS or License/Subscription	Win Waste citywide for residential (commercial subscription or drop off at TS); same contract as garbage	Municipal collection; license/subscription; or drop off
Yard Waste Collection	License/Subscription	Town collects leaves seasonally; drop off at TS	Drop off at TS (leaves not allowed at TS)	4th District City crews collection seasonally; otherwise drop off at yard waste site or subscribe	Seasonal municipal collection; residential drop off at TS
Food Scraps Collection	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS and two other locations	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS and two other locations	Drop off at Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center and one other location
Other Materials					
Mattresses	Drop off at TS; Mattress Council recycles at no cost	Drop off at TS	Included with Bulk (drop off at TS)	Periodic drop-off events	State Mattress Recycling Program, or bring to the Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center
Batteries	Drop off at TS.	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Not accepted at TS
Tires	Drop off at TS.	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Take 2

	Darien	Greenwich	New Canaan	Norwalk	Stamford
Paint	Drop off at TS; Paint Care manages as part of TS Contract; paint is also part of HHW collaboration with Clean Harbors contract initiated by Norwalk, expires 12/31/25	Paint Care Drop-Off Site; paint is also part of HHW collaboration with Clean Harbors contract initiated by Norwalk, expires 12/31/25	Drop off at TS (oil-based, no latex) paint is also part of HHW collaboration with Clean Harbors contract initiated by Norwalk, expires 12/31/25	Drop off at TS (latex only, no oil-based) paint is also part of HHW collaboration with Clean Harbors contract initiated by Norwalk, expires 12/31/25	Paint Care Drop Off Site; paint is also part of HHW collaboration with Clean Harbors contract initiated by Norwalk, expires 12/31/25
E-waste	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS
Scrap Metal	Drop off at TS; WIN Waste keeps scrap value	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS
HHW	Clean Harbors collaborative agreement for HHW events, initiated by Norwalk, contract expires 12/31/25	Clean Harbors collaborative agreement for HHW events, initiated by Norwalk, contract expires 12/31/25	Clean Harbors collaborative agreement for HHW events, initiated by Norwalk, contract expires 12/31/25	Clean Harbors collaborative agreement for HHW events, initiated by Norwalk, contract expires 12/31/25	Clean Harbors collaborative agreement for HHW events, initiated by Norwalk, contract expires 12/31/25

2.3 Transfer Stations

Each of the five member municipalities owns at least one transfer station; Stamford owns two transfer stations. Table 2-5 provides a summary of the location, owner, and operator for each of the municipally owned transfer stations.

Table 2-5
Transfer Stations

Municipality	Transfer Station Locations	Owned by	Operated by
Darien	Darien Recycling & Refuse Center 126 Ledge Road, Darien, CT 06820	Town of Darien	WIN Waste
Greenwich	Holly Hill Resource Recovery Facility 84 Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830	Town of Greenwich	WIN Waste
New Canaan	New Canaan Transfer Station 139 Lakeview Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840	Town of New Canaan	Town of New Canaan
Norwalk	Norwalk Transfer Station & Recycling Center 61 Crescent St, Norwalk, CT 68542	City of Norwalk	WIN Waste
Stamford	Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center 130 Magee Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902	City of Stamford	City of Stamford
Stamford	Scale House / Transfer Station 101 Harborview Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902	City of Stamford	City of Stamford

Figure 2-2 shows the locations of each of the municipally owned transfer stations. Note that there are additional privately owned transfer stations in the region not listed in Table 2-5 or depicted in Figure 2-2. For the purpose of this report, the focus is on municipally managed facilities and materials.

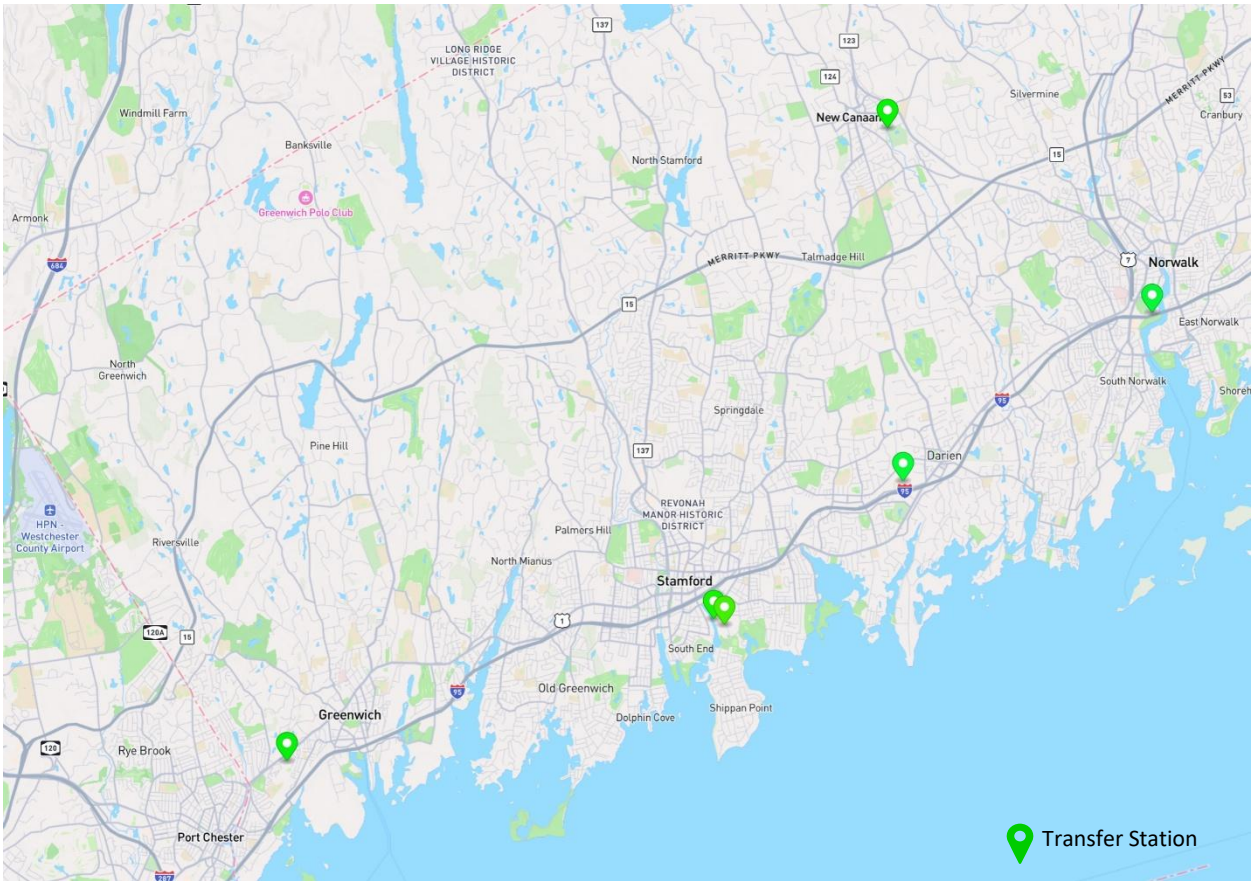

Figure 2-2
Transfer Stations

2.3.1 Darien

The Darien Recycling and Refuse Center provides a "What and How to Recycle at the Darien Recycling Center" document on their website that details what is accepted and not accepted at the facility. In addition, there is a map of the facility with directions to where residents should drop off certain materials.[2] An annual permit is required to enter the Darien Recycling and Refuse Center. Senior Citizens (65 and older) are entitled to one free permit per household by submitting a Senior Citizen Recycling and Refuse Permit Application.

[2] Recycling Center Documents can be found at https://www.darienct.gov/287/Recycling-Center.

Darien Recycling & Refuse Center Accepted items:

- Appliances (refrigeration equipment, washers, dryers, ovens, stoves)
- Batteries (all types)
- Construction & Demolition Debris
- Electronics
- Food Scraps
- Lawn & Garden Debris
- Light bulbs
- Mattresses
- Oversized Plastic
- Paint
- Reusable Items—Swap Shop
- Scrap Metal
- Single Stream, paper, flattened cardboard, rigid plastics, glass, and metal
- Smoke Alarms
- Textiles
- Tires
- Waste Oil (motor oil, only)

Darien Swap Shop

The Swap Shop is available for drop-off and shopping at the facility (permit required). The facility accepts usable items only; nothing broken, stained, chipped, cracked or missing pieces. Most household items are accepted at the Swap Shop except large furniture or appliances, TVs, clothing, mattresses, cribs, or car seats.

2.3.2 Greenwich

The Town's current list of material accepted at the transfer station includes Municipal Solid Waste, Single-Stream Recyclables, Construction Debris, Organic Debris, Electronics Waste, Food Compost, Waste Oil and Antifreeze, Propane, Scrap Metal, Freon Units, Tires, Batteries and Appliances, medical waste, mattresses along with various other items. The Transfer Station currently allows volunteers to utilize space within the transfer station property boundary for which the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the disposal company are not responsible. These include a Goodwill Trailer, a book shed, two textile containers, an enclosed container for mattresses, and an enclosed container for donations of lightly used (or new) durable medical equipment that is in good condition. It should be noted that the facility property is shared with the DPW Highway Division to allow for the storage of construction materials, salt storage, milling debris, excess snow and debris as a result of natural disasters.

Holly Hill Resource Recovery Facility Accepted Items[3]

- Batteries
- Books
- Construction and Demolition Debris
- Dead Animals
- Electronics
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- Freon Containing Items (CFC's)
- Household or Commercial Trash Garbage (MSW)
- Mixed-Material Items
- Propane Gas Tanks Empty (BBQ Grills)
- Recyclables, Single Stream
- Residential Medical Waste
- Scrap Metal
- Tires
- Waste Motor Oil and Anti-Freeze
- Yard Waste, Logs, and Leaves

[3] https://www.greenwichct.gov/265/Waste-Disposal-Recycling

Greenwich Waste Wizard!

The Waste Wizard tool, on the Town's website,[4] provides information about how to properly recycle, reuse or dispose of hundreds of items in the Town of Greenwich. The user can simply type the name of the item and information will be provided on the best disposal options.

2.3.3 New Canaan

The New Canaan Transfer Station receives materials such as garbage, recyclable materials, household and yard waste from residents and garbage haulers. An annual Transfer Station Permit is required to use this service. Low-income residents who qualify are eligible for a free transfer station pass.

New Canaan Transfer Station Accepted Materials[5]

- Appliances
- Clothing/Textiles
- Construction Demolition Materials
- Batteries
- Brush and yard waste
- Electronics
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Household Garbage
- Recyclable Materials (see flyer)
- Waste oil
- Oil Based Paint
- Car batteries
- Propane tanks
- Tires

Planet New Canaan Swap Shop

A transfer station pass is required to enter and participate in the Swap Shop. The Swap Shop accepts a variety of gently used items including; household goods, books, puzzles, toys, baby gear, lamps, electronics, sporting equipment and pet items.[6]

New Canaan Additional Recycling Opportunities

- **Annual Shred Day** (Drop-off located at Wastewater Plant).
- **Pumpkin Diversion** - Pumpkins can be dropped off at the transfer Station in the food scrap bins. Planet New Canaan collects the whole, uncarved and unpainted pumpkins that you used for decoration after Thanksgiving. The pumpkins are delivered to a local farm where they are a seasonal treat for the cows. Since launching the pilot program in 2020, it has grown each year. In 2024 alone, the program collected over 15,000 pounds of pumpkins—making for some happy cows.[7]
- **New Canaan Food Waste Recovery and Diversion Program** - The New Canaan Food Waste Recovery and Diversion (NC FWRD) is a pilot project launched in 2022 by the Planet New Canaan Youth Board. The program's purpose is to reduce food waste in restaurants. The New Canaan Food Scrap Recycling program is available free to New Canaan residents (with permit) at the Transfer Station. NC FWRD is the first effort to mobilize and work with New Canaan restaurants to reduce and divert food waste generated by the town's 50+ restaurants.[8]

[4] https://www.greenwichct.gov/2748/Waste-Wizard
[5] https://www.newcanaan.info/departments/public_works/transfer_station.php
[6] https://planetnewcanaan.org/swap-shop/
[7] https://planetnewcanaan.org/seasonal-programs/
[8] https://planetnewcanaan.org/food-waste-recovery-program/

2.3.4 Norwalk

Norwalk Transfer Station & Recycling Center accepts solid waste, single stream recycling and other drop-off recyclables detailed below.

Norwalk Transfer Station & Recycling Center Accepted Materials[9]

Solid Waste

- Solid Waste or Household Garbage
- Bulky items
- Wood - 4 feet or smaller
- Latex Paint
- Plastic Bags & Film

Single-Stream Recycling

- Cardboard Recycling
- Paper
- Books
- Plastic Bottles & Containers
- Glass
- Metal food and beverage containers

Recycling

- Scrap Metal
- Electronics
- Hard or Rigid Plastic
- Propane Tanks
- Tires
- Batteries
- Cooking or waste motor oil
- Antifreeze
- Freon Appliances
- Water Softeners
- Textiles

Norwalk Additional Recycling Opportunities

- **Can and Bottle Redemption Events with EyeRecycle** - Residents will receive 10 cents for each eligible deposit bottle at the time of redemption (not all bottles are accepted). The events are held in the parking lot across from the boat ramp at Veteran's Park, 42 Seaview Avenue four times a year.[10]
- **Mattress Recycling Council's Connecticut Bye Bye Mattress Program** - Residents can drop off dry and intact mattresses free of charge on three designated Saturdays throughout the year at the Norwalk Public Works Center. Open to City of Norwalk residents only.[11]

2.3.5 Stamford

The City of Stamford owns and operates two transfer stations. The Harborview Avenue Transfer Station and the Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center. The Harborview Avenue Transfer Station receives a substantially higher share of the total tonnage collected in Stamford, and the transfer station accepts garbage, recyclables, yard waste, and other waste materials. The Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center accepts recycling, garbage, and yard waste. To drop off materials, residents need to have residential (passenger) license plates registered as City residents. According to transfer station reports, materials received at the Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center are first transferred to the Harborview Avenue Transfer Station before being hauled to their final disposal or processing destination.

[9] https://www.norwalkct.gov/499/Acceptable-Non-Acceptable-Items
[10] https://www.norwalkct.gov/189/Solid-Waste-Recycling-Yard-Waste
[11] https://www.norwalkct.gov/3127/Mattress-Recycling

Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center Accepted Items[12]

In addition to garbage and yard waste, residents can place rinsed items into the following designated recycling bins.

- Mixed Paper
- Corrugated cardboard
- Plastic Labeled 1-7 (Excluding Film and Styrofoam)
- Scrap Metal
- Aerosol cans (empty)
- Aluminum Cans
- Glass
- Organics (except for shellfish shells)[13]
- E-waste

Stamford Recyclopedia

Located on the City's Recycling and Sanitation webpage,[14] Recyclopedia is a database including hundreds of materials that residents can search by the name of an item or category to determine whether it can be reused, recycled, or disposed of and directions about how and where that should be done.

Stamford The Take it or Leave it Shop

Residents can drop off or pick up slightly used items. The Recycling and Sanitation Department applied for and received a DEEP State Grant for the purchase of the building located at the Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center.

Stamford Additional Recycling Opportunities

- **Book Swap** – Free Book Swap located at the Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center with hundreds of books. With the help of volunteers, the process is very simple to pick up or donate books at the shop, which is open Fridays and Saturdays.
- **Neighborhood Dumpster Program** - On a discretionary basis, the City will make available a City dumpster to enable local community organizations and neighborhood groups to clean up and dispose of nonhazardous materials, subject to availability. The requesting organization is responsible for ensuring that only proper items are disposed of into the City dumpster. The following items are prohibited:
  - Appliances: refrigerators, ovens, washers, etc.
  - Air conditions, humidifiers
  - Tires
  - Household Recyclables
  - Hazardous waste
  - Yard waste, leaves, etc.

[12] https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/operations/recycling-and-sanitation/about/accepted-recycling-items
[13] https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/operations/recycling-and-sanitation/about/stamford-food-scrap-recycling-initiative
[14] https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/operations/recycling-and-sanitation/how-do-i/recycle-what-and-where

2.3.6 Transfer Stations Summary

Table 2-6 summarizes the operator and contract information (as applicable) for each of the municipalities transfer stations. Most municipalities contract for operations and haul out of materials. New Canaan and Stamford operate their own transfer stations.

Table 2-6
Transfer Station Summary

	Darien	Greenwich	New Canaan	Norwalk	Stamford
Garbage	WIN Waste	The Town in coordination with WIN Waste	Operated by Municipal Staff	WIN Waste	Operated by Municipal Staff
Term	Current contract expires June 30, 2029	Current contract expires 6/30/26	NA	July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2032	NA
Renewal Options	Can renew/extend; typically negotiate for more services with extensions.	Intend to release RFP by Dec. 2025	NA	One 3-year renewal term	NA
Piggyback	No	No	NA	No	NA
Bulky	Part of TS contract w/ WIN Waste	Town defines C&D as "bulky" (other bulky items are considered MSW); Contract with WIN Waste	Operated by Municipal Staff	WIN Waste	Operated by Municipal Staff
Term	Part of TS contract	June 30 2021 - 2022	NA	July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2032	NA
Renewal Options	Part of TS contract	4 add'l 1-year renewals	NA	One 3-year renewal term	NA
Piggyback	No	No	NA	No	NA
Traditional Recyclables	Part of TS contract w/ WIN Waste	Separate contract w/ WIN Waste	Operated by Municipal Staff	WIN Waste weighs at TS and direct hauls to MRF	Brought directly to WIN Waste MRF
Term	Part of TS contract	5-year term (July 2011 – 2016)	NA	Part of TS contract	NA
Renewal Options	Part of TS contract	3 add'l five-year terms	NA	Part of TS contract	NA
Piggyback	No	No	NA	No	NA
Yard Waste	Darien DPW staff hauls Grass Clippings WIN Waste hauls Brush, Logs & Stumps	Separate contract w/ WIN Waste	Operated by Municipal Staff	Separate yard waste site operated by City; contract with WIN Waste to haul out	Operated by Municipal Staff

	Darien	Greenwich	New Canaan	Norwalk	Stamford
Term	Part of TS contract	Indefinite Quantity Contract	NA	Part of TS contract	NA
Renewal Options	Part of TS contract	Indefinite Quantity Contract	NA	Part of TS contract	NA
Piggyback	No	No	NA	No	NA
Food Scraps	Curbside Compost (a subsidiary of Natural Upcycling) Through TS Contract	Curbside Compost (a subsidiary of Natural Upcycling)	Curbside Compost (a subsidiary of Natural Upcycling)	Curbside Compost (a subsidiary of Natural Upcycling)	City processes with grant-funded EcoRich machines
Term	Part of TS contract	Through WIN Traditional Recyclables contract	Month to month	Month to month	NA
Renewal Options	Part of TS contract	Through WIN Traditional Recyclables contract	Month to month	Month to month	NA
Piggyback	No	No	No	No	NA
Other Materials					
Mattresses	Drop off at TS; Mattress Council recycles at no cost	Drop off at TS	Included with Bulk (drop off at TS)	Periodic drop-off events	Drop off at TS or State Mattress Recycling Program (recyclopedia)
Batteries	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Not accepted at TS
Tires	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Take 2
Paint	Drop off at TS; Paint Care manages as part of TS Contract; paint is also part of HHW collaboration with Clean Harbors contract initiated by Norwalk, expires 12/31/25	Drop off at TS (Dry Latex) Oil - PaintCare Hazardous Waste Day, once per year	Drop off at TS (oil-based) Hazardous Waste Day, once per year (No latex)	Drop off at TS (latex only) Hazardous Waste Day, once per year	Drop off at TS (latex only) PaintCare (recyclopedia)
E-waste	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS
Scrap Metal	Drop off at TS; WIN Waste keeps scrap value	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS	Drop off at TS
HHW	Clean Harbors collaborative agreement for HHW events, initiated by Norwalk, contract expires 12/31/25	Clean Harbors collaborative agreement for HHW events, initiated by Norwalk, contract expires 12/31/25	Clean Harbors collaborative agreement for HHW events, initiated by Norwalk, contract expires 12/31/25	Clean Harbors collaborative agreement for HHW events, initiated by Norwalk, contract expires 12/31/25	Clean Harbors collaborative agreement for HHW events, initiated by Norwalk, contract expires 12/31/25

2.4 Processing

2.4.1 Traditional Recyclables

As shown in Table 2-7 and Figure 2-3, most of the member municipalities deliver recyclables from their transfer station to the WIN Waste MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) in Stamford. The City of Norwalk has a contract with WIN Waste for the curbside collection of residential recyclables, which are direct hauled to the WIN Waste MRF. To provide additional context, the distance from each municipality's transfer station to its respective MRF varies. Darien's transfer station is the closest to the Stamford MRF, hauling recyclables less than 3 miles. Norwalk hauls recyclables approximately 8 to 9 miles to Stamford, while Greenwich hauls about 11 miles. New Canaan, which transports recyclables to the MRF in Shelton, hauls a much longer distance, approximately 30 miles.

