Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

Regional Waste Authority Study

RWA STUDY: BASELINE ASSESSMENT

PREPARED BY RRS AND HDR FOR
THE LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
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Terminology

AD	Anaerobic Digestion
AMRR	Annual Municipal Recycling Report
C&D	Construction & Demolition
CCSMM	Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management
CMMS	Connecticut Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy
DEEP	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
DMIAAB	Durham Middlefield Interlocal Agreement Advisory Board
DPW	Department of Public Works
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
MIRA	Material Innovation and Recycling Authority
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
NIP	Nickel Per Nip
Organics	Food and yard waste
RiverCOG	Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments
RRF / WTE	Resources Recovery Facility, Waste-to-Energy Facility
RWA	Regional Waste Authority
TPY	Tons per Year
VRF	Volume Reduction Facility
WIWO	What's in What's Out Recyclables, Mixed Recycling

Introduction

Project Overview and Background

This report serves as the response to Task 1 of the "RiverCOG Regional Waste Authority Study," a three-phase project commissioned by the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG). The project is funded through the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Sustainable Materials Management Regional Waste Authority Grant Program[1] . This grant program provides $1.5 million in funding to support technical assistance for municipalities and regions across the state, authorized under Public Act 21-2, June Special Session, Section 308.

The program is designed to assist municipalities and regional entities evaluate the feasibility of forming new regional waste authorities (RWAs) or expanding existing ones. Grant funds may be used to explore interest among municipalities, identify governance models, and support planning efforts that align with the state's long-term solid waste management and sustainability goals.

This RiverCOG RWA study is intended to evaluate and propose solutions for municipal solid waste (MSW) and recycling disposal in the region following the planned dissolution of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) in 2025, as well as the expiration of existing waste disposal contracts in 2027.

To address this challenge, RiverCOG engaged a consulting team consisting of Resource Recycling Systems, Inc. (RRS) and HDR. The study encompasses all 17 municipalities within the RiverCOG region, with particular focus on the 11 municipalities currently utilizing the MIRA facility (*), in Essex for waste disposal. These municipalities are:

- Chester*, Clinton*, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham*, East Haddam*, East Hampton, Essex*, Haddam*, Killingworth*, Lyme*, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Lyme*, Old Saybrook*, Portland, Westbrook*.

While the primary objective of this study is to develop facility, organizational, and operational solutions to ensure the continued cost-effective management of solid waste and recycling, the consultants will also explore additional opportunities for regional waste diversion, product stewardship, and enhanced enforcement mechanisms. These elements are intended to support the establishment of a future RWA, helping the region to address broader sustainability and waste management challenges.

[1] Connecticut DEEP, *Regional Waste Authority Grant Program*, https://portal.ct.gov/deep/business-and-financial-assistance/grants-financial-assistance/regional-waste-authority-grant-program

What is an RWA?

A regional waste authority, or RWA, is a municipal entity established under Section 7-273aa-bb of the Connecticut General Statutes to support the development and management of solid waste disposal and resource recovery programs in accordance with the state's solid waste management plan. An RWA enables municipalities to collaborate on waste management solutions through regional coordination and shared governance. Communities that choose to create or join an authority typically do so by adopting local ordinances or interlocal agreements, contributing dues or fees, and granting the authority the power to jointly manage waste disposal and recycling services on their behalf. This regional model promotes cost-sharing and economies of scale, often leading to greater efficiency and cost savings for participating towns.

By taking a regional approach, RWAs can provide significant benefits to the communities they serve. They can offer joint procurement opportunities that help reduce costs for services such as waste transport, disposal, and recycling, while also leveraging economies of scale to lower per-ton processing costs and improve the efficiency of collection routes. In addition, RWAs can develop consistent education and outreach programs across member towns, harmonizing messaging about recycling and waste reduction to minimize resident confusion and encourage higher participation. They also serve as a liaison between municipalities and the State, supporting regional compliance with DEEP and regulatory requirements.

Municipalities can create or join an existing regional waste authority. An RWA can be as large or as small as needed by the municipalities. For example, in Connecticut, the New Haven Solid Waste & Recycling Authority contains only the City of New Haven; however, the Housatonic Resources Recover Authority (HRRA) contains 14 towns. Once formed, RWAs are granted broad powers under CGS §7-273bb, including the ability to establish offices and hire staff; charge user fees for services; purchase, lease, or rent property as needed; construct, acquire, or improve waste management infrastructure; and own, operate, and maintain solid waste-related facilities.

RWAs can also offer a wide range of services and administrative functions to support member towns, including:

1. Managing hauler registration and fee collection on behalf of member towns
2. Assisting towns with compliance, such as filing required reports to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)
3. Coordinating public outreach and education programs to raise awareness about waste management best practices
4. Implementing recycling and diversion programs to reduce waste and promote sustainability

5. Facilitating household hazardous waste (HHW) collection and disposal programs
6. Negotiating regional agreements for the management of household hazardous waste, textiles, and other specialized recycling programs
7. Applying for state and federal grants to offset costs for member municipalities
8. Funding shared services such as recycling coordinators to streamline operations across towns

By pooling resources and expertise, an RWA can provide more efficient and cost-effective waste management solutions, enabling participating towns to address challenges more effectively and meet evolving state and federal waste diversion goals. Through this study, the RiverCOG towns will be presented with opportunities to consider for a more regionalized approach to waste management.

