

Waste Disposal Crisis and Cost of Disposal

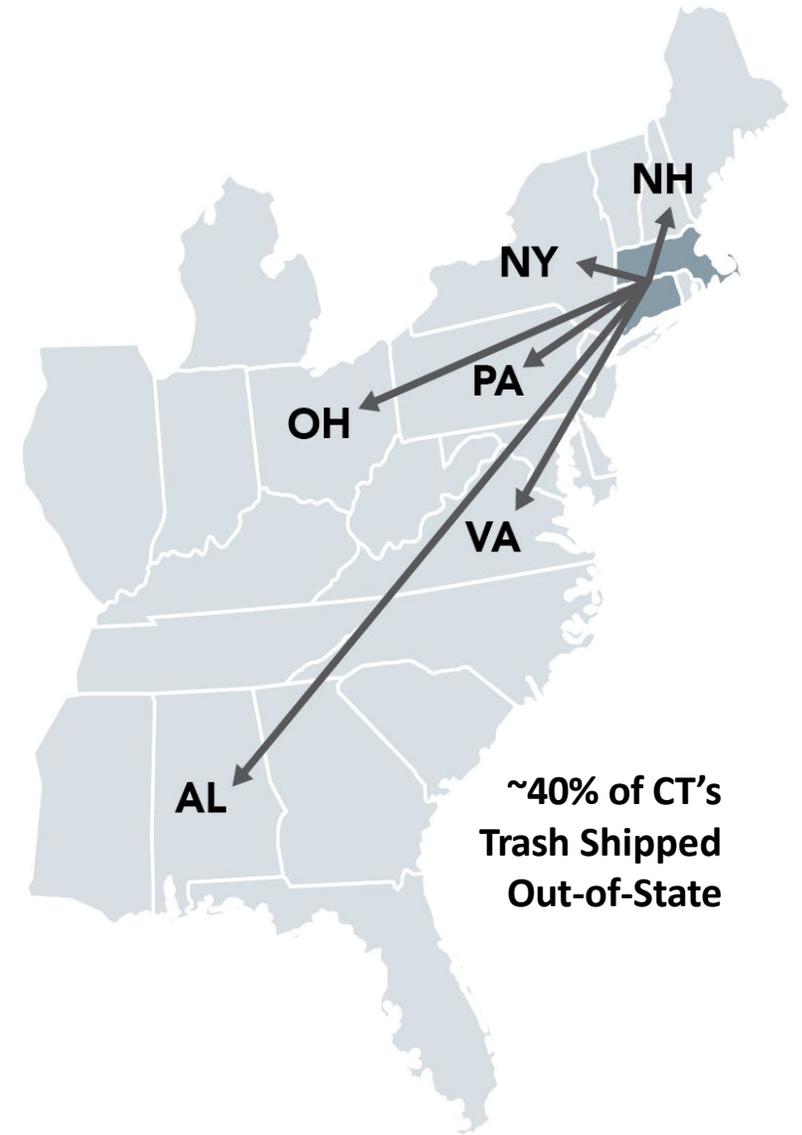
Disposal capacity is diminishing, and prices are increasing

Nationally down from 6,000 landfills in the 1990s to just over 1,000

Incineration facilities are at the end of their intended lifespan (only 1 incinerator in the US under 30 years old)

With the closure of the MIRA facility, ~40% of CT's trash – 1.7 billion pounds – is shipped out of state each year

Over the last 8 years, the cost of disposing of solid waste in New Haven has **increased 50%**, to over \$120 per ton



What is Co-collection?