Table 2-7
Processing

Municipality	Transfer Station Locations	Where Recyclables are Taken
Darien	Darien Recycling & Refuse Center 126 Ledge Road, Darien, CT 06820	WIN Waste Stamford (MRF) 61 Taylor Reed Place, Stamford, CT 06906
Greenwich	Holly Hill Resource Recovery Facility 84 Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830	WIN Waste Stamford (MRF) 61 Taylor Reed Place, Stamford, CT 06906
New Canaan	New Canaan Transfer Station 139 Lakeview Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840	Oak Ridge Waste & Recycling of CT 46 & 90 Oliver Terrace, Shelton, CT 06484
Norwalk	Norwalk Transfer Station & Recycling Center 61 Crescent St, Norwalk, CT 68542	WIN Waste Stamford (MRF) 61 Taylor Reed Place, Stamford, CT 06906
Stamford	Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center 130 Magee Ave, Stamford, CT 06902	WIN Waste Stamford (MRF) 61 Taylor Reed Place, Stamford, CT 06906
Stamford	Scale House / Transfer Station 101 Harbor View Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902	WIN Waste Stamford (MRF) 61 Taylor Reed Place, Stamford, CT 06906

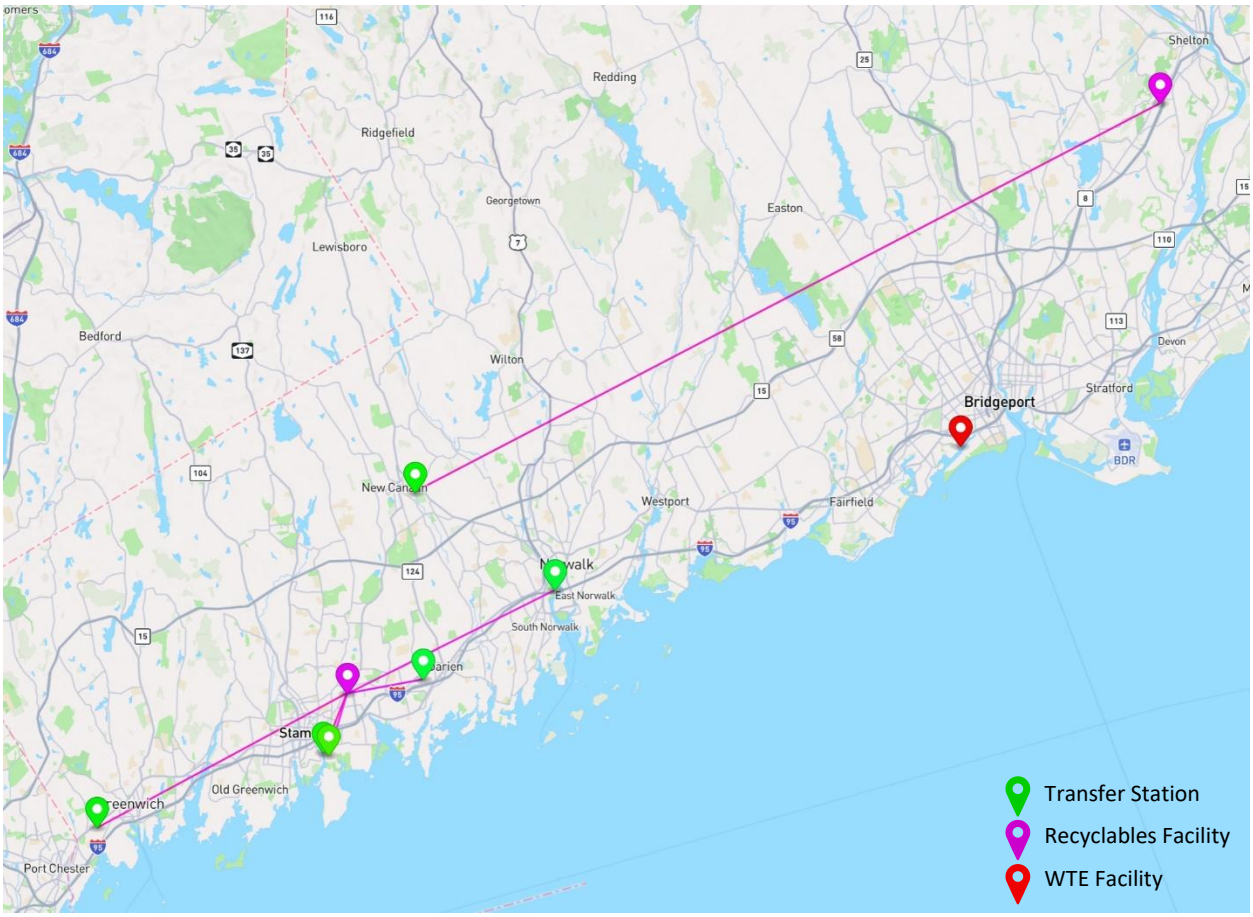

Figure 2-3
Hauling of Recyclables to MRFs

2.4.2 Food Scraps

As shown in Table 2-6, in FY 2023, all five municipalities used Curbside Compost, a subsidiary of Natural Upcycling, to collect food scraps from the 96-gallon carts at the respective drop-off locations and bring the material to New Milford Farms, for composting. In addition to their Transfer Stations, Greenwich, Norwalk and Stamford offer alternative drop-off locations within their municipality where residents can bring food scraps for diversion. Since FY 2023, Stamford has received grant funding for an EcoRich machine, which they are now using to compost food waste in-house. New Milford Farms[15] was Connecticut's first state-permitted composting facility, turning food by-product waste into high-quality compost.

Table 2-8 summarizes food scraps drop-off locations and the subsequent location for processing the material.

[15] New Milford Farms | Garick

Table 2-8
Food Scraps

Municipality	Drop-off Locations	Final Processing
Darien	Darien Recycling & Refuse Center 126 Ledge Road, Darien, CT 06820	New Milford Farms 60 Boardman Rd, New Milford, CT 06776
Greenwich	Holly Hill Resource Recovery Facility 84 Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830	New Milford Farms 60 Boardman Rd, New Milford, CT 06776
Greenwich	Living Hope Community Church 38 West End Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870	New Milford Farms 60 Boardman Rd, New Milford, CT 06776
Greenwich	Round Hill Community Church 395 Round Hill Road, Greenwich, CT 06831	New Milford Farms 60 Boardman Rd, New Milford, CT 06776
New Canaan	New Canaan Transfer Station 139 Lakeview Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06831	New Milford Farms 60 Boardman Rd, New Milford, CT 06776
Norwalk	Norwalk Transfer Station & Recycling Center 61 Crescent St, Norwalk, CT 68542	New Milford Farms 60 Boardman Rd, New Milford, CT 06776
Norwalk	Rowayton Community Center 33 Highland Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06853	New Milford Farms 60 Boardman Rd, New Milford, CT 06776
Norwalk	Cranbury Park 300 Grumman Ave, Norwalk, CT 06851	New Milford Farms 60 Boardman Rd, New Milford, CT 06776
Stamford	Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center 130 Magee Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902	New Milford Farms 60 Boardman Rd, New Milford, CT 06776
Stamford	Fairgate Farm 129 Stillwater Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902	New Milford Farms 60 Boardman Rd, New Milford, CT 06776

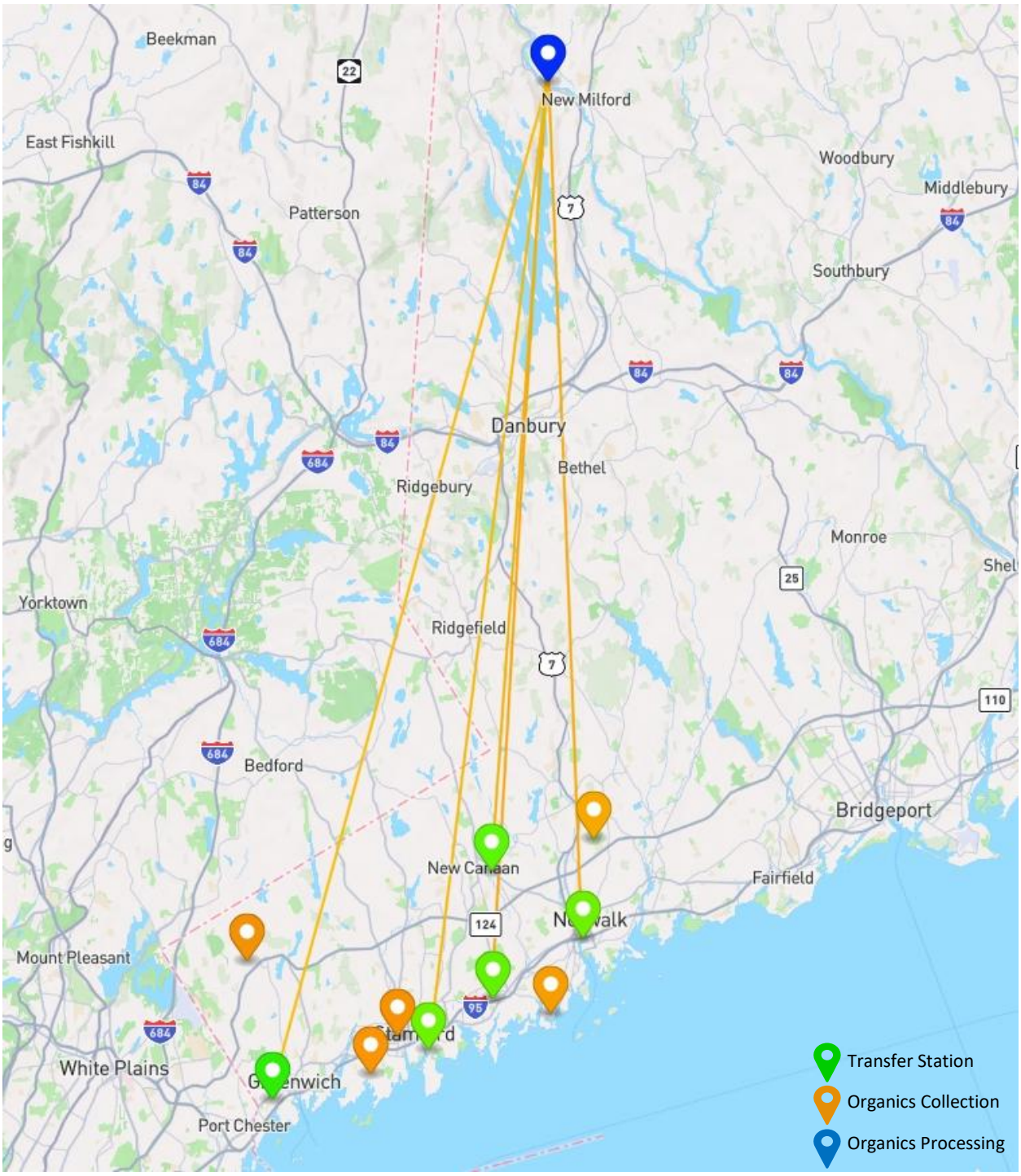

Figure 2-4
Hauling of Food Scraps to New Milford Farms

2.4.3 Vegetative Waste

The municipalities utilized many of the same facilities for the processing of yard waste, brush, leaves and related vegetative waste the municipalities received at their respective transfer stations or drop-off sites. A key shared destination was The Scotts Company in Lebanon, CT, which received brush from Darien, Norwalk, and Stamford, as well as leaves from Greenwich. Snow's Farm in Easton CT processed leaves from Darien, Greenwich and Norwalk, while Stamford relied on Grillo Services in Milford for their leaf disposal. Grillo Services also handled nearly 200 tons of grass from Darien. Eastern CT Recycling in Danielson, CT handled the largest overall volume, totaling more than 35,000 tons of yard waste and leaves from Stamford, along with more than 1,000 tons of Brush/Stumps from Norwalk. Notably, Greenwich was the only municipality to send vegetative waste out-of-state, transporting nearly 7,000 tons of Yard Waste to Joseph Bulfamante & Son Inc. in New Rochelle, NY. Further detail on facility destinations and material tonnages can be found in Table 2-9 and Figure 2-5, respectively.

Table 2-9
Vegetative Waste

Type	Darien	Greenwich	Norwalk	Stamford
Yard Waste		Total Landscaping & Tree Service Danbury, CT (391 tons) Ferris Mulch Products. Danbury, CT (391 tons) Joseph Bulfamante & Son Inc. New Rochelle, NY (6,847 tons)	New Milford Farms New Milford, CT (12 tons)	Eastern CT Recycling Danielson, CT (27,015 tons) GER, Inc. Clinton, CT (3,711 tons)
Brush – Yard Waste	The Scotts Company Lebanon, CT (193 tons)		The Scotts Company Lebanon, CT (7,371 tons)	The Scotts Company Lebanon, CT (3,607 tons)
Leaves	Snow's Farm Easton, CT (735 tons)	Snow's Farm Easton, CT (10,480 tons) The Scotts Company Lebanon, CT (0)*Began in FY 2024	Snow's Farm Easton, CT (4,097 tons)	Grillo Services. Milford, CT (16,333) Eastern CT Recycling Danielson, CT (10,040 tons)
Grass	Grillo Services, Milford, CT (190 tons)			
Leaves/Grass				Hanna Paper Recycling Wallingford, CT (19 tons)
Wood			F&G Recycling. East Windsor Transfer Station (Windsor, CT) (14 tons)	

Type	Darien	Greenwich	Norwalk	Stamford
Brush/Stumps/ Land clearing			Eastern CT Recycling Danielson, CT (1,085 tons) DW Transport & Leasing Franklin, CT (606 tons)	
Manure - Horse		New England Compost Danbury, CT (119 tons)		

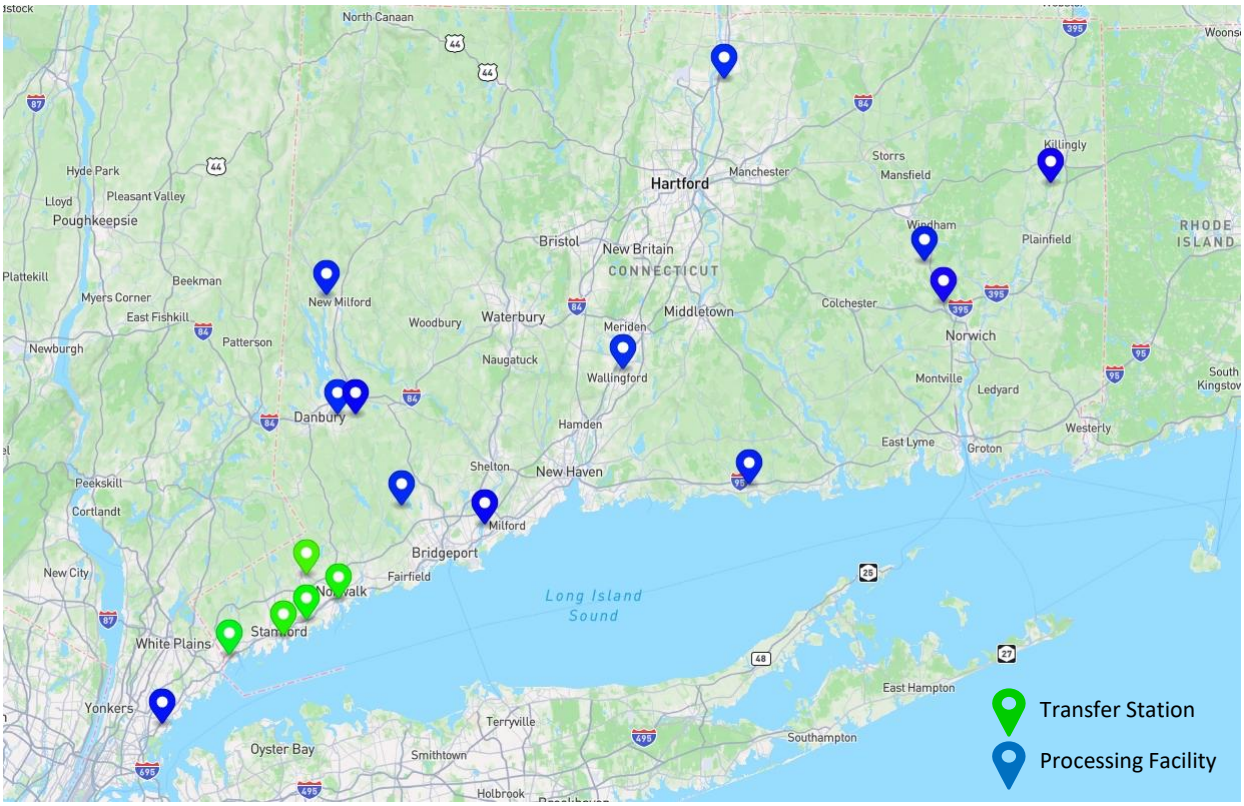

Figure 2-5
All Vegetative Waste processing facilities

2.4.4 Other Materials Being Diverted

In addition to traditional MSW and recyclables as well as organics, several municipalities divert specialized materials to regional and out-of-state facilities. Per DEEP provided data for FY 2023, Greenwich and Norwalk send electronics to Newtech Recycling in Somerset, NJ, while Stamford directs electronics, batteries, and fluorescent lights to Take 2, Inc. in Waterbury, CT. Darien, Greenwich and Norwalk send books and textiles to Goodwill, whereas Stamford routes similar materials to facilities in Massachusetts and New York. Corrugated materials are primarily processed at Stamford's MRF, with additional volumes handled by WM Recycle America in Bridgeport and Marcus Paper Co. in West Haven.

Other materials are managed through targeted facilities. Darien and Greenwich send mattresses to Park City Green, a nonprofit in Bridgeport, CT. Greenwich and Norwalk send oil filters to CT Oil Recycling Services in Middletown, CT. Stamford, Darien, and Greenwich deliver scrap metal and batteries to Rubino Brothers in Stamford, while Norwalk uses Lajoie's Auto & Scrap locally. These varied pathways reflect each municipality's effort to manage specialized waste efficiently using a combination of shared, regional, and independent vendors.

2.4.5 Statewide Recycle Wizard App and Website

The RecycleCT Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the importance of managing materials more sustainably through waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting.