Purpose & Objectives of the Comprehensive RWA Study

Under the terms of the DEEP contract, the project is organized into the following four tasks:

- **Task 1: Comprehensive RWA Study**
  Evaluate the current solid waste infrastructure and services in the RiverCOG region; assess municipal interest in regional collaboration; explore services an RWA could offer; and identify potential barriers to implementation.
- **Task 2: Facility Profiles and Site Assessments (Re-scoped)**
  Task 2 was originally intended to assess the structural, engineering, and operational viability of the existing MIRA Transfer Station in Essex as a potential future regional facility. The task has since been re-scoped to focus on developing comprehensive profiles for all 15 RiverCOG municipal transfer stations, with technical site assessments conducted at six selected facilities. These assessments will support the identification of opportunities for regional collaboration and improved services across each of the region's 17 municipalities.
- **Task 3: Public Engagement and Presentation of Findings**
  Share the findings and recommendations from Task 1 while facilitating community feedback.
- **Task 4: Implementation, RWA Establishment/Startup**
  Once authorized, this task will lay the technical and legal groundwork for establishing a regional waste authority. It will build on the findings of Tasks 1, 2, and 3 and will be shaped by the level of municipal interest and preferred governance structures.

TASK 1 APPROACH

Task 1 serves as the foundation of the broader study by establishing a clear understanding of current conditions, municipal priorities, and the potential for regional collaboration. The primary objectives of Task 1 are to:

- Inventory and assess the existing solid waste and recycling infrastructure within the RiverCOG region
- Evaluate the current waste management systems and services used by member municipalities
- Engage municipal leaders to gauge interest in regional waste authority models
- Identify possible services that a future RWA could provide
- Analyze barriers to implementation across all or part of the RiverCOG municipalities

To address these goals, the consultant team undertook a robust, data-driven analysis focused on infrastructure, services, and municipal operations throughout the RiverCOG municipalities. This report presents the findings of that technical assessment. As the project progresses, these findings will be incorporated into a final study that includes an inventory of existing assets, cost-benefit comparisons of potential regional service models, and an evaluation of the operational and environmental impacts of establishing a regional waste authority.

Key components of the Task 1 approach included:

- **Infrastructure and System Inventory:**
  A detailed profile of waste and recycling systems across the region was developed through interviews, municipal data collection, and state-level datasets and documentation review. This system profile identifies existing facilities, hauling arrangements, tonnage data, and programmatic elements.
- **Preliminary Stakeholder Input:**
  Initial engagement with municipal officials and staff helped inform the current state analysis and identify areas of interest or concern related to regionalization.
- **Systems Assessment and Scenario Analysis – Upcoming Task 1 Activities:**
  As a next step in Task 1, the consultant team will conduct a comparative evaluation of existing systems and potential regional solutions. This will include cost-benefit analyses of various scenarios, such as maintaining the current system ("no-build") versus adopting regional service models, taking into account financial efficiency, operational feasibility, and environmental impacts such as increased waste diversion.
- **Recommendations and Strategic Options – Upcoming Task 1 Activities:**
  Building on the scenario analysis, the consultant team will develop preliminary

recommendations outlining potential strategic paths forward. These may include voluntary collaboration among municipalities, partial or full formation of a regional waste authority, and associated financial and governance frameworks.

While this report focuses on the analytical findings of Task 1, it represents only the first phase of a broader decision-making process. Future phases of this study will include in-depth stakeholder engagement, additional coordination with municipal leaders, and opportunities for public input and comment. These next steps are essential to refine the preferred path forward and to ensure that any regional waste authority model reflects the goals and priorities of the communities it will serve.

Background and Evolving Context of Solid Waste Management in Connecticut

STATEWIDE STRATEGY AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In its 2016 Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS), DEEP announced a goal to reach a 60% waste diversion rate (waste diverted from landfill and incineration) by 2024. To meet this goal, the state identified the need to reduce municipal solid waste (MSW) generation by 360,000 tons annually, divert 1.46 million annual tons via reuse, recycling or composting, and manage an additional 300,000 tons of material through anerobic digestion that would otherwise be disposed of. As identified in the 2016 plan, meeting these metrics would still leave 1.48 million tons of MSW to be disposed of via waste-to-energy or landfill[2]. DEEP noted that meeting these conditions would allow approximately 90% of Connecticut's MSW to be managed in-state[3].

However, the 2022 closure of a fundamental disposal facility, the MIRA Hartford Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) which processed 500k-700k tons of MSW annually[4], resulted in the loss of nearly one-third of Connecticut's in-state disposal capacity. In response, DEEP amended the CMMS in 2023 with the goal of restoring the state's self-sufficiency in waste management.

