



Capitol Region Council of Governments

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*Melody A. Currey, Chairman
Lyle D. Wray, Executive Director*

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Date: August 20, 2009

TO: Chief Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officials CRCOG
Mid Connecticut Municipalities
Members of the Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials

FROM: Melody A. Currey, Mayor, East Hartford and Chair, CRCOG Policy Board

RE: Regional Solid Waste Solutions

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on efforts to identify options for a new regional approach to solid waste management.

Based on analysis done to date, it appears that municipalities may be able to achieve significant cost savings and other benefits by working together to forge a new regional approach to solid waste management. However, to do so it is imperative that we act together, and quickly, to define a vision and an approach.

CRCOG released a Request for Information (RFI) for Long Term Waste Transfer, Transportation, Disposal and Processing/Recycling Services on behalf of the 70 Mid-Connecticut municipalities in June 2009 following up on the regional solid waste study that we commissioned. Our consultants have reviewed the responses and delivered to CRCOG a summary of the results. Our conclusion is that there are viable municipal solid waste disposal options going forward. In addition, it appears likely that the towns' efforts to examine regional solid waste management were a factor in the current vendor's decision to reduce tipping fee costs to Mid-Connecticut Project municipalities.

The CRCOG Executive Committee met on August 12, 2009 and instructed CRCOG staff to begin the steps to form a Solid Waste Authority under state law. We will be proceeding with this immediately. The intention is for the authority to go to RFP for solid waste services within the calendar year. To move forward with the creation of the authority, we are asking for a membership fee of \$500 from each municipality who would like to join in order to defray costs of setting up the authority. Additional costs will be necessary to develop and solicit an RFP for solid waste management services and will be at the discretion of the members of the authority.

We would also ask that each member not execute contracts or any other commitments of their future solid waste tonnage to any facility at this time. Once the new solid waste authority is set up, we will be asking each member to commit their solid waste tonnage to a negotiation process resultant from an RFP and to joint negotiation of a solid waste management contract. Again, we strongly believe that such a cooperative approach can produce significant cost savings and provide other benefits to member municipalities.

We ask that municipalities interested in joining the new authority join us for an **informational conference call on September 9, 2009 at 9am.** Please RSVP to Debby

Rihm at drihm@crcog.org or by calling (860) 522-2217 ext 213. More information on the conference call (call in number, etc.) as well as a sign-up form and other documents will be available to municipalities before September 9th and will be posted on our web site at http://www.crcog.org/municipal_ser/sw.html.

For your information, we have included in this memo a timeline of activities CRCOG has undertaken regarding Regional Solid Waste Management since last summer. To access the RFI summary from our consultants and other documents from our activities (including the solid waste study performed during the Fall of 2008), please go to the CRCOG website at: http://www.crcog.org/municipal_ser/sw.html.

We appreciate your support of our efforts to study the options and look forward to your continued involvement and support. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Lyle Wray, CRCOG's Executive Director at lwray@crcog.org or (860) 522-2217 ext 232. Thank you.

Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) Solid Waste Management Activities July 2008 – Present

- June 25, 2008** CRCOG Policy Board approves \$50,000 expenditure to study regional solid waste options for the Mid-Connecticut Project members.
- July 2008** CRCOG Solid Waste Working Group begins meeting to draft specification for consultant services to study regional solid waste options for the Mid-Connecticut Project members.
- July 14, 2008** CRCOG releases RFP for Solid Waste Management Options Study.
- Aug 5, 2008** CRCOG receives four responses to the RFP and the Solid Waste Working Group begins its evaluation.
- Aug 22, 2008** CRCOG awards consulting project for Solid Waste Management Options Study to Mid-Atlantic Solid Waste Consultants (MSW).
- Sept 5, 2008** CRCOG updates Mid-Connecticut Project members on progress and invites them to the September 24, 2009 interim report presentation by MSW.
- Sept 24, 2008** MSW provides an interim report to the CRCOG Policy Board.
- Nov 7, 2008** CRCOG updates Mid-Connecticut Project members on progress and invites them to the November 19, 2009 final report presentation by MSW.
- Nov 19, 2008** MSW presents final report findings to CRCOG Policy Board. CRCOG updates Mid-Connecticut Project members on presentation findings and sends weblink to full presentation.
- Jan-Mar 2009** CRCOG Solid Waste Working Group begins drafting specifications for a Solid Waste Services solicitation.
- May 27, 2009** CRCOG Policy Board gives permission for RFI release.

- June 3, 2009** CRCOG releases RFI for Long Term Waste Transfer, Transportation, Disposal and Processing/Recycling Services.
- July 8, 2009** CRCOG receives six responses to the RFI and MSW begins analysis.
- July 17, 2009** CRCOG updates Mid-Connecticut Project members on progress.
- July 29, 2009** MSW provides summary of RFI results.
- Aug 12, 2009** CRCOG Executive Committee instructs staff to prepare for the establishment of a regional solid waste authority.