Residents of Connecticut can access the application at https://www.recyclect.com or download the app via the Apple App Store or Google Play to determine if and how to recycle certain items.

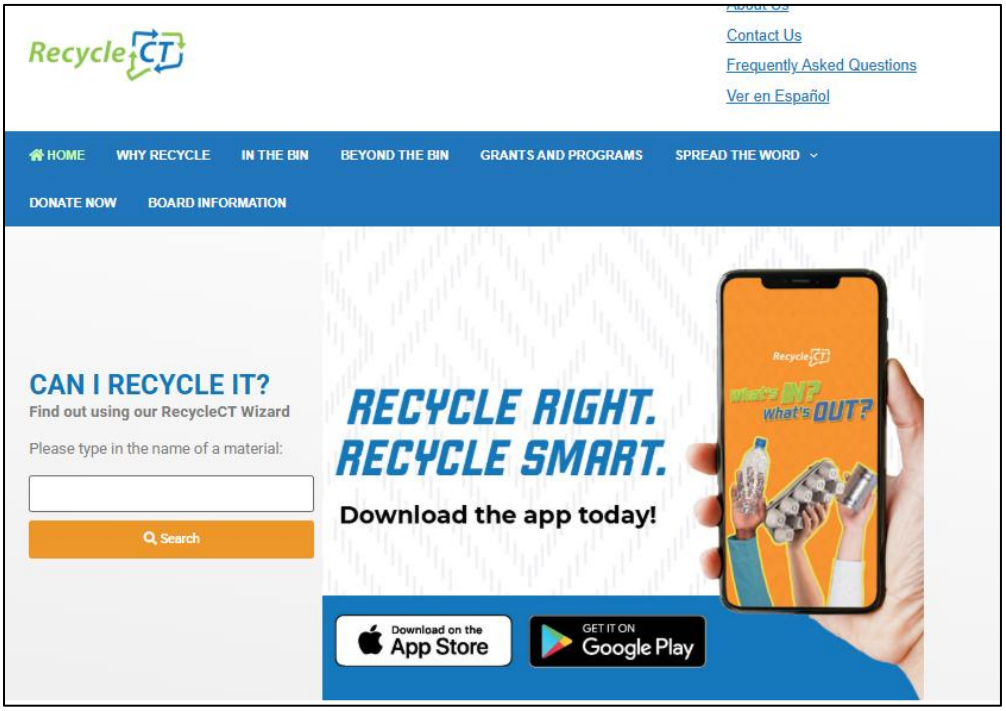

Figure 2-6
RecycleCT Recycle Wizard Webpage

2.4.6 Processing Summary

Table 2-10 shows the operating summary including contract information (as applicable) for each of the five member municipalities.

Table 2-10
Processing Summary

	Darien	Greenwich	New Canaan	Norwalk	Stamford
Traditional Recyclables	Part of TS contract w/ WIN Waste	WIN Waste	Oak Ridge Waste & Recycling in Shelton, CT	WIN Waste	WIN Waste hauls out to MRF
Term	Part of TS contract	5-year term (July 2011 – 2016)	exp. 06/30/2026	Part of TS contract	exp. 06/30/2026
Renewal Options	Part of TS contract	3 add'l five-year terms	Yes, at Town option	Part of TS contract	Not known
Piggyback	No	No	No	No	Not known
Yard Waste	Part of TS contract	Part of TS contract w/ WIN Waste	Enviro	Yard waste site; separate contract w/ City Carting	Yard Waste - Grillo Services, LLC
Term	Part of TS contract	Part of TS contract	Expires 6/30/26	June 30, 2024	Oct. 2025 - 2028
Renewal Options	Part of TS contract	Part of TS contract	No; intend to release RFP in late winter/early spring	Two 1-year terms	Not known
Piggyback	No	No	No	No	Not known
Food Scraps	Curbside Compost (a subsidiary of Natural Upcycling)	Curbside Compost (a subsidiary of Natural Upcycling)	Curbside Compost (a subsidiary of Natural Upcycling)	Curbside Compost (a subsidiary of Natural Upcycling)	Food waste is processed in two EcoRich machines at TS
Term	Part of TS contract	Through WIN Traditional Recyclables contract	Month to month	Month to month	NA
Renewal Options	Part of TS contract	Through WIN Traditional Recyclables contract	Month to month	Month to month	NA
Piggyback	No	No	No	No	NA

2.5 Disposal

2.5.1 Member Municipalities

Table 2-11 provides a summary of each transfer station location and the final disposal location for materials disposed. Final disposal for most member municipalities is the WIN Waste Bridgeport incinerator. However, some Greenwich material is disposed at a WIN Waste incinerator in Peekskill, NY, and some of Stamford's material is taken to landfills outside of Connecticut. Figure 2-7 depicts the path from transfer stations to disposal locations.

Regarding the composition of MSW processed through the transfer stations, the percentage of which is nonresidential (i.e., commercial or industrial) versus residential varies by municipality. Stamford estimated that approximately 35% of the MSW processed at the Harborview Avenue Transfer Station is nonresidential in nature, with the remainder being residential. In contrast, all tonnage processed at Stamford's Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center was reported to be residential. Norwalk provided a rough estimate indicating that around 25% of MSW passing through its transfer station is from nonresidential sources. The reports from Greenwich and Darien did not specify the breakdown between residential and non-residential MSW.

Table 2-11
Disposal

Municipality	Transfer Station Locations	Final Disposal Location
Darien	Darien Recycling & Refuse Center 126 Ledge Road, Darien, CT 06820	WIN Waste Bridgeport (WTE) 6 Howard Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605
Greenwich	Holly Hill Resource Recovery Facility 84 Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830	WIN Waste Bridgeport (WTE) 6 Howard Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605
		WIN Waste Westchester (WTE) 1 Charles Point Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566
New Canaan	New Canaan Transfer Station 139 Lakeview Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840	WIN Waste Bridgeport (WTE) 6 Howard Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605
Norwalk	Norwalk Transfer Station & Recycling Center 61 Crescent St, Norwalk, CT 68542	WIN Waste Bridgeport (WTE) 6 Howard Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605
Stamford	Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center 130 Magee Ave, Stamford, CT 06902	WIN Waste Bridgeport (WTE) 6 Howard Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605
Stamford	Scale House / Transfer Station 101 Harbor View Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902	WIN Waste Bridgeport (WTE) 6 Howard Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605
		Alliance Waste Management Landfill 398 South Keyser Avenue, Taylor, PA 08517
		Keystone Sanitary Landfill 249 Dunham Drive, Dunmore, PA 18512
		Commonwealth Environmental Systems Landfill 99 Commonwealth Road, Hegins, PA 17938
		Cumberland County Landfill 620 Newville Road, Newburg, PA 17240

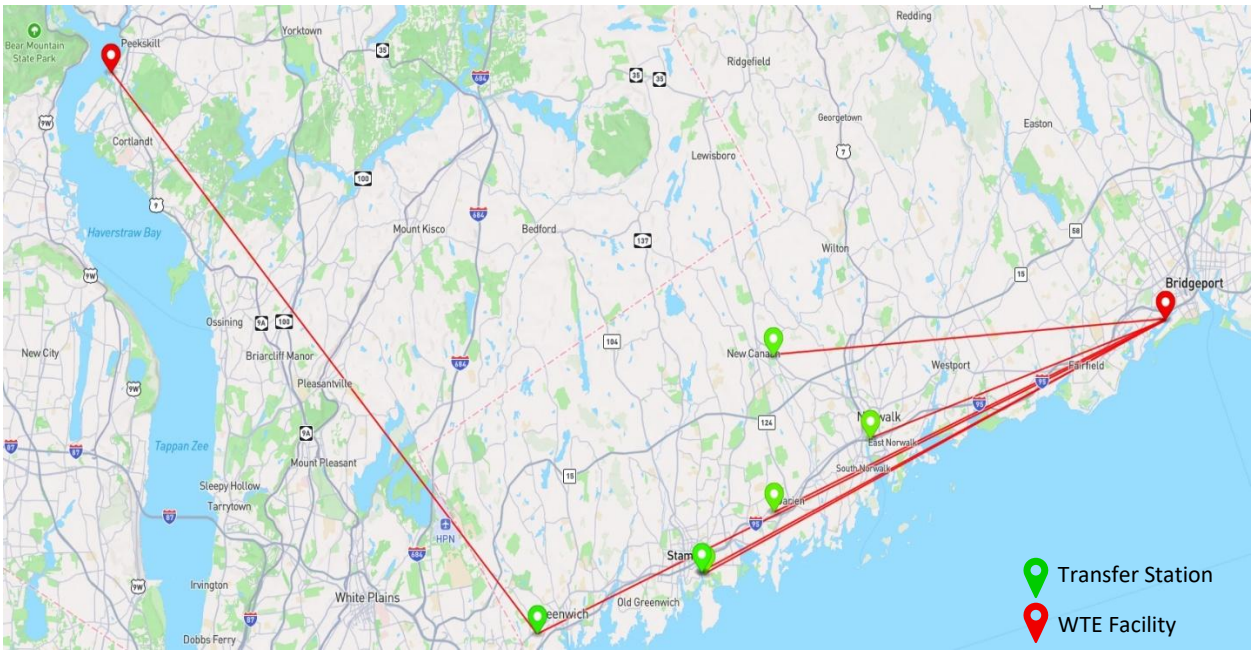

Figure 2-7
Hauling of MSW to Incinerators (WTE facilities)

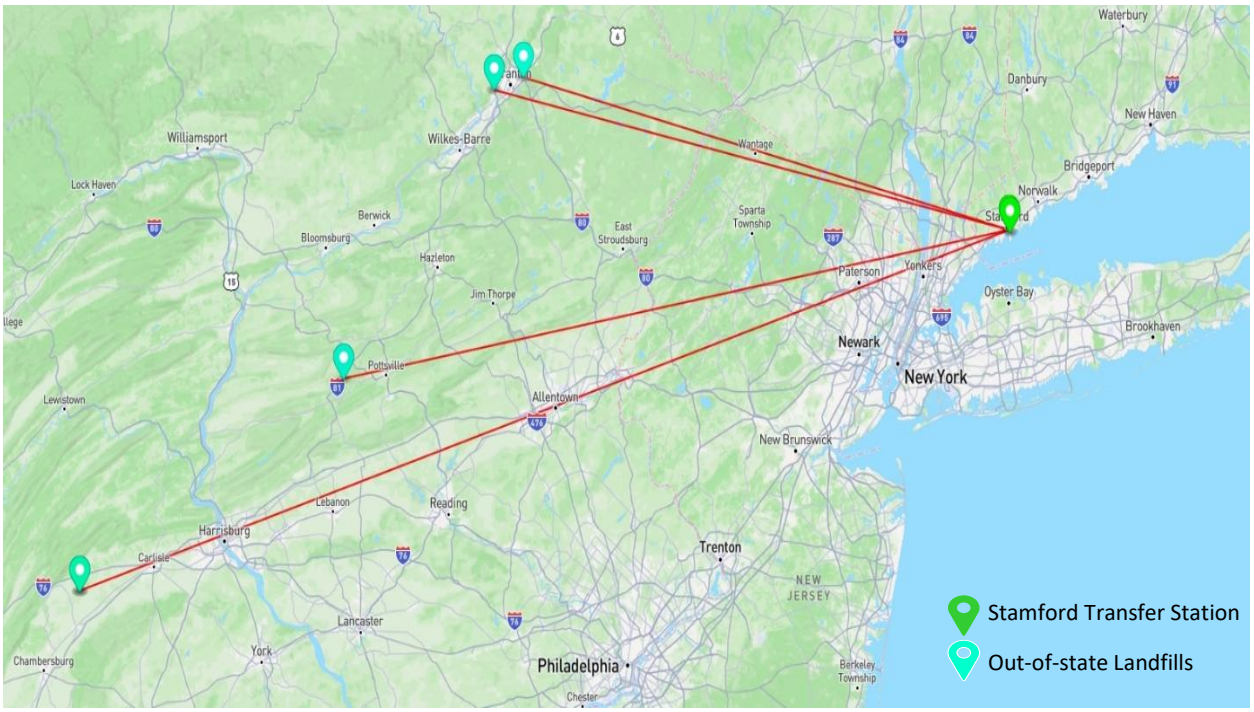

Figure 2-8
Hauling of MSW from Stamford to Landfills

2.5.2 Disposal Contract Summary

Table 2-12 provides a summary of the disposal contracts and locations for each of the member municipalities. WIN Waste manages the haul out of materials from each of the five municipalities.

Table 2-12
Disposal Contracts

	Darien	Greenwich	New Canaan	Norwalk	Stamford
Garbage	WIN Waste hauls out to Bridgeport WTE	WIN Waste hauls out to either Bridgeport WTE or Peekskill NY WTE	WIN Waste (USA Waste) hauls out to Bridgeport WTE	WIN Waste hauls out to Bridgeport WTE	Voyager hauls out to landfills in PA
Term	Part of TS contract	Part of TS contract	Haul out/ disposal contract expires 6/30/26	Part of TS contract	Voyager contract expires 11/1/2026
Renewal Options	Part of TS contract	Part of TS contract	No; intend to release RFP in late winter/early spring	Part of TS contract	Not known
Piggyback	No	No	No	No	Not known
Bulky	Part of TS contract w/ WIN Waste	Part of TS contract w/ WIN Waste	WIN Waste (USA Waste) hauls out to either Bridgeport WTE or Peekskill NY WTE	WIN Waste hauls out to either Bridgeport WTE or Peekskill NY WTE	Voyager hauls out to landfills in PA
Term	Part of TS contract	Part of TS contract	Expires 6/30/26	Part of TS contract	Voyager contract expires 11/1/2026
Renewal Options	Part of TS contract	Part of TS contract	No; intend to release RFP in late winter/early spring	Part of TS contract	Not known
Piggyback	No	No	No	No	Not known

2.6 Overall Mapping of Facilities

Figure 2-9 depicts each of the municipally owned transfer station locations, as well as processing and disposal locations.

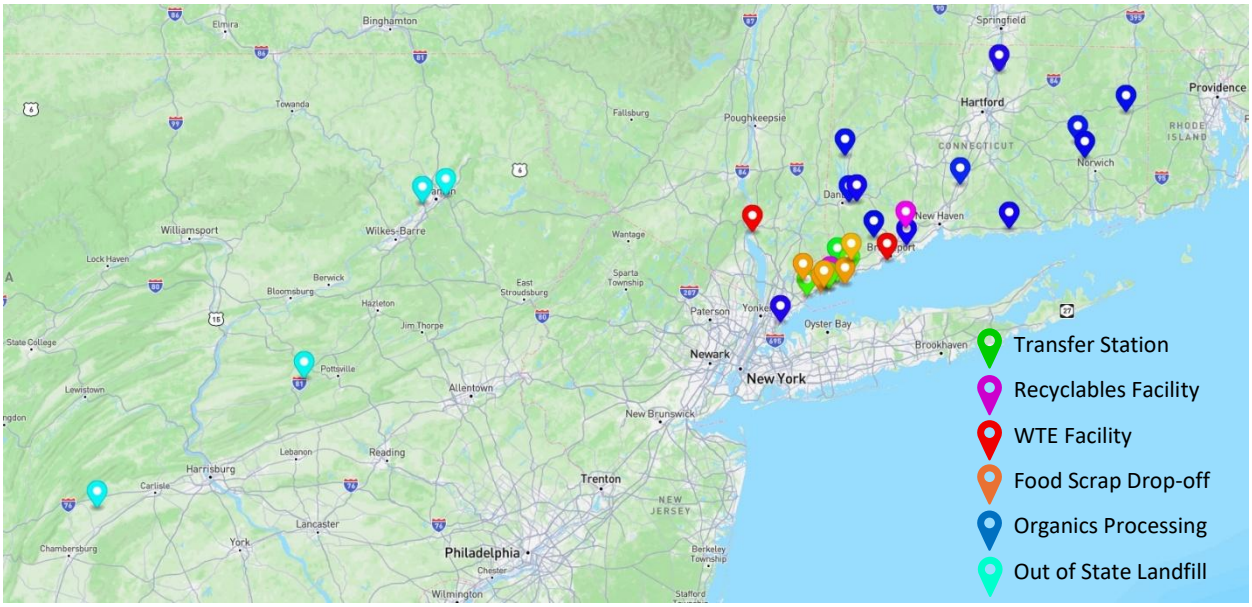

Figure 2-9
Facilities Used by Member Municipalities

2.7 Potential List of Options to Include in BCA

Based upon the discussions with the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and research completed to date, the areas that appear to have the greatest potential for collaboration with the five member municipalities include the following:

- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events - current collaborative contract in effect until 12/31/2025
- Some interest in investigating reduced tipping fees for collaborating on tons delivered for disposal or processing:
  - Garbage, bulk
  - Traditional recyclables
  - Food scraps (with or without yard waste and other organics)
- Collection, transfer, and processing of food scraps from drop-off locations
- Source Separated Recyclables

There may also be opportunities for collaboration on education and outreach, depending on which programs can become collaborative. These items are further investigated in Section 3.

SECTION 3
OPTIONS EVALUATIONS AND BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS

After developing a more complete understanding of the current solid waste system for the five member municipalities and identifying the best options to further explore described in Section 2, evaluations were conducted. The purpose of this Section 3 is to describe the evaluations conducted and the relevant Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) for each option. The BCA includes evaluating the DEEP grant-required aspects of propensity to reduce MSW generation, increase diversion, increase in-state disposal capacity, and provide efficient and streamlined services, as relevant to each option evaluated. These items are incorporated into the BCA's "triple bottom line" of sustainability including environmental, social, and financial impacts in addition to administrative and operational impacts described for each option evaluated.

3.1 Summary of Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meetings

Throughout the Phase 1 planning process, the Project Advisory Committee, that was formed with representatives from each of the five member municipalities included in the Study, met monthly. There were four key PAC meetings that influenced the direction of the Study. The presentations given at each of these four meetings are provided in Appendix B. The project team would like to thank the members of the PAC for their time and feedback throughout the process.

3.1.1 April 10, 2025, PAC Kickoff Meeting

This virtual meeting was attended by representatives from the Towns of Darien and Greenwich and the Cities of Norwalk and Stamford, as well as a representative from DEEP. The representative from the Town of New Canaan was unable to attend the meeting. The meeting included an introduction to the purpose of the Study followed by a more detailed review of the scope to be conducted for Phase 1. The goals for Phase 1 of the Study were also reviewed, including:

- Evaluating community needs for waste collection, processing and disposal.
- Exploring potential for shared services:
  - Formation of a Regional Waste Authority (RWA).
  - Join an existing RWA.
  - Develop specific regional waste program(s) or services under the COG.
- Identifying the best option.

Group discussions included having member municipalities share any municipality-specific goals that may be related to solid waste management, followed by a group discussion on where the municipalities have collaborated in the past and the outcomes of those collaborations. After this PAC kickoff meeting, each municipality received a written data request from the project team and follow-up one-on-one phone interviews were scheduled.

3.1.2 June 23, 2025, PAC Meeting

The purpose of this meeting was to provide an update on the data collection and analysis to date, including the data received from the member municipalities and data still needed, and describe upcoming efforts. The basic steps for the BCA were reviewed with the group. The group discussions primarily centered around where the group felt collaboration was most advantageous to further explore.