The updated strategy prioritizes maximizing diversion and investing in disposal infrastructure. Key initiatives include implementation of extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation for packaging and expanding food waste diversion programs in addition to pre-existing EPR legislation for electronic waste (2007), paint (2011), mattresses (2013), mercury thermostats (2014), gas cylinders (2022), and

[2] Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, 2016 Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy; The Connecticut Solid Waste Management Plan, https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/waste_management_and_disposal/solid_waste_management_plan/cmmsfinaladoptedcomprehensivematerialsmanagementstrategypdf.pdf?rev=19c414dbac054fa78dab6f5d70699bfb&hash=75F1D8DE80FA40AE32807E6BF7EE090C

[3] Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection 2023 Solid Waste Disposal & Diversion Report, https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/reduce_reuse_recycle/data/2023/diversion_report_2025-final.pdf?rev=78610edcd6684ae59b1f206c1d05cbee&hash=F926D538AA54875F9F1BB76259695F1D#:~:text=Of%20the%20MSW%20generated%2C%20Connecticut,from%20the%20statutory%202005%20baseline.

[4] Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection 2023 Solid Waste Disposal & Diversion Report, https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/reduce_reuse_recycle/data/2023/diversion_report_2025-final.pdf?rev=78610edcd6684ae59b1f206c1d05cbee&hash=F926D538AA54875F9F1BB76259695F1D#:~:text=Of%20the%20MSW%20generated%2C%20Connecticut,from%20the%20statutory%202005%20baseline.

tires (2023). While these efforts have led to some improvement, the statewide diversion rate only increased from 35% in 2016 to 41% in 2023[5], still falling short of the state's 60% target set for January 1, 2024.

As DEEP had previously forecast, the closure of the MIRA Hartford facility triggered a broader shift in the waste system. In 2023, 42% of Connecticut's MSW was exported out of state for disposal[6]. Statewide, exported MSW traveled an estimated average of 350+ miles per ton to landfills and RRFs in Alabama, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The majority of exported MSW was received by landfills in Pennsylvania and Ohio[7].

PRIVATIZATION AND INDUSTRY CONSOLIDATION

The reduction of in-state disposal capacity and self-sufficiency coincides with significant consolidation in the private waste industry. Key developments include:

- The merger of Wheelabrator Technologies, Tunnel Hill Partners, and City Carting & Recycling to form WIN Waste Innovations, which now owns the Bridgeport and Lisbon waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities and transfer stations in Milford and Norwalk. WIN Waste's ownership of out-of-state landfill capacity in Ohio and Georgia positions it to expand its regional influence over waste collection and transfer infrastructure.
    - In 2023, ~8% of all RiverCOG MSW disposed was sent to WIN Waste Innovations' Bridgeport RRF and landfills in Ohio. Further details on 2023 disposal destinations are in the Appendix.
- Casella Waste Systems acquired Willimantic Waste Paper, a major provider in eastern Connecticut with residential and commercial hauling operations, transfer stations, and a single-stream recycling facility among its portfolio.
    - The Casella Willimantic MRF received only 6.6% of RiverCOG mixed recyclables in 2023, with the majority of materials going to Murphy Road Recycling locations. Further details on 2023 recycling destinations are in the Appendix.

[5] Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection 2023 Solid Waste Disposal & Diversion Report, https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/reduce_reuse_recycle/data/2023/diversion_report_2025-final.pdf?rev=78610edcd6684ae59b1f206c1d05cbee&hash=F926D538AA54875F9F1BB76259695F1D#:~:text=Of%20the%20MSW%20generated%2C%20Connecticut,from%20the%20statutory%202005%20baseline.

[6] Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection 2023 Solid Waste Disposal & Diversion Report, https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/reduce_reuse_recycle/data/2023/diversion_report_2025-final.pdf?rev=78610edcd6684ae59b1f206c1d05cbee&hash=F926D538AA54875F9F1BB76259695F1D#:~:text=Of%20the%20MSW%20generated%2C%20Connecticut,from%20the%20statutory%202005%20baseline.

[7] Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection 2023 Solid Waste Disposal & Diversion Report, https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/reduce_reuse_recycle/data/2023/diversion_report_2025-final.pdf?rev=78610edcd6684ae59b1f206c1d05cbee&hash=F926D538AA54875F9F1BB76259695F1D#:~:text=Of%20the%20MSW%20generated%2C%20Connecticut,from%20the%20statutory%202005%20baseline.

- Other private haulers, such as USA Waste and Recycling, which also operates as Automated Material Handling, Capitol Recycling, and Murphy Road Recycling, continue to acquire local transfer and recycling facilities, including a location at 80 Industrial Park Road, Middletown.
    - Murphy Road Recycling facilities received ~82% of RiverCOG mixed recyclables in 2023. Further details on 2023 recycling destinations are in the Appendix.

While these trends have introduced new efficiencies, they also raise concerns about a lack of market competition and a decrease in municipal negotiating power, particularly for small- and mid-sized towns.