New Haven was selected for a \$3.3M grant from CT DEEP to build a Co-collection sorting facility

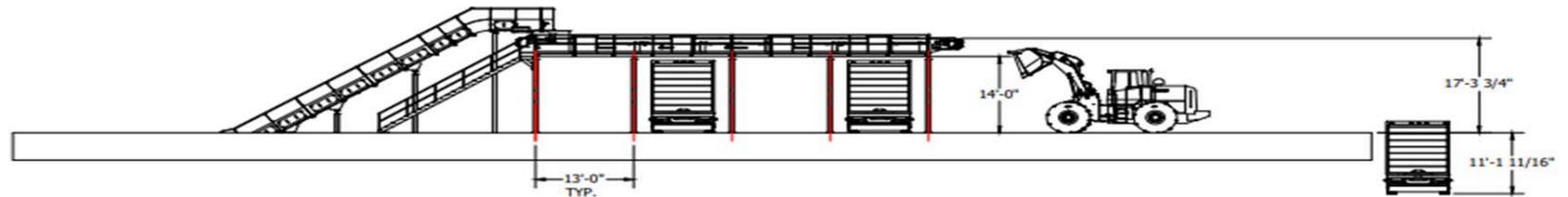
1. Residents fill official bags with food scraps or waste and place in their regular trash cart for city collection.



3. Sorted green bags sent to processing facility for composting.



2. Bags sorted at the proposed co-collection facility. Waste tipped onto the floor and moved onto a conveyor belt where food scrap bags (green) are separated from waste.



Why Co-collection?

- Clean
- Green
- Safe
- Sanitary
- Affordable



Two Elements of Co-collection: Standardization of Bags



- Inefficient collection
- Collection injuries
- Litter from untied bags / unbagged trash
- DPW Public Space Enforcement Officers are working to ensure waste is bagged



- All waste in official 13-gallon bags
- Less litter, neat appearance
- Efficient collection / less waste generation/ standard size
- Easy to enforce
- Trash is bagged
- Allotment of free bags to start (DEEP grant)
- Additional waste bags sold at set cost (DEEP grant)

Two Elements of Co-Collection: Food Scrap Diversion

Small food scrap collection bags (green) are sorted out at the transfer station. Both colors available at supermarkets and local stores.



DEEP Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Grant

Initial program expenses covered by SMM Grant \$2.9 Million over ~2 years

- Program Groundwork (June 2026 – October 2026, assumes DEEP Grant Selection in fall 2025 and award agreement signed in spring 2026)
 - Procure technical assistance provider
 - Incorporate feedback of Advisory Committee, Alders, and City Staff in finalizing program design (e.g. engagement, free bag distribution plan and ongoing bag pricing)
 - Develop marketing, education, and outreach plan
- Scaled Implementation and Education (November 2026 – March 2027)
 - Recruitment of retail stores to sell bags
 - Begin with select routes on select days (e.g. Monday and Thursday) and scale up free bag distribution
 - Resident outreach (media, events, community partners)
 - Learn by Doing approach with a network of PT and FT Curbside Coaches (prioritizing local hiring, contracted by technical assistance provider)



DEEP SMM Grant

Initial program expenses covered by SMM Grant \$2.9 Million over ~2 years

- Monitoring and Learning (February 2027 – December 2027)
 - Continued Curbside Coaching face-to-face support
 - Adjust program to resident feedback
 - Track compliance with GIS for focused education
- Transition to Permanent, Self-Sustaining Program (January 2028 – October 2028)
 - Continue education and enforcement through public space/recycling education enforcement procedures
 - Measurement of reduction in trash, increase in food scrap and recycling
 - Evaluation of program costs and ongoing public space and recycling education staffing needs



SMM Round 1 Data: Reduced waste and Increased diversion

Demonstrated behavior change through standardized bags

- Waste reduction averaged 10%
- Top 3 performers achieved 17% waste reduction

Pilot data for Seymour and Meriden is not reliable for various reasons as noted in Final Report.

Curbside	Total Waste Reduction	Breakdown of Waste Reduction	
		% Food Waste	% Other Reduction (recycling, source reduction)
Ansonia*	17%	27%	73%
Middletown***	17%	11%	89%
Stonington*	7%	79%	21%
West Hartford**	16%	67%	33%
West Haven*	9%	35%	65%
Transfer Station			
Deep River	17%	41%	59%
Kent	8%	56%	44%
Middlebury	3%	87%	13%
Newtown	7%	28%	72%
Woodbury	10%	41%	59%

Baseline - *Month to date; **Citywide from previous year; ***Statewide average estimate

Path to Sustainability

- Cleaner and Safer Streets
- Reduced Trash
- Increased and Improved Recycling
- Food Scrap Diversion
- Financially Sustainable