3.1.3 September 15, 2025, PAC Meeting

The purpose of this meeting was to provide an update on the BCA efforts to date, which included review of the "who, what, when, where, and why" for each of the collaboration strategies being explored; the meeting primarily focused on review and discussion of the "how" to collaborate – the last key piece to determine collaboration strategies. To begin the discussion of "how", the project team reviewed different approaches to consider and the advantages and disadvantages of each, including:

- Forming a Municipal Resource Recovery Authority (MRRA)
- WestCOG increasing involvement
- Municipalities collaborate on their own
  - With inter-community agreements, as needed (like HHW)
  - With waste and/or recycling interlocal committee, like Greater Bridgeport (the "body" to deal with all matters related to delivery of MSW/recycling to facility)

Review of Approaches to Collaboration

Like Municipal Resource Recovery Authorities (MRRAs) in Connecticut, COGs have the explicit statutory authority to provide solid waste disposal services to its member municipalities[16] and to purchase and borrow for real property.[17] COGs have broad authority to contract, employ, receive grants, and implement programs in any area a municipality can act. Therefore, a COG may construct, own, and operate waste-related infrastructure (e.g., a transfer station or recycling facility) when providing waste services. Ownership of real property implies the power to:

- Lease that property (standard under Connecticut common law unless restricted),
- Sell or convey surplus property (as public bodies can generally do),
- Mortgage or otherwise encumber such property to secure financing, particularly since CGS § 4-124r permits borrowing for property acquisition.

While COGs do not have general bonding authority for capital works or condemnation authority (eminent domain) like MRRAs, they do have the authority to build, own, lease, or mortgage physical infrastructure as needed to deliver programs, including waste services. In addition, COGs may charge user fees and sell recovered materials or byproducts when those activities support a program they operate. Table 3-1 provides a summary matrix of exclusive and shared powers between MRRA's and COG's.

[16] CGS § 8-31b(b)
[17] CGS § 4-124r

Table 3-1
Summary Matrix of Exclusive and Shared Powers - MRRA's versus COG's

Power Area	COGs Only	MRRAs Only	Both
Provide regional services in broad domains (e.g., education, tourism, housing)	✓	✗	
County-equivalent status (eligibility for county-level grants/programs)	✓	✗	
Act on behalf of municipalities in any legal function they can perform	✓	✗	
Create subregional governance structures	✓	✗	
Prepare regional plan of conservation & development (POCD)	✓	✗	
Statutory referral of interlocal agreements and service districts	✓	✗	
Inter-council cooperation and staff sharing	✓	✗	
Own and borrow for real property (for admin or program functions)			✓
Build, own, lease, or mortgage facilities for program delivery (e.g., waste infrastructure)			✓
Issue revenue or general obligation bonds for infrastructure	✗	✓	
Exercise eminent domain	✗	✓	
Impose user fees for programs, services, or facilities			✓
Sell recovered materials, fuels, or energy			✓
Make loans using bond proceeds to municipalities or third parties	✗	✓	
Indemnify third parties in financial transactions	✗	✓	
Operate as a special purpose taxing or bonding district	✗	✓	

This comparison was generally described to the PAC, and it was noted the primary difference between the powers of a MRRA and a COG is that a MRRA can issue bonds and can exercise eminent domain, while a COG cannot. (Note that COG members, as municipalities, can bond and exercise eminent domain.)

To understand the approach the Greater Bridgeport Solid Waste Committee has taken and the role of its member municipalities, research was done into its creation. Generally, the Greater Bridgeport approach included an interlocal agreement signed by all the legislative bodies of its members, which was formed for purpose of contracting with facilities. This approach makes the "Greater Bridgeport Solid Waste Committee" the "body" to deal with all matters related to delivery of MSW to facility. The same approach was used for recyclables with the formation of the "Greater Bridgeport Recycling Committee."

Through the PAC meetings as well as the one-one-one interviews, it was determined that forming a formal Resource Recovery Authority was not desirable nor necessary for the areas of collaboration to further explore. Through PAC discussion, consensus is a preference for WestCOG to take the lead on the collaboration strategies, rather than any one of the member municipalities taking the lead (or forming a formal MRRA). Each of the collaboration strategies are further evaluated in the following subsections.

3.1.4 October 14, 2025, Final Phase 1 PAC Meeting

The purpose of this meeting was to provide an overview of the key findings, evaluation results, and recommendations. There was agreement on the final recommendations, with one addition regarding the HHW Events strategy – to determine whether a one-year extension would be possible with the current

vendor. The group agreed that if an extension with only a modest increase in price was possible, that would be preferable to adversely impacting the schedule of events for calendar year 2026, if the next signed agreement is delayed. However, if the price increase to extend for a year is deemed too high, a procurement to secure the next vendor would be preferable to ensure fair market value, even if the schedule of events is delayed for calendar year 2026.

3.2 WestCOG Staffing

Because consensus was reached that WestCOG should take the lead on collaboration strategies, it is important to explore the impact it could have on WestCOG staffing. To lead the procurement processes, manage agreements with vendors and member municipalities, and manage education and outreach for those strategies may require WestCOG to hire an additional full-time equivalent (FTE) employee. Based on information provided by WestCOG, it is estimated that the annual expense of an FTE would be approximately $160,000 including salary and benefits.

For the purpose of the BCA for the potential options to collaborate, it is assumed that WestCOG would be able to fund this position with funding existing sources rather than charging the member municipalities for the additional FTE; however, if the cost of the additional FTE had to be shared amongst the five member municipalities in the form of a user fee or charge from WestCOG, the cost per municipality could be as high as $32,000 per year (i.e., $160,000 divided by five), which may be cost prohibitive.

Therefore, it is recommended that WestCOG first determine whether an additional FTE would be necessary or if existing WestCOG staff could take on the additional workload based on the recommendations included in this report. If it is determined that an additional FTE would be necessary, WestCOG would need to determine whether existing funding sources could cover the expense of an additional FTE. If it is determined existing funding sources cannot cover the expense of the additional FTE, WestCOG would need to determine how much of the expense would need to be covered by the participating municipalities, and those municipalities would need to determine if paying the added cost is feasible and preferable.

3.2.1 Implementation Schedule

Table 3-2 summarizes the steps that would need to be taken to implement this option and notes the timing and responsible party(ies) that would be involved in implementation. This strategy is time sensitive as it coincides with the timing of the new HHW Events provider described in Section 3.3.

Table 3-2
Implementation Schedule for Hiring WestCOG FTE

Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Timing
Determine whether an additional FTE is necessary	WestCOG	November 2025
If yes, determine funding source(s) for the position	WestCOG	November 2025
If municipalities would need to help fund the position, determine cost and determine municipalities' willingness and ability to help fund the position	WestCOG	December 2025
If yes, post for the position and hire additional FTE	WestCOG	January 2026

3.3 HHW Events

3.3.1 General Evaluation

All five member municipalities have their own annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Day operated by Clean Harbors and coordinated by the City of Norwalk.[18] The Clean Harbors collaborative agreement for HHW events expires December 31, 2025. Under the current system, each community executes its own agreement with Clean Harbors and determines which specific materials will be accepted at their respective community event. Residents of each participating municipality can participate at any location, but no commercial vehicles or waste are permitted. Each participating community understands that Clean Harbors will invoice them directly for participation by their residents in the HHW Collection Day of another participating community. There is no direct cost to residents for bringing HHW; however, there is a cost to the municipalities on a per household basis as shown in Table 3-3. Residents are encouraged to consolidate waste with neighbors, if possible. Listed below are the materials that are allowed to be accepted at community HHW Days, per Clean Harbors.

Accepted Household Hazardous Waste

- Aerosol cans (not empty)
- Ammonia
- Antifreeze*
- Arts and crafts supplies
- Batteries*
- Bleaches
- Brake fluid
- Cesspool cleaners
- Creosote
- Drain cleaners and openers
- Dry cleaning fluids
- Engine and radiator flushes and cleaners
- Floor cleaners
- Fluorescent light bulbs*
- Herbicides
- Household fire extinguishers
- Insect sprays
- Mercury thermometers
- Metal polish
- Moth balls
- Muriatic acid
- Old chemistry sets
- Oil based paints and primers*
- Oven cleaners
- Paint thinners
- Pesticides
- Photo chemicals
- Pool chemicals
- Propane tanks*
- Rodent killers
- Rust preventatives
- Sealants
- Solvents
- Transmission fluid
- Used and unused motor oils*
- Wood preservatives
- Wood strippers

*These items may or may not be accepted at every municipality's annual event. If an item is accepted at one of the municipality's transfer stations, it is typically not accepted at their respective HHW Day. Residents participating in other communities' HHW Day are encouraged to check with their guidelines.

[18] The Town of Westport is also included in this program.

Per the agreement, Table 3-3 provides the recent and current cost per participant charged by Clean Harbors.

Table 3-3
Historic and Current Cost per Household

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Household[1]	$ 60.00	$ 60.00	$ 63.00	$ 64.90	$ 66.85
Half Household[2]	$ 36.00	$ 36.00	$ 37.80	$ 39.00	$ 40.00

1. Household = 15 gallons or 20 pounds
2. Half Household = 7 gallons or 10 pounds

While there is a monetary cost to conducting these HHW events, it is important to minimize hazardous materials in the waste stream and provide residents with convenient options.

Items accepted at each community's annual event depend on which materials that community opted to include. Table 3-4 summarizes which HHW materials are accepted at the member municipalities' transfer station and, therefore, not accepted at their respective HHW Day.

Table 3-4
Items Not Accepted at HHW Day - Only Accepted at Transfer Stations

Darien	▪ Stains, Varnishes, Undercoating ▪ Tires ▪ Electronics, including rechargeable batteries ▪ Car Batteries	▪ Oil ▪ Dry Cell (flashlight) Batteries ▪ Unbroken Fluorescent Lights ▪ Periodic mercury thermometer trade-in
Greenwich	▪ Fluorescent bulbs ▪ Car batteries	▪ Motor oil ▪ Batteries (alkaline and rechargeable)
New Canaan	▪ Latex-based paint ▪ Electronics ▪ Fluorescent light bulbs ▪ Motor oil ▪ Car batteries	▪ Batteries ▪ Waste oil ▪ Propane Tanks ▪ Tires
Norwalk	▪ Propane Tanks (Fees apply) ▪ Tires (Fees apply) ▪ Electronics ▪ Used Motor (Waste) Oil	▪ Antifreeze (Fees apply) ▪ Vehicle/Car/Lead Acid Batteries ▪ Lithium Batteries (Fees apply) ▪ Alkaline Batteries (e.g. AA, C, D, etc.)
Stamford	▪ Electronics ▪ Propane tanks	▪ Motor oil

The dates and locations for each municipality's HHW Day in 2025 are provided in Table 3-5 below.

Table 3-5
2025 HHW Days Dates and Locations

Municipality	Date	Location
Greenwich	May 10	Island Brach Parking Lot (Arch Street)
Darien	June 7	Noroton Heights Railroad Station
Stamford	July 12	Rippowam School
Norwalk	August 23	Ponus Ridge Stem Academy
New Canaan	September 27	Wastewater Treatment Plant

3.3.2 Benefit-Cost Analysis

With the primary agreement expiring at the end of 2025, time is of the essence to continue annual HHW events in each member municipality's jurisdiction. It is recommended that WestCOG first determine whether a one-year extension of the current agreement with Clean Harbors is possible and at what prices. If an extension is possible and pricing is favorable, the agreement can be extended, while WestCOG prepares for a procurement process in the near future. If extending the current agreement is not possible or favorable, WestCOG should begin the procurement process to obtain the next HHW Event primary agreement as soon as possible.

Environmental Impacts

- Properly managing HHW safeguards the environment by preventing water contamination, reducing soil and air pollution, and reducing recycling contamination.

Social Impacts

- Notifying residents of opportunities to drop off HHW and providing convenient locations increases participation.
- Properly managing HHW protects human health by reducing exposure risk to items like old pesticides, paints, cleaners, and solvents that can leak or produce harmful fumes.
- Properly managing HHW lowers the risks of accidents, fires, explosions, or poisoning.

Financial Impacts

- The specific financial impacts of a new agreement will not be known until the procurement is complete; however, costs for the events are expected to be similar to current costs, which vary based on materials each municipality accepts at events and how many residents from each municipality attend each event.

Administrative / Operational Impacts

- WestCOG to coordinate with Clean Harbors and member municipalities to determine if a one-year extension is possible, and pricing is favorable for the municipalities. If so, extend the current agreement.
- WestCOG to conduct the procurement to secure the new collaborative agreement and coordinate with member municipalities, whether immediate or within a one-year extension that may be possible.

- Each municipality signs specific agreement for annual event, specifying materials to be included in each respective municipality's event.
- WestCOG to assist municipalities in outreach for the events and proper management of HHW generally.

3.3.3 Implementation Schedule

Table 3-6 summarizes the steps that would need to be taken to implement this option and notes the timing and responsible party(ies) that would be involved in implementation. This strategy is time-sensitive and coincides with the need to secure a new collaborative agreement for HHW events.

Table 3-6
Implementation Schedule for HHW Events

Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Timing
Inquire about a one-year extension of the current agreement	WestCOG in coordination with Clean Harbors and member municipalities	November 2025
Develop and issue the RFP for HHW events for the five member municipalities	WestCOG	January 2026
Select a vendor	WestCOG	By March/April 2026
Sign specific agreement for annual event specifying location and materials to be accepted	Each member municipality	By May 2026
Advertise events	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	Throughout the year as appropriate
Hold events	Each member municipality	As scheduled



3.4 Collaboration on MSW Tons for Reduced Tipping Fees

3.4.1 General Evaluation

The five member municipalities generated more than 267,000 tons of MSW in FY 2023, while their transfer stations collectively managed just over 144,000 tons, about 54% of the total. Stamford accounted for the largest share at roughly 197,000 tons (48%), followed by Norwalk with about 123,000 tons (30%). Greenwich contributed around 18%, while Darien (3%) and New Canaan (2%) represented smaller but steady portions. MSW transfer and disposal costs across the municipalities are relatively similar. Greenwich, Norwalk, and Darien each contract with WIN Waste for disposal services, while Stamford contracts with Voyager Trucking and New Canaan with USA Waste & Recycling. As shown in Table 3-7, disposal costs currently range from approximately $101 to $107 per ton of MSW. (New Canaan's contract rate was not provided.)

Table 3-7
Transfer and Disposal Cost per Ton for MSW

Municipality	Contractor	Transfer & Disposal Cost per Ton of MSW
Darien	WIN Waste	$106.09
Greenwich	WIN Waste	$101.66
New Canaan	USA Waste & Recycling	Not Provided
Norwalk	WIN Waste	$101.85
Stamford	Voyager Trucking	$101.28

Table 3-8 includes current and projected MSW tonnages across all the member municipalities, showing the total citywide tons as well as the total tons moving through each respective transfer station. Transfer station tonnages generally indicate tons directly controlled by each member municipality.

Table 3-8
Tonnage Data

Year	Citywide Estimated Total	Transfer Station Estimated Total
2025	271,059	145,818
2030	280,149	150,418
2035	289,556	155,173

Table 3-9 shows MSW generated in each municipality in total, as reported to the State (i.e., municipality-wide), versus the tons handled at each municipality's transfer station, projected out to FY 2035.

Table 3-9
Municipal Solid Waste

	Darien		Greenwich		New Canaan		Norwalk		Stamford	
	Municipality -wide	Transfer Station	Municipality -wide	Transfer Station	Municipality -wide	Transfer Station	Municipality-wide	Transfer Station	Municipality-wide	Transfer Station
2023	6,806	3,844	34,088	38,381	8,355	Not avail	99,518	23,486	118,741	78,307
2024	6,888	3,890	34,235	38,544	8,412	Not avail	100,195	23,645	119,548	78,836
2025	6,970	3,937	34,382	38,708	8,469	Not avail	100,876	23,805	120,361	79,368
2026	7,054	3,984	34,530	38,873	8,527	Not avail	101,562	23,965	121,180	79,904
2027	7,139	4,032	34,678	39,038	8,585	Not avail	102,253	24,127	122,004	80,443
2028	7,224	4,080	34,827	39,204	8,643	Not avail	102,948	24,290	122,833	80,986
2029	7,311	4,129	34,977	39,370	8,702	Not avail	103,648	24,454	123,669	81,533
2030	7,399	4,179	35,127	39,538	8,761	Not avail	104,353	24,619	124,510	82,083
2031	7,487	4,229	35,278	39,706	8,820	Not avail	105,062	24,785	125,356	82,637
2032	7,577	4,280	35,430	39,874	8,880	Not avail	105,777	24,952	126,209	83,195
2033	7,668	4,331	35,582	40,044	8,941	Not avail	106,496	25,121	127,067	83,756
2034	7,760	4,383	35,735	40,214	9,002	Not avail	107,220	25,290	127,931	84,322
2035	7,853	4,436	35,889	40,385	9,063	Not avail	107,949	25,461	128,801	84,891

The project team attempted to contact eleven disposal facilities to ascertain whether reduced tipping fees could be achieved for combining tons from multiple municipalities, and whether length of contract term could impact tipping fees. Feedback from one market manager overseeing waste-to-energy facilities in Connecticut and New York (five of the eleven facilities) reported that these facilities are currently operating at full capacity. The manager noted that, should additional capacity become available, tipping fees would range from approximately $100 to $120 per ton, with higher waste volumes likely reducing the rate toward the lower end of this range (approximately $100 per ton). Contract duration was not identified as a factor influencing pricing.

While the potential for combining municipal waste tonnages could theoretically improve economies of scale and lead to reduced tipping fees, current rates for member municipalities are already at or near the lower end of the pricing range for the nearest facility. Several out-of-state landfills, located in Pennsylvania and Ohio, have lower tipping fees, ranging from $57 to $81 per ton. Specifically, Pennsylvania facilities quoted rates of $67, $74, and $81 per ton, while an Ohio landfill provided a rate of $57 per ton. These figures reflect disposal costs only and do not include expenses associated with long-distance hauling and transportation.

To estimate a cost per ton mile for using these landfills with lower tipping fees, using Stamford cost data and their Pennsylvania landfill locations provides a reasonable estimate for semi-trailer transfer of materials. Stamford MSW is delivered to two of the three Pennsylvania landfill locations. The location with a $67 per ton tipping fee is 153 miles away and the location with a $81 tipping fee is 147 miles away. As shown in Table 3-7, Stamford pays a total of $101.28 per ton for the transfer and disposal of MSW. The calculation to estimate the cost per ton mile includes averaging the two landfill tipping fees (i.e., average of $67 and $81 = $74); averaging the distance (i.e., average of 153 miles and 147 miles = 150 miles); subtracting the average tipping fee from the total cost per ton (i.e., $101.28 minus $74 = $27.28); dividing the average transfer costs per ton by the miles traveled provides the estimated cost per ton mile (i.e., $27.28 divided by 150 miles = $0.18).

Using an estimated cost per ton-mile of $0.18 for transporting using semi-trailers, the landfill with the lowest tipping fee, which is in Ohio, is approximately 580 miles away. Multiplying 580 miles multiplied by the cost per ton mile of $0.18 would add about $105 in transfer costs, bringing the total estimated cost to use the Ohio landfill with the lower tipping fee to over $150 per ton for transfer and disposal costs. It is also important to note that some of the member municipalities have at least ten years remaining on existing transfer and disposal contracts. Note that this Study did not focus on the possibilities of rail or barge hauling, though the potential may exist and could be explored in future efforts.

While current transfer and disposal rates for the participating municipalities are generally comparable and near the lower end of available market pricing, opportunities for future cost savings should not be discounted. Increases in diversion and recycling, potential for rail or barge transportation, as well as potential collaboration on contract renegotiations when existing agreements expire, may present opportunities to achieve lower overall system costs in the future.