Methodology and Assumptions

At the outset of this study, DEEP provided a comprehensive and highly valuable dataset to support the analysis of the region's waste system. This dataset represents the most recent full year of available information, Fiscal Year 2022–2023 (July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023), hereafter referred to as FY 2023 or simply "2023." The DEEP dataset includes detailed information on municipal solid waste disposal and recycling volumes reported through multiple channels, offering a foundational view of regional waste flows. At the time of this report, DEEP is still processing the dataset encompassing Fiscal Year 2023-2024; this data was not available to influence this report but will be incorporated in future tasks as the dataset is released.

Disposal information in the DEEP dataset were aggregated from a combination of sources, including reports from in-state resource recovery facilities (RRFs) and multi-town transfer stations, as well as submissions through the Annual Municipal Recycling Report (AMRR) system for municipalities that transfer waste directly out of state, bypassing in-state permitted facilities. Recycling data was compiled from in-state recycling and composting facility reports—submitted by the private sector—and further supplemented with municipal reports of additional recycling efforts. DEEP undertook a data-cleaning process to remove instances of double-counting, such as materials reported by both a municipality and a receiving facility. However, certain limitations remain. Some permitted facilities do not consistently identify the originating municipality for all materials, and reporting inaccuracies can result from typographical errors or misclassification.

In parallel with the DEEP dataset, RiverCOG municipal representatives were engaged through a series of interviews and data requests to provide localized insights into their communities' waste and recycling programs. These interviews captured both qualitative and quantitative information, including operational details about municipal transfer stations and recycling centers, types and volumes of materials handled, and the presence or absence of curbside collection services. Sixteen of seventeen municipalities responded to these requests and provided detailed, current information that added valuable context to the DEEP dataset.

To further supplement the analysis, many towns also provided copies of their Fiscal Year 2023–2024 (FY 2024) AMRR, reflecting the subsequent year's recycling and disposal activities. Both the aggregated FY 2023 dataset provided by DEEP and the town-provided municipal-level reports for FY 2024 are referenced throughout this report where applicable and are clearly labeled to distinguish between the two. Together, these data sources form a well-rounded basis for evaluating the current state of the regional waste system and exploring opportunities for enhanced coordination and service delivery through a potential regional waste authority or other collaborative models.

Table 1: Task 1 Interview Participants

TOWN	INTERVIEWEE NAME(S)	INTERVIEWEE TITLE(S)
Chester	Jenny Watrous	Assistant to the First Selectman
Clinton	Todd Hajek	Public Works Director
Cromwell	Anthony Salvatore Jr.	Recycling Center Supervisor
Deep River	Carol Doak-Jones Eric Waltke	First Selectman Public Works Director
Durham / Middlefield	Dom DelVecchio	Durham Middlefield Interlocal Agreement Advisory Board
East Haddam	Irene Haines Michele Velez	First Selectman Director of Public Works
East Hampton	David Cox Matthew Walsh	Town Manager Director of Public Works
Essex	*Declined Interview*	*Declined Interview*
Haddam	Christopher Corsa	Public Works
Killingworth	Eric Couture	First Selectman
Lyme	David Lahm	First Selectman
Middletown	Lisa Liesener	Department of Public Works
Old Lyme	Martha Shoemaker John Flick Fred Behringer	First Selectman Waste and Recycling Committee Waste and Recycling Committee
Old Saybrook	Carl Fortuna	First Selectman
Portland	Michael Pelton	First Selectman
Westbrook	John Hall John Riggio	First Selectman Director of Public Works

RiverCOG Overview

DEMOGRAPHICS

The RiverCOG region's 17 municipalities have a combined estimated population of 175,000 residents spread across 424 square miles, yielding an average population density of about 463 people per square mile. Middletown is the region's most populous municipality, home to nearly 48,000 residents, roughly 27% of the total population. It also stands out in terms of housing composition, with approximately 10,000 single-family homes and 12,000 multi-family units, making it the only town in the region where the number of multi-family housing units matches single-family (49.6% to 50.4%).

In contrast, the region's more rural towns such as Lyme, which has the lowest population and only 10 multi-family units (less than 1% of its housing stock), are characterized by low population densities, predominantly single-family housing, and higher per capita incomes. Towns like Durham, Lyme, Killingworth, and Old Lyme rank highest in median household income for 2023, while communities such as Middletown, Westbrook and Deep River, rank lowest, reflecting the socio-economic diversity within the region.

These demographic and housing patterns have important implications for solid waste planning. More densely populated and housing-diverse communities like Cromwell and Middletown may require more complex and frequent waste collection systems to accommodate higher waste volumes and the logistical challenges associated with servicing multi-family dwellings. Conversely, the lower-density, single-family-dominant towns may benefit from more traditional collection models but face higher per capita service costs due to geographic dispersion.

