



Waste Reduction Priorities

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The CT Zero Waste Coalition is a project of the Connecticut Coalition for Economic and Environmental Justice

Connecticut generates more waste than we can process, resulting in trucking waste out of state, which has continued to be an expensive and unsustainable solution. As demand for out-of-state landfills increases, we are projected to spend 4.8 billion dollars annually on residential waste disposal by the year 2050; that is 51 times as much as we spent in 2022.

Waste reduction solutions are needed now to prevent us from paying more to dispose of solid waste in the future.

Reallocate the waste assessment fee funds back to funding waste reduction initiatives

When the waste assessment fee was originally enacted, funds went to waste management. Now, funds are deposited into the General Fund. We ask that funds be allocated back to funding waste reduction initiatives, either to the RecycleCT Foundation to support recycling education or the sustainable materials management account to support municipal and regional waste reduction projects.

We support the language proposed in *House Bill 6917: An Act Concerning the Management of Solid Waste in the State* in the 2025 legislative session:

[(f) Two million eight hundred thousand dollars of the proceeds from the assessments] (g) Assessments imposed pursuant to [subsection (a)] subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be deposited by the Commissioner of Revenue Services into [the General Fund and any remaining funds from such assessments shall be deposited by the commissioner into] the sustainable materials management account established in section 16-244bb.

Expand the Commercial Organics Recycling Law to include a food donation plan

The best use of food is for human consumption, and the Commercial Organics Recycling Law should account for that. If entities included in the existing law were to create a plan to donate excess edible food, it would result in food waste reduction and redistribution of excess edible food to communities in need.

We support the language proposed in *House Bill 6917: An Act Concerning the Management of Solid Waste in the State* in the 2025 legislative session:

Each commercial food wholesaler or distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket, institution, resort or conference center that generates an average projected volume of not less than twenty-six tons per year of source-separated organic material, including any source-separated organic material subject to the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, shall, on or before January 1, 2026, adopt a written policy pertaining to a food donation program that: (1) Describes how the wholesaler, distributor, manufacturer, processor, supermarket, institution, resort or conference center will make best efforts to donate excess edible food, as determined by such entity, using acceptable industry standards; (2) is designed to (A) reduce such wholesaler's, distributor's, manufacturer's, processor's, supermarket's, institution's, resort's or conference center's food waste, (B) support the operations of food relief organizations, and (C) ensure that all food donated by such wholesaler, distributor, manufacturer, processor, supermarket, resort or conference center under such policy is safe and fit for human consumption; (3) provides for the education of such wholesaler's, distributor's, manufacturer's, processor's, supermarket's, institution's, resort's or conference center's management, employees and third-party vendors who manage food for such facility regarding the food distribution process and the relationship between such process and food waste; (4) requires such wholesaler, distributor, manufacturer, processor, supermarket, institution, resort or conference center to make reasonable efforts to identify, and partner with, not less than two food relief organizations for the purpose of donating excess edible food to such food relief organizations prior to any such food becoming source-separated organic material, as described in subsections (a) and (b) of this section; and (5) includes a framework to formalize and streamline such wholesaler's, distributor's, manufacturer's, processor's, supermarket's, institution's, resort's or conference center's protocols concerning food donation.