3.4.2 Benefit-Cost Analysis

Given the contract expiration date for some member municipalities as much as a decade away, the fact that existing nearby facilities are at capacity, and landfills with lower tipping fees further away would not be able to offset the cost to transfer MSW to those landfills via semi-trailers, opportunities to achieve cost savings through volume contracting on waste disposal are unclear. However, if additional disposal capacity is developed in future years or alternative transport options (i.e., rail or barge) are determined viable, the

economics of this potential strategy could change. It is recommended that WestCOG and its member municipalities revisit this potential option every few years, but no immediate action is recommended.

Environmental Impacts

- No change at this time.
- Transport for disposing at nearby facilities consumes less fuel than further away facilities.
- Traveling further via semi-trailer to dispose of MSW increases fuel consumption and therefore carbon emissions associated with transporting.

Social Impacts

- None.

Financial Impacts

- The potential for tipping fee reductions in the near-term is limited. Revisiting the concept in future years, especially if more disposal capacity is developed, may result in reduced disposal costs.

Administrative / Operational Impacts

- None in short run. WestCOG and member municipalities can revisit periodically and determine whether any action is warranted in the future, at which time WestCOG could issue a Request for Proposals on behalf of the member municipalities.

3.4.3 Implementation Schedule

Table 3-10 summarizes the steps that would need to be taken to implement this option and notes the timing and responsible party(ies) that would be involved in implementation. As previously described, this option is not anticipated to be enacted for at least a decade.

Table 3-10
Implementation Schedule for Collaboration of MSW Tons

Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Timing
Periodic review of transfer and disposal options in the region	WestCOG	Annually beginning in 2026
Discussions on existing and potential new contract timing	WestCOG and member municipalities	As warranted
If more disposal options or transport options come available, coordinate with member municipalities to determine next steps	WestCOG and member municipalities	As warranted

3.5 Collaboration on Recyclables Tons for Reduced Processing Fees or Economic Incentives

3.5.1 General Evaluation

Table 3-11 includes current and projected traditional recyclables tonnages across all the member municipalities, showing the total municipality-wide tons as well as the total tons moving through each respective transfer station. Transfer station tonnages generally indicate tons directly controlled by each member municipality.

Table 3-11
Current and Projected Recycling Tonnages

Year	Municipal-wide Estimated Total	Transfer Station Estimated Total
2025	32,991	32,764
2030	34,074	33,761
2035	35,194	34,791

According to the 2015 Statewide Waste Composition Study, the most recent study available for Connecticut MSW, approximately 40% of MSW (by weight) is comprised of materials that may be recyclable. Per the 2015 study, the MSW stream is made up of 3.5% metals, 2.5% glass, 11.8% plastics, and 23.1% paper. If the member municipalities diverted an additional 10% of the 40.9% of recyclables currently in the waste stream, that could result in an estimated additional 5,900 to 11,000[19] tons recycled annually (and 5,900 to 11,000 tons less MSW disposed).

As shown in Table 3-11, the five member municipalities managed a total of about 32,764 tons of traditional single-stream recyclables in FY 2023 through their transfer stations.

Table 3-12 shows traditional recyclables generated in each municipality in total as reported to the State (i.e., municipality-wide) versus the tons handled at each municipality's transfer station. As shown in Table 3-12, Greenwich led with approximately 12,000 tons, closely followed by Stamford at 10,470 tons and Norwalk at 9,050 tons.

[19] Based on 267,000 tons of MSW disposed in 2023, 40.9% equals 109,203; 10% of which equals 10,920. Based on 144,000 tons of MSW managed at the transfer stations in 2023, 40.9% equals 58,896; 10% of which equals 5,890.

Table 3-12
Traditional Recyclables (Single Stream)

	Darien		Greenwich		New Canaan		Norwalk		Stamford	
	Municipality -wide	Transfer Station	Municipality -wide	Transfer Station	Municipality -wide	Transfer Station	Municipality -wide	Transfer Station	Municipality -wide	Transfer Station
2023	1,711	835	7,887	12,012	1,569	Not Avail	10,259	9,057	11,142	10,470
2024	1,732	845	7,921	12,064	1,580	Not Avail	10,328	9,119	11,218	10,541
2025	1,753	855	7,955	12,116	1,590	Not Avail	10,399	9,181	11,294	10,613
2026	1,774	865	7,989	12,168	1,601	Not Avail	10,469	9,243	11,371	10,685
2027	1,795	876	8,023	12,220	1,612	Not Avail	10,541	9,306	11,448	10,757
2028	1,816	886	8,058	12,272	1,623	Not Avail	10,612	9,369	11,526	10,831
2029	1,838	897	8,093	12,325	1,634	Not Avail	10,684	9,433	11,605	10,904
2030	1,860	908	8,127	12,378	1,645	Not Avail	10,757	9,497	11,684	10,978
2031	1,883	919	8,162	12,431	1,656	Not Avail	10,830	9,562	11,763	11,053
2032	1,905	930	8,197	12,485	1,668	Not Avail	10,904	9,627	11,843	11,128
2033	1,928	941	8,233	12,539	1,679	Not Avail	10,978	9,692	11,924	11,204
2034	1,951	952	8,268	12,593	1,690	Not Avail	11,053	9,758	12,005	11,280
2035	1,975	964	8,304	12,647	1,702	Not Avail	11,128	9,824	12,086	11,357

The project team attempted to contact seven material recovery facility (MRF) operators in Connecticut. A market manager overseeing recycling operations in Connecticut and New York for two of the seven facilities indicated that clean, baled cardboard may be eligible for a market-based rebate, whereas loose cardboard and single-stream recyclables do not qualify due to the additional processing required. The manager reported that current single-stream recycling rates range from approximately $100 to $110 per ton. Contract duration was not identified as a factor influencing pricing. It was pointed out that recycling values are subject to fluctuation based on broader market conditions and commodity pricing trends.

Because transfer cost data were not available and facility operators were not responsive, it is not possible to calculate cost-per-ton mile data. It is also important to note that some of the member municipalities have at least ten years remaining on existing transfer and processing contracts. Table 3-13 summarizes the relevant expiration dates for processing recyclables.

Table 3-13
Recyclables Processing Contracts Timing

Municipality	Contracted With	Contract End Date	Notes / Renewal Option
Darien	WIN Waste	06/30/2029	Extension possible
Greenwich	WIN Waste	06/30/2026	RFP planned for 12/2025
New Canaan	Oak Ridge Waste & Recycling	06/30/2026	Renewal option available
Norwalk	WIN Waste	06/30/2032	One 3-year renewal term
Stamford	WIN Waste	06/30/2026	Not specified

Regardless of the facility(ies) used to process traditional recyclables, WestCOG should coordinate with member municipalities to expand education and outreach efforts to move more recyclables out of the MSW material stream and into the recycling material stream.

3.5.2 Benefit-Cost Analysis

Given the contract expiration date for some member municipalities as much as a decade away, and the volatility of recycling markets noted by one facility representative, it does not appear feasible at this time to receive lower tipping fees or other economic incentives for collaborating on recycling tons. However, it is recommended that WestCOG and its member municipalities revisit this potential option periodically, which could begin with a Request for Letters of Interest (RFLI) to identify whether any MRF's in the area would be interested in the tons. No immediate action is recommended.

Environmental Impacts

- No change at this time.
- Increasing diversion of recyclables from MSW stream means a reduction in tons disposed and increase in tons recycled.

Social Impacts

- Expanding outreach and education could increase tons diverted from MSW by residents and businesses in the region.

Financial Impacts

- The possibility of reduced tipping fees due to collaborating on tons may not likely be realized in

the near-term. Revisiting the concept in future years may result in reduced processing costs or other economic incentives.

Administrative / Operational Impacts

- WestCOG and member municipalities coordinate to expand education and outreach efforts to divert more MSW from disposal for recycling.
- WestCOG and member municipalities can revisit periodically and determine whether any action is warranted in the future, at which time WestCOG could issue a Request for Proposals on behalf of the member municipalities.

3.5.3 Implementation Schedule

Table 3-14 summarizes the steps that would need to be taken to implement this option and notes the timing and responsible party(ies) that would be involved in implementation. This option is not time sensitive.

Table 3-14
Implementation Schedule for Collaboration on Recyclables Tons

Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Timing
Periodic review of processing options in the region	WestCOG	Annually beginning in 2026
If more affordable processing options come available, coordinate with member municipalities to determine next steps	WestCOG and member municipalities	As warranted
Expand education and outreach initiatives to recycle more	WestCOG and member municipalities	As warranted

3.6 Collaboration on Organics

3.6.1 General Evaluation

With each of the member municipalities having at least pilot programs for food scraps in addition to established yard waste programs, determining whether collaborating on the processing of organics could provide economies of scale and improve on diversion efforts was determined to be warranted. Table 3-15 includes current and projected food scraps and vegetative tonnages across all the member municipalities.

Table 3-15
Current and Projected Food Scraps and Vegetative Tonnages

Year	Food Estimated Total	Vegetative Estimated Total
2025	879	77,751
2030	907	80,355
2035	936	83,054

Per 2015 Statewide Waste Composition Study, the MSW stream is made up of 22.3% food and 11.1% other organics. If an additional 10% of the 22.3% of food currently in the waste stream was diverted, that could result in an estimated additional 6,000 tons of food diverted annually; if an additional 10% of the 11.1% other organics was diverted, that could result in an estimated additional 3,000 tons of other organics diverted annually (and up to 9,000 tons less MSW disposed).

Table 3-16 projects food scraps and vegetative waste tonnages for each of the five member municipalities as reported to the State. Both streams are expected to increase gradually over time projected based on population growth, with Greenwich accounting for the largest share of food scraps and Stamford accounting for the largest share of vegetative waste. Note that there may be residents that compost at home or businesses that compost in-house; however, the municipalities are not able to track tons associated with those efforts.

Table 3-16
Organic Waste

	Darien		Greenwich		New Canaan		Norwalk		Stamford	
	Food Scraps	Vegetative Waste	Food Scraps	Vegetative Waste	Food Scraps	Vegetative Waste	Food Scraps	Vegetative Waste	Food Scraps	Vegetative Waste
2023	120	5,589	445	17,852	30	Not avail	45	12,580	141	40,714
2024	127	5,656	447	17,928	30	Not avail	128	12,665	141	40,991
2025	129	5,724	449	18,006	30	Not avail	129	12,751	142	41,270
2026	130	5,793	451	18,083	31	Not avail	130	12,838	143	41,550
2027	132	5,863	453	18,161	31	Not avail	131	12,925	144	41,833
2028	133	5,933	454	18,239	31	Not avail	132	13,013	145	42,117
2029	135	6,004	456	18,317	31	Not avail	132	13,102	146	42,404
2030	137	6,076	458	18,396	31	Not avail	133	13,191	147	42,692
2031	138	6,149	460	18,475	32	Not avail	134	13,281	148	42,982
2032	140	6,223	462	18,555	32	Not avail	135	13,371	149	43,275
2033	142	6,298	464	18,634	32	Not avail	136	13,462	150	43,569
2034	143	6,373	466	18,714	32	Not avail	137	13,553	151	43,865
2035	145	6,450	468	18,795	33	Not avail	138	13,645	152	44,164

Food Scraps

As described in Section 2.4.2, all five municipalities sent their food scraps to New Milford Farms, operated by Curbside Compost, for composting in FY 2023. In addition to their Transfer Stations, Greenwich, Norwalk and Stamford offer alternative drop-off locations within their municipality where residents can bring food scraps for diversion. Since then, Stamford has received grant funding for an EcoRich machine, which they are now using to compost food waste in-house. The municipalities are primarily using a month-to-month contract with the vendor, meaning there is no specific contract expiration date.

Food scraps collection and processing, which is conducted by Curbside Compost for most of the municipalities, costs Norwalk $65 for each visit to each drop-off site, plus an additional $10 for each cart that is collected at each drop-off site. Norwalk budgets $30,000 per year for the food scraps program though the cost has been $15,000 per year for the last two years. Specific food scraps cost data for the other municipalities is not readily available. Using Norwalk as a guide, $15,000 divided by 128 tons of food scraps in 2024 equals $117.19 per ton for transfer and processing. However, note that an increase in the amount of food scraps at the drop-off locations would reduce the per ton cost in the current system.

Vegetative Waste

As described in Section 2.4.3, the member municipalities report tonnage data to the State on a variety of vegetative wastes including yard waste, brush, leaves, grass, wood, and land-clearing debris. For yard waste, Greenwich disposal cost is $38.68 per ton. Tipping fees for these materials at these facilities are not readily available for the other municipalities. The contracts for yard waste processing are summarized in Table 3-17 below. Similar to the MSW and traditional recyclables contracts, it could be as much as ten years before all five member municipalities could make their vegetative waste tons available for collaboration.

Table 3-17
Vegetative Waste Processing Contracts Timing

	Term	Renewal Options
Darien	Part of TS contract – June 30, 2029	Yes
Greenwich	Part of TS contract – June 30, 2026	RFP for next contract is in development
New Canaan	Enviro - Expires June 30, 2026	No; intend to release RFP in late winter/early spring
Norwalk	Part of TS contract – June 30, 2032	Part of TS contract – one 3-year renewal (2035)
Stamford	Grillo Services, LLC Oct. 2025 - 2028	Not known

Biosolids

Almost all wastewater solids (i.e., biosolids) produced in Connecticut are incinerated. Because of the state's reliance on incineration, Connecticut is the only state with no formal biosolids recycling regulations or regulatory program. Connecticut has joined other states, like Maine, in taking a strong stance against PFAS in these materials due to the risks of environmental and public health contamination. Legislation enacted in 2024 specifically bans the use, sale, or offering for sale of any biosolids or wastewater sludge containing PFAS as a soil amendment within the state, effective October 1, 2024.

Two water resource recovery facilities (WRRFs) – Stamford and Fairfield – produce Class A EQ products: heat-dried fertilizer and compost, respectively. DEEP generally precludes in-state use of biosolids, so most of these biosolids go out of state. However, out-of-state EQ products are used to some extent in Connecticut, including at some northwest Connecticut farms, with oversight by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

The Connecticut PFAS Action Plan (2019) specifically notes that incineration may serve as a pathway for PFAS release into the environment rather than destruction, highlighting concerns over potential emissions from waste-to-energy facilities.[20] Similarly, the EPA's *Interim Guidance on the Destruction and Disposal of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Materials Containing PFAS* (2024) indicates that conventional municipal solid waste incinerators cannot be assumed to effectively destroy PFAS compounds, given the extremely high temperatures required and limited available performance data.[21] Connecticut currently conducts no testing of PFAS emissions from incinerators and has not established regulatory standards for such emissions. Compounding the issue, the state lacks facilities equipped to manage PFAS-containing materials using the destruction methods recommended by EPA, such as high-temperature thermal oxidation or plasma arc incineration.

Summary of Facility Types for Organics Processing

In addition to home composting or onsite composting, there are several types of facilities that can process organics. Composting includes the following five types of composting:

- **Windrows**: involves forming long, narrow rows (or "windrows") that can be turned periodically or have perforated pipes underneath them to allow air flow.
- **Aerated Static Pile**: involves using blower systems to move air through the pile.
- **Static pile**: not actively aerated, can be freestanding or contained in bins, relies on passive aeration rather than active aeration to maintain optimal temperature and oxygen levels.
- **In-vessel**: involves feeding materials into a vessel, such as a drum, silo, concrete-lined trench, or similar enclosed equipment; the materials are then mechanically turned or mixed in the vessel with bulking agents like wood chips to ensure aeration.
- **Vermicompost:** relies on earthworms and microorganisms to break down organic materials into vermicompost, or worm castings, a high-quality soil amendment.

[20] Connecticut Interagency PFAS Task Force. Connecticut PFAS Action Plan. November 1, 2019. Executive Summary (p. 2) and p. 11. Available at: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/pfastaskforce/ct-interagency-pfas-task-force-action-plan.pdf

[21] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Interim Guidance on the Destruction and Disposal of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Materials Containing PFAS. April 2024. Section 3: Thermal Treatment. Available at: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/2024-interim-guidance-on-pfas-destruction-and-disposal.pdf

According to the Environmental Research and Education Foundation (EREF) "Composting State of Practice: Results from a National Survey" report published in 2024, revenue centers at composting facilities vary. Earnings can come from tipping fees for organic matter, sales of finished compost and external support.

- Tipping fees account for over 80%, on average, of the revenue at larger facilities and rarely exceed 75 $/ ton, except for private household food waste collection. In comparison, tip fees account for an average of 25% of revenue at micro facilities.
- Agriculture, distribution and landscaping are the largest product markets for compost, while landscaping, retail, and agriculture are the most popular.
- Smaller facilities indicated they are more reliant on "other" external revenue sources that are not tipping fees or product sales.

Organics can also be processed through **anaerobic digestion**, which is a process through which bacteria break down organic matter—whether it is animal manure, wastewater biosolids, or food wastes—in the absence of oxygen. The main categories of digesters are stand-alone digesters, on-farm digesters, and digesters at wastewater treatment plants.

3.6.2 Benefit-Cost Analysis

Food scraps could be available to collaborate for collection and processing coordination right away. However, given the contract expiration date for some member municipalities as much as a decade away for vegetative waste, making combined food scraps and vegetative waste available to a processor may not be possible in the short term. Due to state law, including biosolids as feedstock may not be feasible for composting operations; however, it may be viable for anaerobic digestion or other processing techniques.

It is recommended that WestCOG, on behalf of the member municipalities, first issue a Request for Letters of Interest (RFLOI) that includes background information and tonnage data by material type (i.e., food scraps, vegetative waste, and biosolids) to determine interest, ability, and timing, of vendors to process the materials. Once included materials and timing have been determined, WestCOG should coordinate with the member municipalities to determine which municipalities wish to collaborate on which types of tons, and whether a site for locating the facility would be necessary and could be provided; the preferred approach to ownership and operations (i.e., design/build or design/build/operate) would also need to be determined, as would funding sources. Once these key decisions are made, WestCOG could develop and release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for organics processing.

Environmental Impacts

- Potential to keep organics in state and process nearby, reducing vehicle emissions from longer transfer distances.
- Potential to divert more from MSW stream means a reduction in tons disposed and increase in tons diverted.

Social Impacts

- Potential to make a beneficial end product that can be used locally.
- Expanding outreach and education could increase tons diverted from MSW by residents and businesses in the region.

Financial Impacts

- Potential to save money if tipping fees to process organics is less than tipping fees to dispose of MSW.

- Potential revenue if selling a beneficial end product.

Administrative / Operational Impacts

- WestCOG and member municipalities coordinate to expand education and outreach efforts to divert more MSW from disposal for organics diversion.
- WestCOG and member municipalities coordinate on RFLOI and RFP processes.
- Other administrative and operational impacts would depend on outcome of RFP process.

3.6.3 Implementation Schedule

Table 3-18 summarizes the steps that would need to be taken to implement this option and notes the timing and responsible party(ies) that would be involved in implementation. While this option is not necessarily time-sensitive, beginning the RFLOI process sooner rather than later would provide some answers for planning purposes. Because the RFP for HHW Events described in Section 3.3 is time sensitive, the timing of these efforts would begin in late Spring or early Summer of 2026.