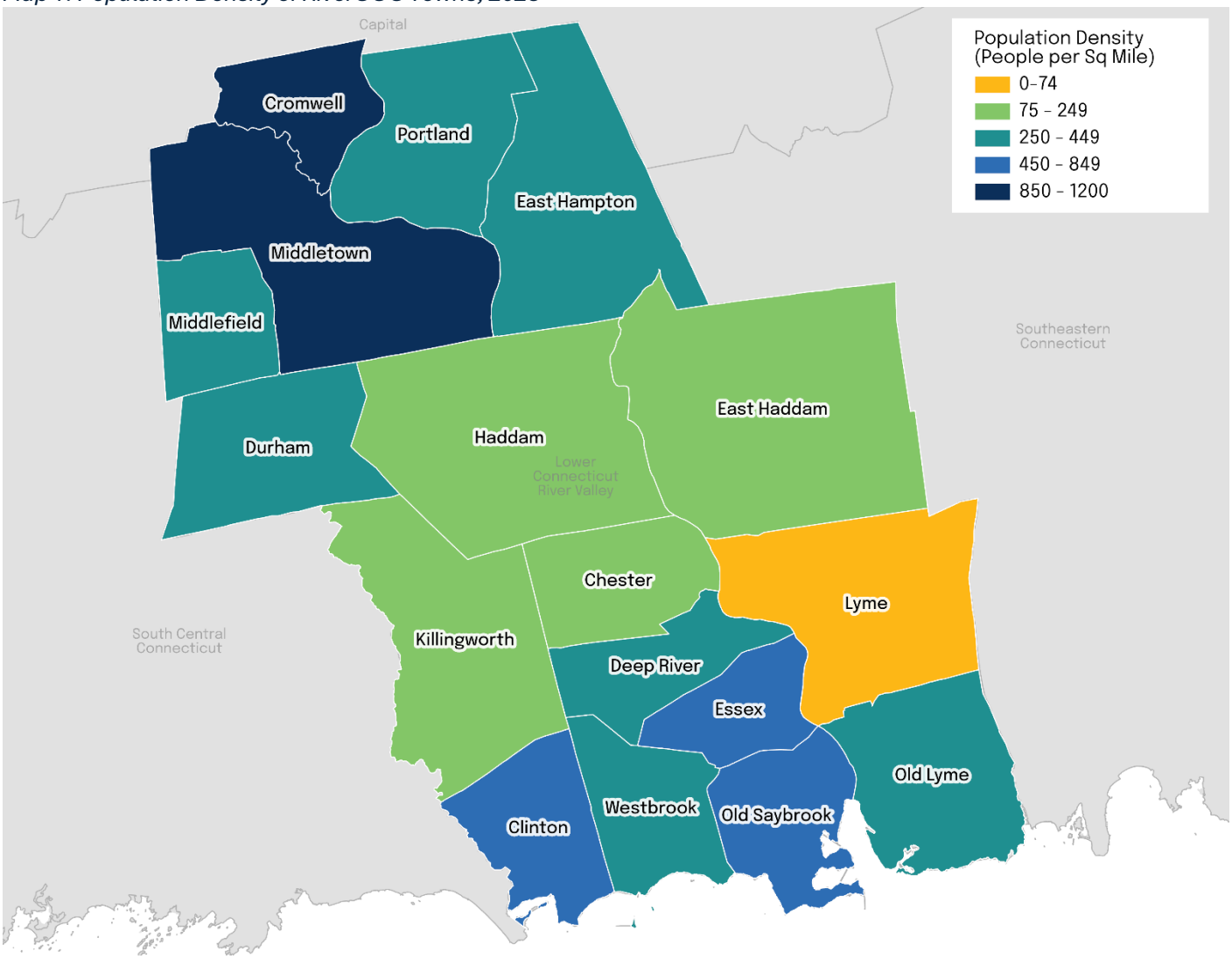
Table 2: RiverCOG Population Demographics, 2023

	2023 POPULATION[8]	LAND AREA SQUARE MILEAGE	POPULATION DENSITY *(PEOPLE PER SQ MILE)*	2023 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	POVERTY RATE	2023 # OF SINGLE-UNIT HOUSING UNITS	2023 # OF MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING UNITS	2023 TOTAL # OF HOUSING UNITS
Chester	3,786	16	237	$ 94,570	12%	1,329	350	1,679
Clinton	13,317	16	832	$ 116,023	6%	5,517	872	6,389
Cromwell	14,301	12	1,192	$ 104,458	6%	4,611	1,675	6,286
Deep River	4,432	14	317	$ 86,995	6%	1,561	608	2,169
Durham	7,182	24	299	$ 151,875	4%	2,931	149	3,080
East Haddam	8,934	54	165	$ 105,866	5%	3,908	386	4,294
East Hampton	12,834	36	357	$ 118,775	5%	4,626	759	5,385
Essex	6,766	10	677	$ 100,767	3%	2,547	781	3,328
Haddam	8,562	44	195	$ 115,833	3%	3,324	200	3,524

[8] 2023 Demographic data presented in this table was provided by RiverCOG, originally sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.