Table 3-18
Implementation Schedule for Collaboration on Organics

Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Timing
Issue a Request for Letters of Interest	WestCOG	May/June 2026
Expand education and outreach to divert organics from MSW material stream	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	Beginning Summer 2026
Determine materials to be included and whether existing facility(ies) can manage the materials or a new facility(ies) would be necessary	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	Fall of 2026
Determine which municipalities will participate	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	Fall of 2026
Determine whether a site should and could be offered in an RFP process	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	Fall/Winter 2026
Determine whether DB or DBO	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	Fall/Winter 2026
If appropriate, issue the RFP	WestCOG	Early 2027
If RFP released, select a vendor	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	Mid 2027

3.7 Collaboration on Source Separated Materials

3.7.1 General Evaluation

In addition to the broad material categories described in previous subsections for collaboration, there may be opportunities to collaborate on specific source separated materials. The tonnages would be lower and therefore may not have as much of a potential impact on diversion or cost savings; however, there could be some mutual benefits for the member municipalities. This subsection takes a high-level look at the potential for source separated glass and source separated clean, dry cardboard that could be marketed directly by a member municipality or by WestCOG on behalf of each municipality that wishes to participate. The following high-level summaries would require additional research to determine viability.

Glass

The state of Connecticut designates glass as a mandatory recyclable item, which applies to every business, every household, every institution and every government agency. Per the DEEP website, there are five intermediate processing centers that accept glass in the State, located in Danbury, Stratford, East Hartford, Kensington and Willimantic (Windham).

- Connecticut Container Recovery Corp. / REI (Nutmeg Container) in East Hartford
- Stratford Baling Corp. in Stratford
- Recycling Technologies in Danbury
- Willimantic Waste Paper in Willimantic (Windham)
- Recycle America, LLC in Kensington

According to DEEP, some of these markets accept only color-separated container glass; some accept the different colored container glass commingled. The glass should be free of contaminants such as ceramics, stones, gravel, etc.

The table below shows the average price for types of glass ($/ton delivered) in the Northeast region since 2020.[22] As shown, mixed cullet is a cost to divert while color separated glass could generate revenue.

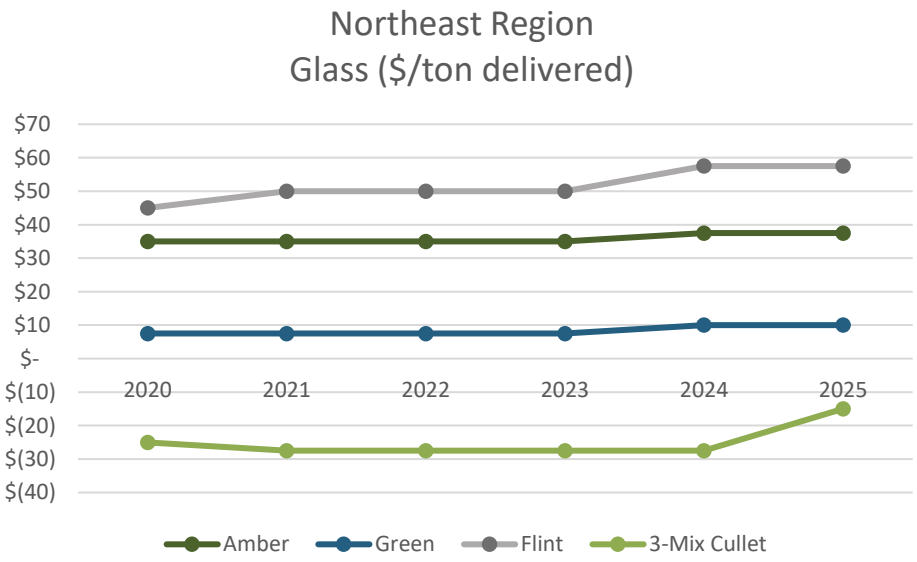

Figure 3-1
Recycling Market Glass Prices 2020-2025

[22] www.recyclingmarkets.net

All five member municipalities allow glass to be dropped off at their respective transfer stations as part of the single stream recyclables drop-off programs. Glass could be separated into designated bins at the drop-off locations if a viable market was obtained for glass. Separating glass by color improves marketability and likely revenue (rather than cost). More research is necessary to determine if separating glass and delivering to processors and/or product producers would be worth the efforts versus continuing to send glass to a MRF. Whether diverting glass away from the current program would be acceptable to the current processor should be part of the additional research conducted. Whether a glass crusher would be a benefit to transporting or marketing materials should be explored, as well as viability of sorting glass by color.

Cardboard

Clean, dry cardboard is a valuable commodity in the recycling stream when kept free of contaminants such as food residue or moisture. Source-separating cardboard from mixed recyclables increases material quality and allows it to be sold directly to end markets at higher prices than when processed through single-stream systems. Establishing designated containers at transfer stations for clean cardboard has the potential to reduce contamination. One or more of the member municipalities could consider installing cardboard balers at transfer stations. Baling compresses cardboard into dense, manageable blocks that are easier and more economical to store and transport. Depending on size and capacity, balers typically range from $10,000 to $25,000 new, with used units available for substantially less. Grant funding through RecycleCT or DEEP's Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Program may be available to offset the capital costs.

Baled cardboard could then be aggregated and marketed regionally, with WestCOG coordinating vendor selection or developing cooperative contracts to achieve economies of scale. A regional approach would not only strengthen negotiating power with end markets but also stabilize revenues despite fluctuations in commodity pricing. Average cardboard market prices in the Northeast have remained relatively strong since 2020, reinforcing the potential for this initiative to generate modest revenue while supporting state recycling and diversion goals. More research is necessary to determine if separating cardboard then baling and delivering to processors and/or product producers would be worth the efforts versus continuing to with the single stream approach. Whether diverting cardboard away from the current program would be acceptable to the current processor should be part of the additional research conducted.

Figure 3-2 shows the average price for cardboard ($/ton baled) in the Northeast region since 2020.[23] While the price has declined since 2021, there is still value in the commodity.

[23] www.recyclingmarkets.net

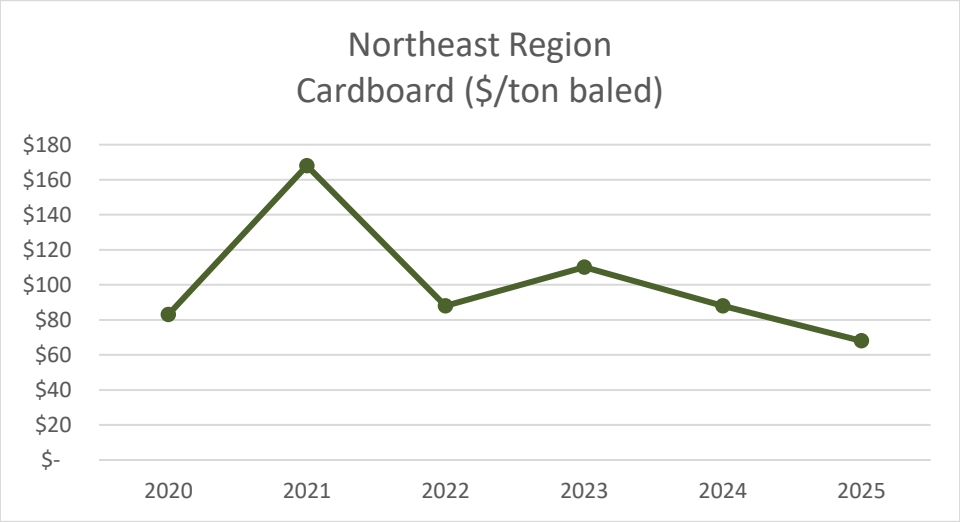

Figure 3-2
Recycling Market OCC Prices 2020-2025

3.7.2 Benefit-Cost Analysis

WestCOG could lead the effort, in coordination with interested municipalities, to conduct a market assessment for specific materials, which would include identifying potential end markets, estimating the amount of material that could be diverted, identifying locations and logistics for consolidation of materials, identifying equipment that may be necessary to prepare materials for sale such as a glass crusher or cardboard baler, and estimating the net financial impact.

Environmental Impacts

- Increasing diversion of recyclables from MSW stream means a reduction in tons disposed and increase in tons recycled.

Social Impacts

- Expanding outreach and education as well as locations to recycle could increase tons diverted from MSW by residents and businesses in the region.

Financial Impacts

- Potential costs to set up and operate additional recycling opportunities for source-separated materials, such as transport costs, equipment costs for glass crushing or cardboard baling.
- Potential revenues from sale of clean, dry cardboard or glass cullet.

Administrative / Operational Impacts

- A market assessment should first be conducted to determine if the benefits are worth the costs, which would identify the administrative and operational impacts.

3.7.3 Implementation Schedule

Table 3-19 summarizes the steps that would need to be taken to implement this option and notes the timing and responsible party(ies) that would be involved in implementation. This option is not time sensitive.

Table 3-19
Implementation Schedule for Source Separated Materials

Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Timing
Conduct market assessment	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	As time permits
Determine next steps, if any	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	As time permits

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SECTION 4
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following summarizes key findings and recommendations resulting from the options evaluation described in this report.

Section 3.2: WestCOG Staffing

Because consensus was reached that WestCOG should take the lead on collaboration strategies, it may be necessary for WestCOG to hire an FTE employee to lead the procurement processes, manage agreements with vendors and member municipalities, and manage education and outreach for those strategies.

- **Recommendation**: WestCOG should determine whether an additional position is necessary and, if so, whether existing funding sources can support the expense or if additional funding mechanisms would be required.
- **Timing**: Begin November 2025.

Section 3.3: HHW Events

The current regional HHW agreement with Clean Harbors expires on December 31, 2025. Continuity of service is important to sustain resident participation and ensure safe management of hazardous materials.

- **Recommendation:** WestCOG should first determine whether a one-year extension of the current agreement is feasible and cost effective. Whether there is a one-year extension or not, WestCOG should lead the procurement of a new regional HHW agreement on behalf of the participating municipalities.
- **Timing:** Begin November 2025.

Section 3.4: Collaboration on MSW Tons

Existing disposal contracts extend for several years, and most nearby disposal facilities are currently operating at capacity. Current transfer and disposal costs paid by member municipalities are at the lower end of the range under existing agreements. While out-of-state landfills offer lower tipping fees, transportation costs eliminate potential savings.

- **Recommendation:** No immediate action is recommended. WestCOG and the member municipalities should continue to monitor market conditions and revisit this opportunity if new disposal capacity becomes available or if contract timing aligns more favorably in the future.
- **Timing:** Initial review in 2026; periodically thereafter.

Section 3.5: Collaboration on Recycling Tons

Existing recyclables processing contracts extend through 2032, which limits the near-term opportunity for collaboration. However, increasing recycling diversion remains an achievable and impactful regional goal.

- **Recommendation:** It is recommended that WestCOG maintain current contracts while expanding regional education and outreach programs to increase recycling participation and reduce contamination. WestCOG should periodically evaluate market conditions and identify potential collaborative opportunities.
- **Timing:** Ongoing education and outreach as warranted; market reviews periodically.

Section 3.6: Collaboration on Organics

All five municipalities operate food scrap diversion programs without contract term limitations; vegetative waste processing contracts expire on differing timelines. Coordinating these efforts regionally could increase diversion, improve processing efficiency, and potentially reduce costs over time.

- **Recommendation:** WestCOG should issue a Request for Letters of Interest to determine vendor interest and processing capacity, then coordinate with the member municipalities to determine next steps, which could include preparing a RFP for organics processing. This effort would also need to allow for potentially identifying site locations and funding options for future facilities.
- **Timing:** RFLOI Spring 2026; RFP 2027, if warranted.

Section 3.7: Collaboration on Source Separated Materials

There may be opportunities to increase diversion and generate modest revenues by recovering specific source-separated materials such as glass and clean, dry cardboard. Implementing such programs would require additional planning beginning with a market assessment.

- **Recommendation:** WestCOG should coordinate the development of a regional market assessment to evaluate the feasibility, logistics, equipment needs, and potential end markets for source-separated materials. The results of this assessment would guide whether pilot programs should be pursued at transfer stations or other drop-off locations throughout the communities, if warranted.
- **Timing:** As time permits.

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APPENDIX A
FY 2023 DEEP REPORTED TONS RECYCLED/DIVERTED

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APPENDIX A
FY 2023 DEEP REPORTED TONS RECYCLED/DIVERTED

DARIEN	
BRUSH - YARD WASTE	3,456.26
ELECTRONICS	37.68
FOOD PROC RESID(SSOM	120.16
GRASS	190.05
LEAVES	1,943.11
MATTRESSES	19.56
PAINT - LATEX & OIL	30.04
SCRAP METAL	208.8
SINGLE STREAM (BOTTLES, CANS, PAP	0.28
STORAGE BATTERIES	0.23
TEXTILES/USED CLOTHES/GOODS	36.9
TOTAL	**6,043.07**

GREENWICH	
BOOKS	95.46
CORRUGATED	189.76
ELECTRONICS	79.33
FOOD PROC RESID(SSOM	444.83
LEAVES	10,495.24
MANURE - HORSE	118.94
MATTRESSES	35.23
NIKL - CADM BATTERIES	5.21
OIL FILTERS	1.5
PAINT - LATEX & OIL	12.86
SCRAP METAL	599.94
SINGLE STREAM (BOTTLES, CANS, PAP	0.2
TEXTILES/USED CLOTHES/GOODS	191.68
WASTE OIL	10.82
YARD WASTE	7,237.55
TOTAL	**19,518.55**

NEW CANAAN	
CORRUGATED	5.7
PLASTICS - MIXED	4.83
SINGLE STREAM (BOTTLES, CANS, PAP	1,568.99
TOTAL	**1,579.52**

NORWALK	
BATTERIES (OTHER)	1.51
BRUSH - YARD WASTE	7,371.00
BRUSH/STUMPS/LANDCLEARING	1,085.00
CORRUGATED	142.62
ELECTRONICS	79.66
FOOD PROC RESID(SSOM	45
FREON	0.21
LEAVES	4,097.43
NEWSPAPER	25.7
OIL FILTERS	1.5
PAPER-MIX	6.92
SCRAP METAL	60
SINGLE STREAM (BOTTLES, CANS, PAP	10,258.74
STORAGE BATTERIES	2.35
TEXTILES/USED CLOTHES/GOODS	24.48
WASTE OIL	9.64
WOOD - (FURN,PALTS,LOGS,OTHER)	14.36
YARD WASTE	11.87
TOTAL	**23,237.99**

STAMFORD	
BRUSH - YARD WASTE	3,607.00
CORRUGATED	31.91
FOOD PROC RESID(SSOM	140.49
LEAVES	10,073.08
LEAVES/GRASS	19.1
OCC/OMG/ONP	371.29
OFFICE PAPER	696.3
PAPER-OTHER SEP.GRDS	384.13
SINGLE STREAM (BOTTLES, CANS, PAP	11,142.27
YARD WASTE	27,015.00
TOTAL	**53,480.57**

Grand Total	**103,859.70**

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APPENDIX B
PAC MEETING PRESENTATIONS

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Thursday, April 10, 2025 | Western Connecticut Council of Governments Project Advisory Committee (WestCOG PAC)

REGIONAL WASTE AUTHORITY STUDY KICK-OFF MEETING

NewGen Strategies & Solutions

1

INTRODUCTIONS

2

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY

WestCOG awarded CT DEEP (DEEP) grant in August 2024

- Initial focus is on two primary objectives:
  1) reducing operational costs associated with solid waste collection and transfer station operations, and
  2) evaluating how to optimize existing infrastructure and procurement processes.

RWA Study: Phase I

- Build upon previous study conducted in 2021 by B&L for WestCOG
  - Further investigate the potential for cooperative waste management among the remaining communities.
  - Could include the formation of a new regional waste authority (RWA), joining an existing RWA, or developing a regional waste program or services under the COG.

RWA Study: Phase II

- Implement recommendation from Phase I (contingent upon Phase I findings)
- Lay technical and legal framework

3

NEWGEN AT A GLANCE

OUR COMPANY

13
locations nationwide

60+
employees

2012
established

Management and economic consulting firm created by consultants who are dedicated to our client's mission and recognized as experts in our respective fields of service

OUR PEOPLE

Thoughtful Decision Making for Uncertain Times

+35%
hold professional certifications

+40%
have advanced degrees

Diversity & inclusion are important aspects of NewGen's core values and the culture we seek to develop. We aspire to have a workplace where employees feel accepted and treated fairly, and our company benefits from diverse experiences and backgrounds.

OUR CLIENTS

800+
clients served nationwide across all practices

190+
solid waste projects

OUR COMMUNITIES

Our Vision

Be a consulting company that makes a difference for our clients, our employees, and in our communities

Our Values

- Expect quality
- Foster innovation
- Make an impact
- Be the trusted advisor
- Cultivate community

$840,000+

Since 2015, NewGen has committed to giving 1% of our gross revenues to charity each year

In 2024, NewGen donated $130K+ amongst 62 organizations nationwide, with over $840K+ being donated since the program inception

4

ALLISON TRULOCK
Managing Director – Solid Waste Practice

- Project Manager
- Over 25 Years of Experience
  - Certified Practitioner in Zero Waste Principles and Practices (SWANA/CRRA)
  - SWANA International Board Technical Divisions Director and current Advisory Board Rep of SWANA's Sustainable Materials Management Technical Division
  - Past Director of SWANA's Collection and Transfer Technical Division
  - Distinguished Individual Achievement Award (2021) Recipient for SWANA's Collection and Transfer Technical Division
- Areas of Expertise:
  - Strategic and Master Planning
  - Collection Options Evaluations and Efficiency Studies
  - Stakeholder Outreach
  - Procurement Assistance
  - Financial Feasibility Analyses
  - Ordinance Review and Development


CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL

This is to certify that

Allison Trulock

has met the eligibility requirements and passed a comprehensive examination. Therefore SWANA and CRRA hereby designate ALLISON TRULOCK as a:

Certified Practitioner in Zero Waste Principles and Practices

As of Nov 23, 2020 until Nov 23, 2023

Certification No. 89670

CRRA Driving waste

SWANA

5

WESTCOG
REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STUDY

- Challenges
  - Changes in local disposal capacity for MSW
  - Smaller municipalities have fewer economies of scale
- Opportunities
  - Regional collaboration = potential for increased efficiency/lower cost
  - Diversion can be cost-effective compared to increasing disposal costs

Our Mission:

To determine the best path forward for WestCOG's member municipalities to turn waste challenges into opportunities for increased diversion and improved efficiencies

6

AGENDA

1. Review Phase 1 Scope of Services
2. Review Phase 1 Project Schedule
3. Discuss Goals
4. Discuss Prior and Current Collaboration between Member Communities
5. Request for Information
6. Next Steps and Timing

7

REVIEW PHASE 1 SCOPE OF SERVICES

8

PHASE 1 SCOPE OF SERVICES

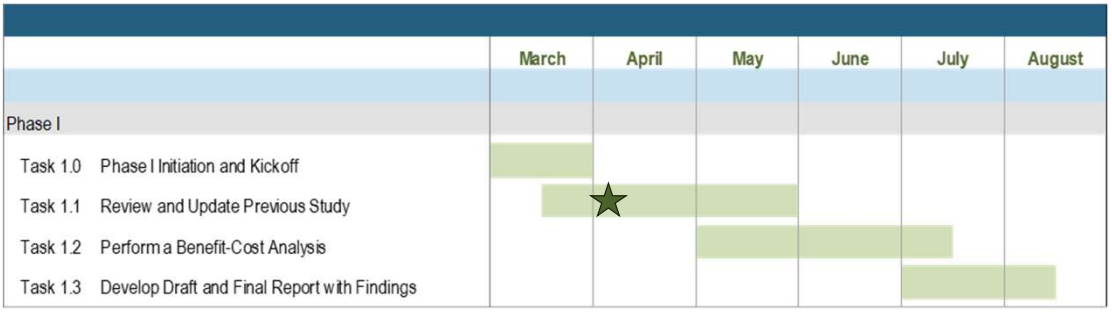
- Task 1.0: Phase 1 Initiation and Management
- Task 1.1: Review and Update 2021 Study
  - Initial PAC Meeting (today)
  - Member communities' data request
  - DEEP data request
  - High-level inventory and assessment of processing and disposal facilities available in the region or within a reasonable distance for long-hauling
- Task 1.2: Perform a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) of Potential Regional Waste Services
  - A matrix-style comparison of BCA to provide an analysis of joining an existing RWA, creating a new one, or establishing an alternative method of regional collaboration
  - Follow-up PAC Meeting to review results and help prioritize
- Task 1.3: Develop Final Report with Updated Recommendations

9

REVIEW PHASE 1 PROJECT SCHEDULE

10

PHASE 1 PROJECT SCHEDULE



***Per DEEP grant, Phase 1 must be completed by August 15, 2025.**

11

DISCUSS GOALS

12

GOALS FOR THE STUDY

- Evaluate community needs for waste collection, processing and disposal
- Explore potential for shared services:
  - Formation of a Regional Waste Authority (RWA)
  - Join an existing RWA
  - Develop specific regional waste program(s) or services under the COG
    - Organics
    - Glass
    - Other materials or contracting mechanisms
- Identify the best option

13

GOALS FOR EACH MEMBER COMMUNITY

- Group Discussion
  - Darien
  - Greenwich
  - New Canaan
  - Norwalk
  - Stamford

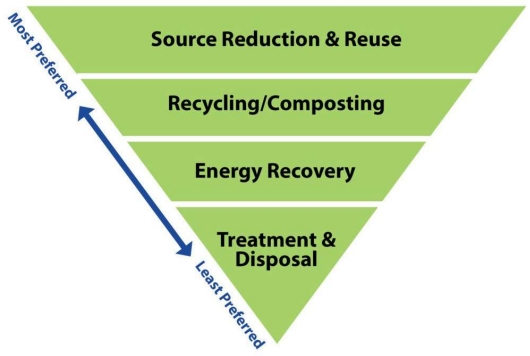
Examples

- Offer a range of waste management services while managing costs to the taxpayer.
- Engaging the community in helping to manage waste generation and collection.

14

STATE-LEVEL GOALS AND STRATEGIES

- The state of Connecticut had a diversion goal of 60% by 2024 and continues to encourage strategies that reduce waste, increase reuse, recycling, composting, and focus on the development of waste conversion technologies.
- Increased EPR and food waste reduction and recovery are two main strategies in focus since the 2022 closure of the MIRA plant.



15

DISCUSS PRIOR AND CURRENT COLLABORATION BETWEEN MEMBER COMMUNITIES

16

PRIOR AND CURRENT COLLABORATION BETWEEN MEMBER COMMUNITIES

- Group Discussion

In 2023, 6 events in Norwalk, including Westport, Greenwich, Darien, Stamford, Norwalk, and New Canaan

Accepted Items		
• Oil & Latex Paints	• Paint stripping liquids	• Poisons, Insecticides, Pesticides
• Paint Thinner, Solvent, Stains	• Pool Chemicals	• Weed Killers, Mothballs
• Lighter Fluid	• Septic Tank Degreasers	• No-Pest Strips, Flea Powder
• Waste Fuels (Kerosene, Gasoline)	• Fiberglass Resin	• Photo Chemicals, Chemistry Sets
• Engine Degreaser	• Driveway Sealer	• Furniture, Floor & Metal Polishes
• Carburetor Cleaner, Brake Fluid	• Creosote	• Toilet Bowl & Drain Cleaners
• Transmission Fluid, Car Wax	• Art, Hobby Supplies	• Rug & Upholstery Cleaners
• Oven Cleaners	• Dry Cleaning Solvents	• Rubber Cement, Airplane Glue
Not Accepted HHW		
• Ammunition, Fireworks, Explosives	• Smoke Detectors	• Prescription Medicines/ Syringes
• Radioactive Wastes	• Empty Containers or Drums	• Penta Brand Wood Preservatives
• Infectious & Biological Wastes	• Asbestos	• Commercial or Industrial Waste
• Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)		

17

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

18

DATA NEEDS, RESPONSIBLE PARTIES AND TIMING

- Member communities' data request forthcoming
  - Have filled in what is available from 2021 report and internet research
  - Request to confirm / update information by April 25th

19

NEXT STEPS AND TIMING

20

NEXT STEPS AND TIMING

- Set recurring monthly PAC meetings
- NewGen to email the member communities' data requests
- DEEP Roundtable with RWA grantees upcoming (May 6)
- Other items to discuss?

21

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Monday, June 23, 2025 | Western Connecticut Council of Governments Project Advisory Committee (WestCOG PAC)

REGIONAL WASTE AUTHORITY STUDY UPDATE

NewGen Strategies & Solutions

1

AGENDA

1. Task 1.1 Baseline Understanding Status Update
2. Task 1.2 BCA Scope Review
3. BCA Group Discussion
4. Wrap Up and Next Steps

2

2

TASK 1.1: BASELINE UNDERSTANDING STATUS UPDATE

3

BASELINE STATUS UPDATE

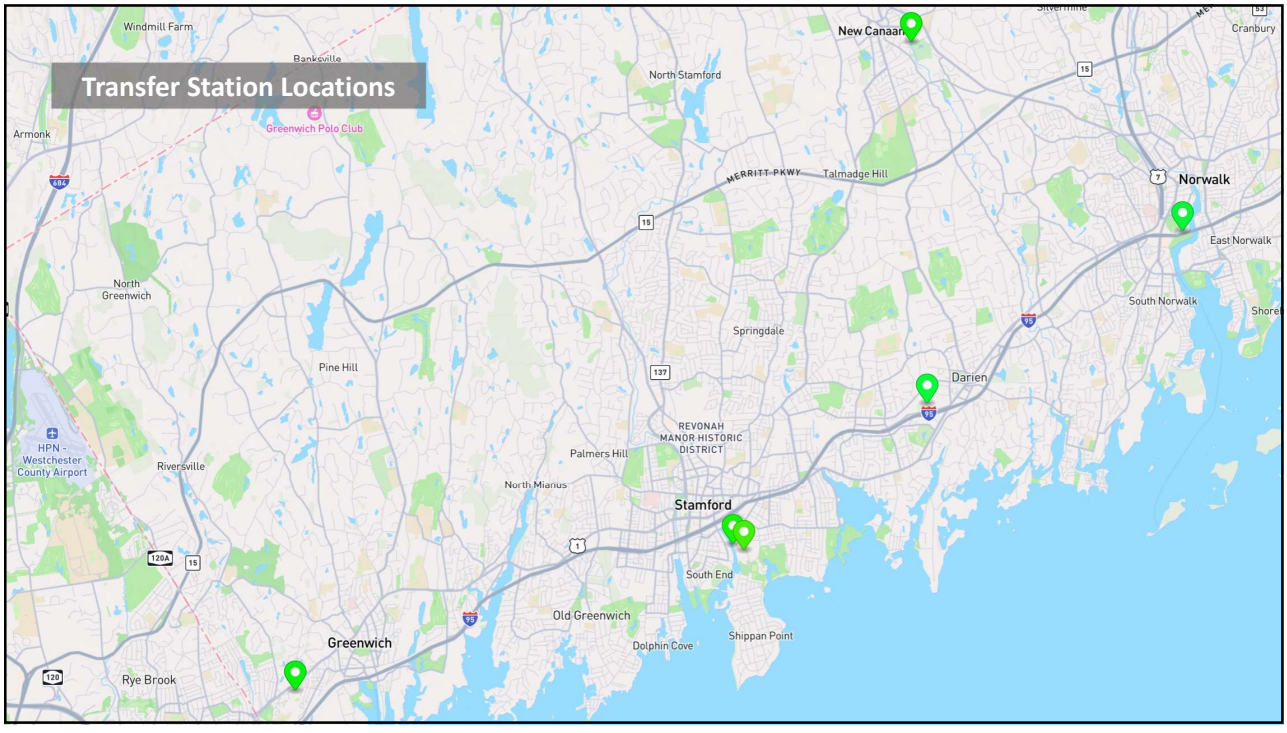
- Data request responses received from everyone
- Completed three of five one-on-one interviews
- Draft Baseline portion of report on-going

4

TRANSFER STATION LOCATIONS

Municipality	Transfer Station Locations	Owned by	Operated by
Darien	**Darien Recycling & Refuse Center** 126 Ledge Road, Darien, CT 06820	Town of Darien	WIN Waste
Greenwich	**Holly Hill Resource Recovery Facility** 84 Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830	Town of Greenwich	WIN Waste
New Canaan	**New Canaan Transfer Station** 139 Lakeview Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840	Town of New Canaan	Town of New Canaan
Norwalk	**Norwalk Transfer Station & Recycling Center** 61 Crescent St, Norwalk, CT 68542	City of Norwalk	WIN Waste
Stamford	**Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center** 130 Magee Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902	City of Stamford	City of Stamford
Stamford	**Scale House / Transfer Station** 101 Harborview Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902	City of Stamford	City of Stamford

5



6

FINAL DISPOSAL LOCATIONS

Municipality	Transfer Station Locations	Final Disposal Locations
Darien	**Darien Recycling & Refuse Center** 126 Ledge Road, Darien, CT 06820	WIN Waste Bridgeport (WTE) 6 Howard Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605
Greenwich	**Holly Hill Resource Recovery Facility** 84 Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830	WIN Waste Bridgeport (WTE) 6 Howard Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605 WIN Waste Westchester (WTE) 1 Charles Point Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566
New Canaan	**New Canaan Transfer Station** 139 Lakeview Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840	WIN Waste Bridgeport (WTE) 6 Howard Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605 WIN Waste Westchester (WTE) 1 Charles Point Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566
Norwalk	**Norwalk Transfer Station & Recycling Center** 61 Crescent St, Norwalk, CT 68542	WIN Waste Bridgeport (WTE) 6 Howard Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605 WIN Waste Westchester (WTE) 1 Charles Point Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566 *Note: Some MSW is taken to landfills out-of-state.
Stamford	**Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center** 130 Magee Ave, Stamford, CT 06902	WIN Waste Bridgeport (WTE) 6 Howard Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605 WIN Waste Westchester (WTE) 1 Charles Point Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566
Stamford	**Scale House / Transfer Station** 101 Harbor View Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902	WIN Waste Bridgeport (WTE) 6 Howard Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605 WIN Waste Westchester (WTE) 1 Charles Point Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566

7

FINAL TRADITIONAL RECYCLING PROCESSING LOCATIONS

Municipality	Transfer Station Locations	Final Processing Locations
Darien	**Darien Recycling & Refuse Center** 126 Ledge Road, Darien, CT 06820	WIN Waste Stamford (MRF) 61 Taylor Reed Place, Stamford, CT 06906
Greenwich	**Holly Hill Resource Recovery Facility** 84 Holly Hill Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830	WIN Waste Stamford (MRF) 61 Taylor Reed Place, Stamford, CT 06906
New Canaan	**New Canaan Transfer Station** 139 Lakeview Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840	Oak Ridge Waste & Recycling of CT 46 & 90 Oliver Terrace, Shelton, CT 06484
Norwalk	**Norwalk Transfer Station & Recycling Center** 61 Crescent St, Norwalk, CT 68542	WIN Waste Stamford (MRF) 61 Taylor Reed Place, Stamford, CT 06906
Stamford	**Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center** 130 Magee Ave, Stamford, CT 06902	WIN Waste Stamford (MRF) 61 Taylor Reed Place, Stamford, CT 06906
Stamford	**Scale House / Transfer Station** 101 Harbor View Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902	WIN Waste Stamford (MRF) 61 Taylor Reed Place, Stamford, CT 06906

8

CONTRACT TIMING

Garbage

Segment	Darien	Greenwich	New Canaan	Norwalk	Stamford
Collection	License/Subscription or Drop Off	License/Subscription or Drop Off	License/Subscription or Drop Off	WIN Waste for residential in 4th District; subscription/license for other districts and commercial	Municipal collection; license/subscription; or drop off
Term	NA	NA	NA	July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2032	NA
Renewal Options	NA	NA	NA	One 3-year renewal term	NA
Piggyback	NA	NA	NA	No	NA
Transfer Station	WIN Waste	WIN Waste	Operated by Municipal Staff	Win Waste	Operated by Municipal Staff
Term	Current contract expires June 30, 2029	Current contract expires 6/30/26	NA	July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2032	NA
Renewal Options	Can renew/extend; typically negotiate for more services with extensions.	Intend to release RFP by Dec. 2025	NA	One 3-year renewal term	NA
Piggyback	No	No	NA	No	NA
Final Disposal	WIN Waste hauls out to Bridgeport WTE	WIN Waste hauls out to either Bridgeport WTE or Peekskill NY WTE	WIN Waste hauls out to either Bridgeport WTE or Peekskill NY WTE	WIN Waste hauls out to either Bridgeport WTE or Peekskill NY WTE	WIN Waste hauls out to either Bridgeport WTE or Peekskill NY WTE
Term	Part of TS contract	Part of TS contract	Expires 6/30/26	Part of TS contract	*Voyager contract expires Dec. 1 2025?*
Renewal Options	Part of TS contract	Part of TS contract	No; intend to release RFP in late winter/early spring	Part of TS contract	?
Piggyback	No	No	No	NO	

Tables in report include garbage, bulk, traditional recyclables, yard waste, food scraps, and "other" (hhw, mattresses, etc.)

9

BCA SCOPE REVIEW

10

TASK 1.2: PERFORM A BENEFIT-COST-ANALYSIS (BCA)

- A matrix-style comparison of BCA to provide an analysis of joining an existing RWA, creating a new one, or establishing an alternative method of regional collaboration
  - Reducing MSW generation
  - Increasing diversion and collection/ processing of recyclables and organic materials
  - Increasing in-state solid waste disposal capacity
  - Providing efficient and streamlined services and administrative capacity for member municipalities
  - For materials that cannot be managed within the State, an inventory of potential long-haul options may be included
- Evaluate Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How

11

BCA TO ARRIVE AT FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

WHO	• Which member municipalities?
WHAT	• Which materials?
WHEN	• Timing of existing contracts • Timing of customer adoption
WHERE	• Which facilities
WHY	• How does it benefit member municipalities
HOW	• Regional Waste Authority (existing or new) • WestCOG increase involvement (i.e., procurements) • Member municipalities collaborate

12

BCA GROUP DISCUSSION

13

GROUP DISCUSSION ON COLLABORATION POSSIBILITIES

- HHW events (current contract in effect until 12/31/2025)
- Collection and processing of food scraps
- Interest in investigating reduced tipping fees for collaborating on tons delivered for disposal or processing?
  - Garbage, bulk
  - Traditional recyclables
  - Food scraps (with or without yard waste)
- Other areas of interest for evaluations (e.g., education/outreach)?
- Priorities for evaluations?

14

WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS

15

NEXT STEPS AND TIMING

- Complete one-on-one interviews
  - In the next week or two
- Begin the BCA Evaluations
  - In July
- Update the PAC on progress at each monthly PAC meeting

16

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?

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NewGen Strategies & Solutions

17

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Monday, September 15, 2025 | Western Connecticut Council of Governments Project Advisory Committee (WestCOG PAC)

REGIONAL WASTE AUTHORITY STUDY UPDATE

NewGen Strategies & Solutions

1

AGENDA

1. BCA Results to Date
2. Group Discussion on "How"
3. Wrap Up and Next Steps

2

BCA RESULTS TO DATE

3

STRATEGIES EVALUATED

- HHW events
- Investigate reduced tipping fees for collaborating on tons delivered for disposal or processing:
  - MSW
  - Traditional recyclables
- Collection and processing of food scraps (with or without yard waste)

4

HHW EVENTS

WHO	• Which member municipalities	• All five municipalities wish to continue with collaboration • Preference for WestCOG to handle the RFP and coordinate the collaboration
WHAT	• Which materials	• Each municipality can decide which specific materials to include at each respective annual event based on list of items accepted by vendor
WHEN	• Timing of existing contracts • Timing of customer adoption	• Existing contract expires Dec. 2025 • RFP should be released ASAP
WHERE	• Which facilities, location(s)	• Each municipality decides on location for respective annual event
WHY	• How does it benefit member municipalities	• Properly disposing of HHW protects human health by reducing exposure risk

5

COLLABORATE ON MSW TONS FOR REDUCED TIPPING FEES

WHO	• Which member municipalities	• Tonnage estimates of all five
WHAT	• Which materials	• MSW
WHEN	• Timing of existing contracts • Timing of customer adoption	• 2032 or later for all contracts to expire • Could be possible for collaboration of some municipalities sooner
WHERE	• Which facilities, location(s)	• Discussions ongoing with existing and other nearby disposal facilities
WHY	• How does it benefit member municipalities	• Exploring benefit of reduced tipping fee for tonnage commitment

6

COLLABORATE ON MSW

Year	Darien		Greenwich		New Canaan		Norwalk		Stamford	
	City	TS	City	TS	City	TS	City	TS	City	TS
2025	6,970	3,937	34,382	38,708	8,469	Not avail	100,876	23,805	120,361	79,368
2030	7,399	4,179	35,127	39,538	8,761	Not avail	104,353	24,619	124,510	82,083
2035	7,853	4,436	35,889	40,385	9,063	Not avail	107,949	25,461	128,801	84,891

Year	Citywide Estimated Total	Transfer Station Estimated Total
2025	271,059	145,818
2030	280,149	150,418
2035	289,556	155,173

7

COLLABORATE ON RECYCLABLES TONS FOR REDUCED TIPPING FEES OR OTHER ECONOMIC INCENTIVES

WHO	• Which member municipalities	• Tonnage estimates of all five
WHAT	• Which materials	• Traditional Recyclables (single stream)
WHEN	• Timing of existing contracts • Timing of customer adoption	• 2032 or later for all contracts to expire • Could be possible for collaboration of some municipalities sooner
WHERE	• Which facilities, location(s)	• Discussions ongoing with existing and other nearby recycling facilities
WHY	• How does it benefit member municipalities	• Exploring benefit of reduced tipping fee and/or other economic incentives for tonnage commitment

8

COLLABORATE ON TRADITIONAL RECYCLABLES

Year	Darien		Greenwich		New Canaan		Norwalk		Stamford	
	City	TS	City	TS	City	TS	City	TS	City	TS
2025	1,753	855	7,955	12,116	1,590	Not avail	10,399	9,181	11,294	10,613
2030	1,860	908	8,127	12,378	1,645	Not avail	10,757	9,497	11,684	10,978
2035	1,975	964	8,304	12,647	1,702	Not avail	11,128	9,824	12,086	11,357

Year	Citywide Estimated Total	Transfer Station Estimated Total
2025	32,991	32,764
2030	34,074	33,761
2035	35,194	34,791

Per 2015 Statewide Waste Composition Study, the MSW stream is made up of 3.5% metals, 2.5% glass, 11.8% plastics, and 23.1% paper. If an additional 10% of the 40.9% of recyclables currently in the waste stream was diverted, that could result in an estimated additional 5,900 to 11,000 tons recycled annually (and 5,900 to 11,000 tons less MSW disposed)

9

COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF FOOD SCRAPS

(WITH OR WITHOUT YARD WASTE)

WHO	• Which member municipalities	• Tonnage estimates of all five
WHAT	• Which materials	• Food Scraps and Vegetative Waste
WHEN	• Timing of existing contracts • Timing of customer adoption	• Food Scraps: month to month • Vegetative Waste: 2032 or later for all current contracts to expire • Could be possible for collaboration of some municipalities sooner
WHERE	• Which facilities, location(s)	• Request for Letters of Interest followed by RFP
WHY	• How does it benefit member municipalities	• Exploring possibility of economies of scale for collaborating • Potential benefit of expanding existing organics programs