Killingworth	6,219	35	178	$	132,739	4%	2,700	13	2,713
Lyme	2,356	32	74	$	139,000	2%	1,145	0	1,145
Middlefield	4,236	13	326	$	113,750	6%	1,819	114	1,933
Middletown	47,646	41	1,162	$	73,979	12%	10,997	11,168	22,165
Old Lyme	7,644	23	332	$	126,904	2%	4,220	337	4,557
Old Saybrook	10,515	15	701	$	119,500	5%	5,471	512	5,983
Portland	9,421	23	410	$	118,955	5%	3,345	616	3,961
Westbrook	6,832	16	427	$	76,172	6%	3,613	567	4,180
TOTAL	**174,983**	**424**					**63,664**	**19,107**	**82,771**
AVERAGE			***463***	***$***	***111,539***	***5%***			

Map 1: Population Density of RiverCOG Towns, 2023[9]



[9] This map was created with the RiverCOG-provided demographic dataset.

RiverCOG Waste System Performance

WASTE GENERATION AND DISPOSAL VOLUMES

The table below presents FY 2023 solid waste data for municipalities within the RiverCOG region. This includes reported tonnages for municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal, standard recyclables (WIWO), non-standard recyclables (non-WIWO), compostable materials, total diverted waste, and overall waste generation. The dataset is based on tonnage reports submitted to DEEP by municipalities, permitted facilities, and/or their contracted haulers. For clarity, WIWO (What's In, What's Out) refers to standard materials accepted in Connecticut's single-stream recycling program, typically including paper, cardboard, glass containers, metal cans, and plastics labeled #1 and #2. Non-WIWO recyclables refer to other diverted materials not part of the standard stream, such as scrap metal, textiles, electronics, paint, mattresses, and plastic films. Including both WIWO and non-WIWO categories helps present a more complete picture of each municipality's diversion practices.

It is important to note that the tonnages attributed to each municipality should not be interpreted as exact or definitive. Rather, they are provided to support regional planning and to offer a general understanding of local waste generation patterns. There are several nuances and limitations in the dataset that can affect the accuracy of community-level figures. For example, Chester does not operate its own transfer station but partners with the neighboring town of Deep River for the handling of certain waste streams. Similarly, Durham and Middlefield share solid waste resources and services, and the way their disposal volumes are allocated may not precisely reflect actual usage by each town. In some cases, permitted facilities do not consistently identify the originating municipality of materials, and reporting practices vary.

Additionally, there are gaps and inconsistencies in the dataset submitted to DEEP. Some municipalities may not have submitted complete Annual Municipal Recycling Reports (AMRRs), and in some instances, materials may be transported directly out of state without full documentation. Despite these limitations, the dataset provides a useful baseline for evaluating current waste management efforts and identifying opportunities for regional collaboration. Note that towns which did not submit AMRRs for FY 2023 are marked with an asterisk; for these towns recycling tonnage, diversion rates, and pounds diverted per capita are likely underestimated due to missing data.

Using the best-available data, the table below represents the total reported tonnage for each municipality as submitted to DEEP for FY 2023, along with the calculated pounds generated and diverted per household, and the overall diversion rate in each town. Chart 1 illustrates the pounds of waste disposed and pounds diverted per capita for each municipality during that year.

Chart 2 reflects a breakdown of all reported material generated within the COG by broad disposal method (recycled, composted or disposed of via landfill or WTE). Charts 3 and 4 further break down the volume recycled into two categories: Mixed Recycling (WIWO) and Additional Recycling (Non-WIWO), identifying the specific material types included in each. This information is important for

understanding the relative volumes of materials generated across the region and the current methods used for disposal and diversion.

It is important to recognize that per capita figures (pounds per person) can be influenced by a range of local factors. For instance, communities with higher levels of commercial or institutional activity, such as retail centers, schools, or service industries, often report higher waste generation due to non-residential source contributing to the total tonnage. In addition, socioeconomic characteristics, housing density, and consumption patterns can all affect local waste generation and diversion performance, meaning that per capita results should be interpreted as indicative rather than definitive measures of household behavior.

Furthermore, towns that share waste infrastructure and services, for example Deep River sharing some services with Chester, will have their reported per capita data influenced by how tonnage from shared facilities is allocated. However, DEEP adjusts the reported data in certain cases, such as for the shared transfer station between Durham and Middlefield, where total tonnage is divided between the two towns based on population. This adjustment helps improve comparability between municipalities, though similar adjustments may not be available in all cases. Throughout this report, the consultant team has used the aggregated dataset provided by DEEP without making any adjustments or modifications. Accordingly, all findings and analyses presented should be understood as being based on reported data.