10

COLLABORATE ON ORGANICS

Year	Darien		Greenwich		New Canaan		Norwalk		Stamford	
	Food	Veg	Food	Veg	Food	Veg	Food	Veg	Food	Veg
2025	129	5,724	449	18,006	30	Not avail	129	12,751	142	41,270
2030	137	6,076	458	18,396	31	Not avail	133	13,191	147	42,692
2035	145	6,450	468	18,795	33	Not avail	138	13,645	152	44,164

Year	Food Estimated Total	Vegetative Estimated Total
2025	879	77,751
2030	907	80,355
2035	936	83,054

Per 2015 Statewide Waste Composition Study, the MSW stream is made up of 22.3% food and 11.1% other organics. If an additional 10% of the 22.3% of food currently in the waste stream was diverted, that could result in an estimated additional 6,000 tons of food diverted annually; if an additional 10% of the 11.1% other organics was diverted, that could result in an estimated additional 3,000 tons of other organics diverted annually (and up to 9,000 tons less MSW disposed)

11

COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF FOOD SCRAPS
(WITH OR WITHOUT YARD WASTE)

- Biosolids regulated by the State due to PFAS
- Issue a Request for Letters of Interest
  - Let organics processing vendors respond to whether they prefer only food scraps, only yard waste, or both
  - Let organics processing vendors respond to whether biosolids could be beneficial in the regulatory environment
- Once materials to include are determined, develop and issue RFP
  - Determine if location for siting facility could be offered
    - Lease land from a municipality or pay host fee?
  - Determine other parameters to include in RFP
    - Design/Build? Or Design/build/operate?
    - Would every municipality commit, or would a variety of potential tons be made available?
    - Funding sources

12

GROUP DISCUSSION ON "HOW"

13

DEFINE THE HOW

- Form a Municipal Resource Recovery Authority (MRRA)
- WestCOG Increase Involvement
- Municipalities Collaborate
  - With inter-community agreements, as needed (like HHW)
    - Each community can participate in other community events
    - Each community signs own contract with vendor, through one RFP process to secure vendor
  - Waste and/or recycling interlocal committee (like Greater Bridgeport)
    - The "body" to deal with all matters related to delivery of MSW/recycling to facility

14

DEFINE AND COMPARE THE "HOW" – COG VS. MRRA PER STATE LAW

Power Area	COGs Only	MRRAs Only	Both
Act on behalf of municipalities in any legal function they can perform	✓	✗	
Create subregional governance structures	✓	✗	
Statutory referral of interlocal agreements and service districts	✓	✗	
Inter-council cooperation and staff sharing	✓	✗	
Make loans using bond proceeds to municipalities or third parties	✗	✓	
Indemnify third parties in financial transactions	✗	✓	
Operate as a special purpose taxing or bonding district	✗	✓	
Issue revenue or general obligation bonds for infrastructure	✗	✓	
Exercise eminent domain	✗	✓	
Impose user fees for programs, services, or facilities			✓
Sell recovered materials, fuels, or energy			✓
Own and borrow for real property (for admin or program functions)			✓
Build, own, lease, or mortgage facilities for program delivery (e.g., waste infrastructure)			✓

 15

15

DEFINE AND COMPARE THE "HOW"

Form MRRA

- Formed by charter or ordinance by a municipality or group of municipalities
- Can designate an existing board or form a new board for the authority
- Key benefit over COG is bonding and special purpose taxing district abilities
- Most relevant for owning infrastructure

WestCOG

- Statute: *May administer and provide regional services to municipalities by affirmative vote of the member municipalities of such council and may delegate such authority to subregional groups of such municipalities; the administration and provision of such services shall not require the execution of any interlocal agreement.*
- Can charge user fees

Member Municipalities

- Inter-Community agreements, like HHW
  - Each community signs own contract with vendor, through one RFP process to secure vendor
  - Each community can participate in other community events
- Form waste and/or recycling interlocal committee, like Greater Bridgeport
  - Requires interlocal agreement signed by all member municipality Councils
  - Formed for purpose of contracting with facilities
  - The "body" to deal with all matters related to delivery of MSW/recycling to facility

16

HOW – GROUP DISCUSSION

	HHW Events	Collaborate on MSW Tons	Collaborate on Recyclables Tons	Food Scraps/Organics
Form MRRA	• Not necessary ✗	• Not necessary ✗	• Not necessary ✗	• Only if facility requires bond financing and public ownership ✗
WestCOG increased involvement	• Conduct the procurement for the vendor; then each municipality signs inter-community agreement as well as own agreement with vendor ✓	• Conduct the procurement for disposal for the benefit of each municipality that wants to be included (commit tons) • Pricing for ranges of tons ✓	• Conduct the procurement for recycling for the benefit of each municipality that wants to be included (commit tons) • Pricing for ranges of tons ✓	• Per Statute: COGs may build, own, or operate waste infrastructure where it supports a regional program • Conduct RFLI and procurement for organics on behalf of each municipality that wants to be included ✓
Municipalities inter-community agreement or interlocal committee	• Continuation of current approach • Requires a municipality to take the lead • Not preferred ✗	• Conduct the procurement for disposal for the benefit of each municipality that wants to be included (commit tons) ✗ • Requires a municipality to take the lead	• Conduct the procurement for recycling for the benefit of each municipality that wants to be included (commit tons) ✗ • Requires a municipality to take the lead	• Conduct RFLI and procurement for organics for each municipality that wants to be included (commit tons) • Requires a municipality to take the lead ✓

17

WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS

18

NEXT STEPS AND TIMING

- Complete the BCA's
  - Review at one more PAC meeting
- Complete Draft Report
  - Circulate draft report for member municipalities review
- Finalize report
  - By October 31, 2025 (DEEP deadline)

19

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?

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NewGen Strategies & Solutions

20

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 | Western Connecticut Council of Governments Project Advisory Committee (WestCOG PAC)

REGIONAL WASTE AUTHORITY STUDY UPDATE

NewGen Strategies & Solutions

1

AGENDA

1. Recap of Previous Discussion
2. Potential Options Evaluations
3. Summary of Recommendations
4. Next Steps

2

RECAP OF PREVIOUS DISCUSSION

3

"HOW" – GROUP DISCUSSION FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING

	HHW Events	Collaborate on MSW Tons	Collaborate on Recyclables Tons	Food Scraps/Organics
Form MRRA	• Not necessary ✗	• Not necessary ✗	• Not necessary ✗	• Only if facility requires bond financing and public ownership ✗
WestCOG increased involvement	• Conduct the procurement for the vendor; then each municipality signs inter-community agreement as well as own agreement with vendor ✓	• Conduct the procurement for disposal for the benefit of each municipality that wants to be included (commit tons) • Pricing for ranges of tons ✓	• Conduct the procurement for recycling for the benefit of each municipality that wants to be included (commit tons) • Pricing for ranges of tons ✓	• Per Statute: COGs may build, own, or operate waste infrastructure where it supports a regional program • Conduct RFLI and procurement for organics on behalf of each municipality that wants to be included ✓
Municipalities inter-community agreement or interlocal committee	• Continuation of current approach • Requires a municipality to take the lead • Not preferred ✗	• Conduct the procurement for disposal for the benefit of each municipality that wants to be included (commit tons) ✗ • Requires a municipality to take the lead	• Conduct the procurement for recycling for the benefit of each municipality that wants to be included (commit tons) ✗ • Requires a municipality to take the lead	• Conduct RFLI and procurement for organics for each municipality that wants to be included (commit tons) • Requires a municipality to take the lead ✓

4

POTENTIAL OPTIONS EVALUATIONS

5

WESTCOG STAFFING

- One additional FTE at WestCOG may be necessary to implement recommended strategies.
- FTE would:
  - lead the procurement processes,
  - manage agreements with vendors and member municipalities, and
  - manage education and outreach for those strategies.
- Estimate FTE cost at $160,000 annually for salary and benefits.
- WestCOG could likely cover the cost of additional FTE through existing funding sources.

6

WESTCOG STAFFING – IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Time is of the Essence!

Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Timing
Determine whether an additional FTE is necessary	WestCOG	November 2025
If yes, determine funding source(s) for the position	WestCOG	November 2025
If municipalities would need to help fund the position, determine cost and determine municipalities' willingness and ability to help fund the position	WestCOG	December 2025
If yes, post for the position and hire additional FTE	WestCOG	January 2026

7

HHW EVENTS

- The Clean Harbors collaborative agreement for HHW events expires December 31, 2025.
- Each community executes its own agreement with Clean Harbors and determines which specific materials will be accepted at their respective community event.
- Residents of each participating municipality can participate at any location, but no commercial vehicles or waste is permitted.
- Clean Harbors invoices each municipality directly for participation by their residents in the HHW Collection Day of another participating community.
- There is no direct cost to residents for bringing HHW; however, there is a cost to the municipalities on a per car basis.

8

HHW EVENTS – *BCA*

- **Environmental Impacts**
  - Properly managing HHW safeguards the environment by preventing water contamination, reducing soil and air pollution, and reducing recycling contamination.
- **Social Impacts**
  - Notifying residents of opportunities to drop off HHW and providing convenient locations increases participation.
  - Properly managing HHW protects human health by reducing exposure risk to items like old pesticides, paints, cleaners, and solvents that can leak or produce harmful fumes.
  - Properly managing HHW lowers the risks of accidents, fires, explosions, or poisoning.
- **Financial Impacts**
  - The specific financial impacts of a new agreement will not be known until the procurement is complete; however, costs for the events are expected to be similar to current costs, which vary based on materials each municipality accepts at events and how many residents from each municipality attend each event.
- **Administrative / Operational Impacts**
  - WestCOG to conduct the procurement to secure the new collaborative agreement and coordinate with member municipalities.
  - Each municipality signs specific agreement for annual event, specifying materials to be included in each respective municipality's event.
  - WestCOG to assist municipalities in outreach for the events and proper management of HHW generally.

9

HHW EVENTS – *IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE*

Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Timing
Develop and issue the RFP for HHW events for the five member municipalities	WestCOG	January 2026
Select a vendor	WestCOG	By March/April 2026
Sign specific agreement for annual event specifying location and materials to be accepted	Each member municipality	By May 2026
Advertise events	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	Throughout the year as appropriate
Hold events	Each member municipality	As scheduled

10

COLLABORATION ON MSW TONS FOR REDUCED TIPPING FEES

Current Transfer and Disposal Cost per Ton for MSW

Municipality	Contractor	Transfer & Disposal Cost per Ton of MSW
Darien	Win Waste	$106.09
Greenwich	Win Waste	$101.66
New Canaan	USA Waste & Recycling	Not Available
Norwalk	Win Waste	$101.85
Stamford	Voyager Trucking	$101.28

Tonnage Data

Year	Citywide Estimated Total	Transfer Station Estimated Total
2025	271,059	145,818
2030	280,149	150,418
2035	289,556	155,173

11

COLLABORATION ON MSW TONS FOR REDUCED TIPPING FEES (CONT.)

- Feedback from one market manager overseeing waste-to-energy facilities in Connecticut and New York (five of the eleven facilities) reported that these facilities are currently operating at full capacity.
- It was noted that, should additional capacity become available, tipping fees would range from approximately $100 to $120 per ton, with higher waste volumes likely reducing the rate toward the lower end of this range (approximately $100 per ton).
- Contract duration was not identified as a factor influencing pricing.

12

COLLABORATION ON MSW TONS FOR REDUCED TIPPING FEES (CONT.)

- Landfills in PA and OH have cheaper tipping fees.
- Estimate Cost Per Ton Mile of $0.18.
- Distance and Cost Per Ton Mile makes cheaper tipping fee facilities more expensive than closer WTE facilities.
- Some member municipalities are under contract for another ten years.
- This option not viable at this time but could be in the future if additional disposal capacity nearby comes online.

COLLABORATION ON MSW TONS FOR REDUCED TIPPING FEES - *BCA*

- **Environmental Impacts**
  - No change at this time.
  - Disposing at nearby facilities consumes less fuel than further away facilities.
  - Traveling further to dispose of MSW increases fuel consumption and therefore carbon emissions.

- **Social Impacts**
  - None at this time.

- **Financial Impacts**
  - The possibility of reduced tipping fees could not likely be realized in the near-term. Revisiting the concept in future years, especially if more disposal capacity is developed, may result in reduced disposal costs.

- **Administrative / Operational Impacts**
  - None at this time. WestCOG and member municipalities can revisit periodically and determine whether any action is warranted in the future, at which time WestCOG could issue a Request for Proposals on behalf of the member municipalities.

COLLABORATION ON MSW TONS FOR REDUCED TIPPING FEES - *IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE*

Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Timing
Periodic review of disposal options in the region	WestCOG	Annually beginning in 2027
If more disposal options come available, coordinate with member municipalities to determine next steps	WestCOG and member municipalities	As warranted

15

COLLABORATION ON RECYCLABLES FOR REDUCED PROCESSING FEES OR ECONOMIC INCENTIVES

Year	Citywide Estimated Total	Transfer Station Estimated Total
2025	32,991	32,764
2030	34,074	33,761
2035	35,194	34,791

Per 2015 Statewide Waste Composition Study, the MSW stream is made up of 3.5% metals, 2.5% glass, 11.8% plastics, and 23.1% paper.

If an additional 10% of the 40.9% of recyclables currently in the waste stream was diverted, that could result in an estimated additional 5,900 to 11,000 tons recycled annually (and 5,900 to 11,000 tons less MSW disposed).

16

COLLABORATION ON RECYCLABLES FOR REDUCED PROCESSING FEES OR ECONOMIC INCENTIVES (CONT.)

- Feedback from one market manager overseeing recycling operations for two of the seven facilities indicated that clean, baled cardboard may be eligible for a market-based rebate, whereas loose cardboard and single-stream recyclables do not qualify due to the additional processing required.
- The manager reported that current single-stream recycling rates range from approximately $100 to $110 per ton.
- Contract duration was not identified as a factor influencing pricing.
- It was pointed out that recycling values are subject to fluctuation based on broader market conditions and commodity pricing trends.
- Some of the member municipalities have ten years remaining on existing transfer and processing contracts.

17

COLLABORATION ON RECYCLABLES FOR REDUCED PROCESSING FEES OR ECONOMIC INCENTIVES – *BCA*

- **Environmental Impacts**
  - No change to the approach at this time.
  - Increasing diversion of recyclables from MSW stream means a reduction in tons disposed and increase in tons recycled.
- **Social Impacts**
  - Expanding outreach and education could increase tons diverted from MSW by residents and businesses in the region.
- **Financial Impacts**
  - The possibility of reduced tipping fees could not likely be realized in the near-term. Revisiting the concept in future years may result in reduced processing costs or other economic incentives.
- **Administrative / Operational Impacts**
  - WestCOG and member municipalities coordinate to expand education and outreach efforts to divert more MSW from disposal for recycling.
  - WestCOG and member municipalities can revisit periodically and determine whether any action is warranted in the future, at which time WestCOG could issue a Request for Proposals on behalf of the member municipalities.

18

COLLABORATION ON RECYCLABLES FOR REDUCED PROCESSING FEES OR ECONOMIC INCENTIVES – *IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE*

Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Timing
Periodic review of processing options in the region	WestCOG	Annually beginning in 2027
If more affordable processing options come available, coordinate with member municipalities to determine next steps	WestCOG and member municipalities	As warranted
Expand education and outreach initiatives to recycle more	WestCOG and member municipalities	Begin immediately

19

COLLABORATION ON ORGANICS

Year	Food Estimated Total	Vegetative Estimated Total
2025	879	77,751
2030	907	80,355
2035	936	83,054

Per 2015 Statewide Waste Composition Study, the MSW stream is made up of 22.3% food and 11.1% other organics.

If an additional 10% of the 22.3% of food currently in the waste stream was diverted, that could result in an estimated additional 6,000 tons of food diverted annually; if an additional 10% of the 11.1% other organics was diverted, that could result in an estimated additional 3,000 tons of other organics diverted annually (and up to 9,000 tons less MSW disposed).

20

COLLABORATION ON ORGANICS (CONT.)

- Food scraps could be available to collaborate for collection and processing coordination right away (not bound by contract term)
- Some member municipalities are under contract for another ten years for vegetative waste.
- Issue a Request for Letters of Interest
  - Let organics processing vendors respond to whether they prefer only food scraps, only yard waste, or both; whether to also include biosolids
- Once materials to include are determined, develop and issue RFP
  - Determine if location for siting facility would be needed and could be offered
    - Lease land from a municipality or pay host fee?
  - Determine other parameters to include in RFP
    - Design/Build? Or Design/build/operate?
    - Would every municipality commit, or would a variety of potential tons be made available?
    - Funding sources

21

COLLABORATION ON ORGANICS – *BCA*

- **Environmental Impacts**
  - Potential to keep organics in state and process nearby, reducing vehicle emissions from longer transfer distances.
  - Potential to divert more from MSW stream means a reduction in tons disposed and increase in tons diverted.

- **Social Impacts**
  - Potential to make a beneficial end product that can be used locally.
  - Expanding outreach and education could increase tons diverted from MSW by residents and businesses in the region.

- **Financial Impacts**
  - Potential to save money if tipping fees to process organics is less than tipping fees to dispose of MSW.
  - Potential revenue if selling a beneficial end product.

- **Administrative / Operational Impacts**
  - WestCOG and member municipalities coordinate to expand education and outreach efforts to divert more MSW from disposal for organics diversion.
  - WestCOG and member municipalities coordinate on RFLOI and RFP processes.
  - Other administrative and operational impacts would depend on outcome of RFP process.

22

COLLABORATION ON ORGANICS – *IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE*

Steps	Responsible Party(ies)	Timing
Issue a Request for Letters of Interest	WestCOG	May/June 2026
Expand education and outreach to divert organics from MSW material stream	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	Begin Summer 2026
Determine materials to be included and whether existing facility(ies) can manage the materials or a new facility(ies) would be necessary	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	Fall of 2026
Determine which municipalities will participate	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	Fall of 2026
Determine whether a site should and could be offered in an RFP process	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	Fall/Winter 2026
Determine whether DB or DBO	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	Fall/Winter 2026
If appropriate, issue the RFP	WestCOG	Early 2027
If RFP released, select a vendor	WestCOG in coordination with member municipalities	Mid 2027

23

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

24

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIMING

Recommendation	Timing
WestCOG Determine and Resolve Staffing Needs	Nov. 2025 through Early 2026
WestCOG Issue RFP for HHW Events (in coordination with municipalities)	Jan. through May 2026
WestCOG and Municipalities Expand Education/Outreach for HHW Events	Beginning May 2026
WestCOG conduct periodic review of disposal options in the region	Beginning in 2027
WestCOG conduct periodic review of traditional recycling options in the region	Beginning in 2027
WestCOG and Municipalities Expand Education/Outreach for Traditional Recyclables	Beginning in 2026
WestCOG Issue RFLOI for Organics Processing (in coordination with municipalities)	May/June 2026
WestCOG coordinate next steps for organics processing with municipalities	Depending on outcome of RFLOI
WestCOG and Municipalities Expand Education/Outreach for Organics Diversion	Beginning Summer 2026

25

NEXT STEPS

To Complete Phase 1

26

NEXT STEPS AND TIMING

- Complete Draft Phase 1 Report
  - Circulate draft report for member municipalities review by this Friday October 17th
  - Comments back from member municipalities by next Friday October 24th
- Finalize Phase 1 report
  - By October 31, 2025 (DEEP deadline)

27

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?

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NewGen Strategies & Solutions

28

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