Table 3: Waste Generation and Disposal Per Capita, FY 2023[10]

TOWNS	TOTAL TONS MSW DISPOSED	TOTAL TONS RECYCLING	TOTAL TONS COMPOSTABLE	TOTAL TONS GENERATED	2023 POPULATION	2023 TOTAL # OF HOUSING UNITS (HU)	TOTAL LBS GENERATED PER HU/YEAR	LBS DISPOSED PER HU/YEAR	LBS DIVERTED PER HU/YEAR	DIVERSION RATE
Chester	872	85	-	958	3,786	1,679	1,141	1,039	102	8.9%
Clinton	4,221	503	190	4,914	13,317	6,389	1,538	1,321	217	14.1%
Cromwell*	10,947	1,352	25	12,324	14,301	6,286	3,921	3,483	438	11.2%
Deep River	11,300	2,868	326	14,495	4,432	2,169	13,365	10,420	2,946	22%
Durham[11]	2,282	76	225	2,584	7,182	3,080	1,678	1,482	196	11.7%
East Haddam*	3,449	616	-	4,065	8,934	4,294	1,894	1,606	287	15.2%
East Hampton	5,818	1,338	482	7,638	12,834	5,385	2,837	2,161	676	23.8%
Essex	11,073	12,549	1,987	25,609	6,766	3,328	15,390	6,655	8,735	56.8%
Haddam	2,572	1,201	70	3,842	8,562	3,524	2,181	1,460	721	33.1%
Killingworth	1,283	538	833	2,654	6,219	2,713	1,956	946	1,011	51.7%
Lyme*	572	4	-	576	2,356	1,145	1,006	999	7	0.7%
Middlefield[12]	636	108	151	895	4,236	1,933	926	658	268	29%
Middletown	29,517	6,334	8,725	44,576	47,646	22,165	4,022	2,663	1,359	33.8%
Old Lyme*	1,482	157	11	1,650	7,644	4,557	724	651	74	10.2%
Old Saybrook	6,051	923	4	6,977	10,515	5,983	2,332	2,023	310	13.3%
Portland*	4,498	1,307	1	5,806	9,421	3,961	2,931	2,271	660	22.5%
Westbrook	2,301	78	190	2,568	6,832	4,180	1,229	1,101	128	10.4%
Total	**98,876**	**30,036**	**13,219**	**142,131**	**174,983**	**82,771**				
Average							***3,475***	***2,408***	***1,067***	

***Did NOT submit AMRR for the indicated year**
(-) Not reported

[10] Data for this table compiled from the DEEP-provided aggregated dataset and represents tonnage as-reported. Population demographics provided by RiverCOG.

[11] Durham and Middlefield share a transfer station; DEEP allocates tonnage to each town based on population

[12] Durham and Middlefield share a transfer station; DEEP allocates tonnage to each town based on population.

Chart 1: Per Capita Generation and Disposal by Town, 2023[13]

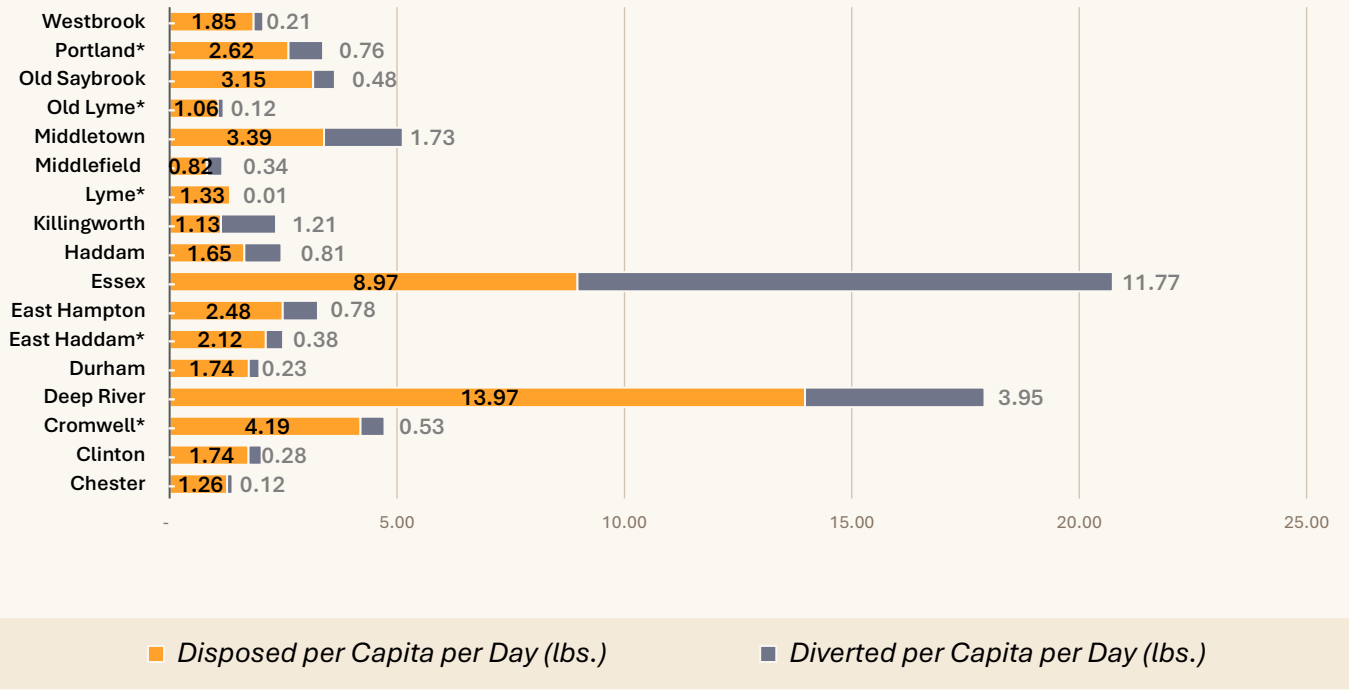
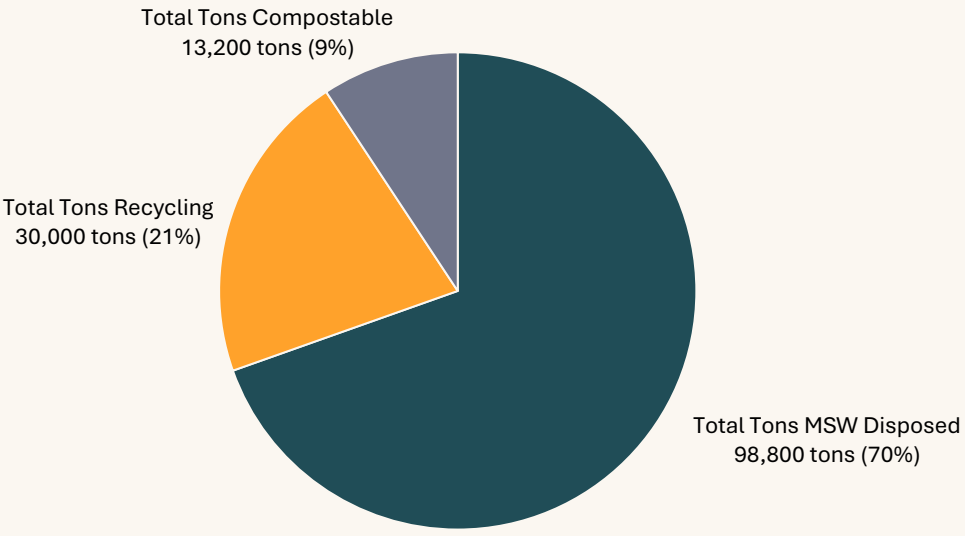


Chart 2: Total RiverCOG Material by Disposal Method, 2023[14]



[13]Data for this chart compiled from the DEEP-provided aggregated dataset and population demographics provided by RiverCOG.

[14] Chart compiled from the DEEP-provided aggregated dataset.

Chart 3: RiverCOG Mixed Recycling (WIWO) by Material Type in Tons, 2023[15]

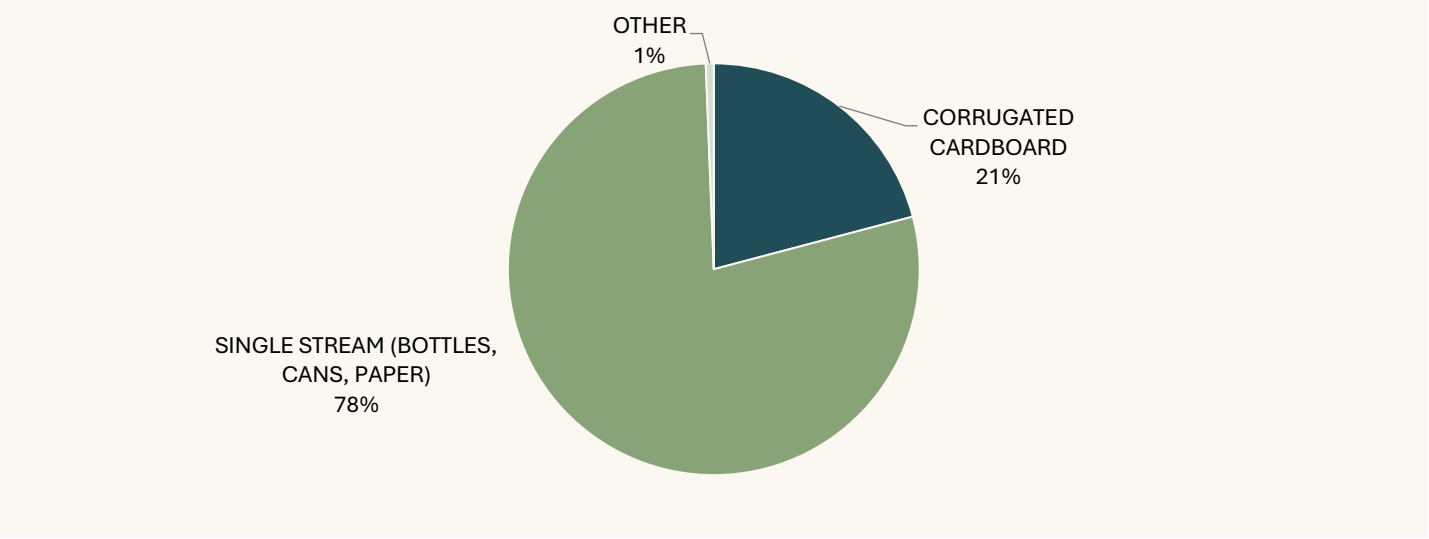
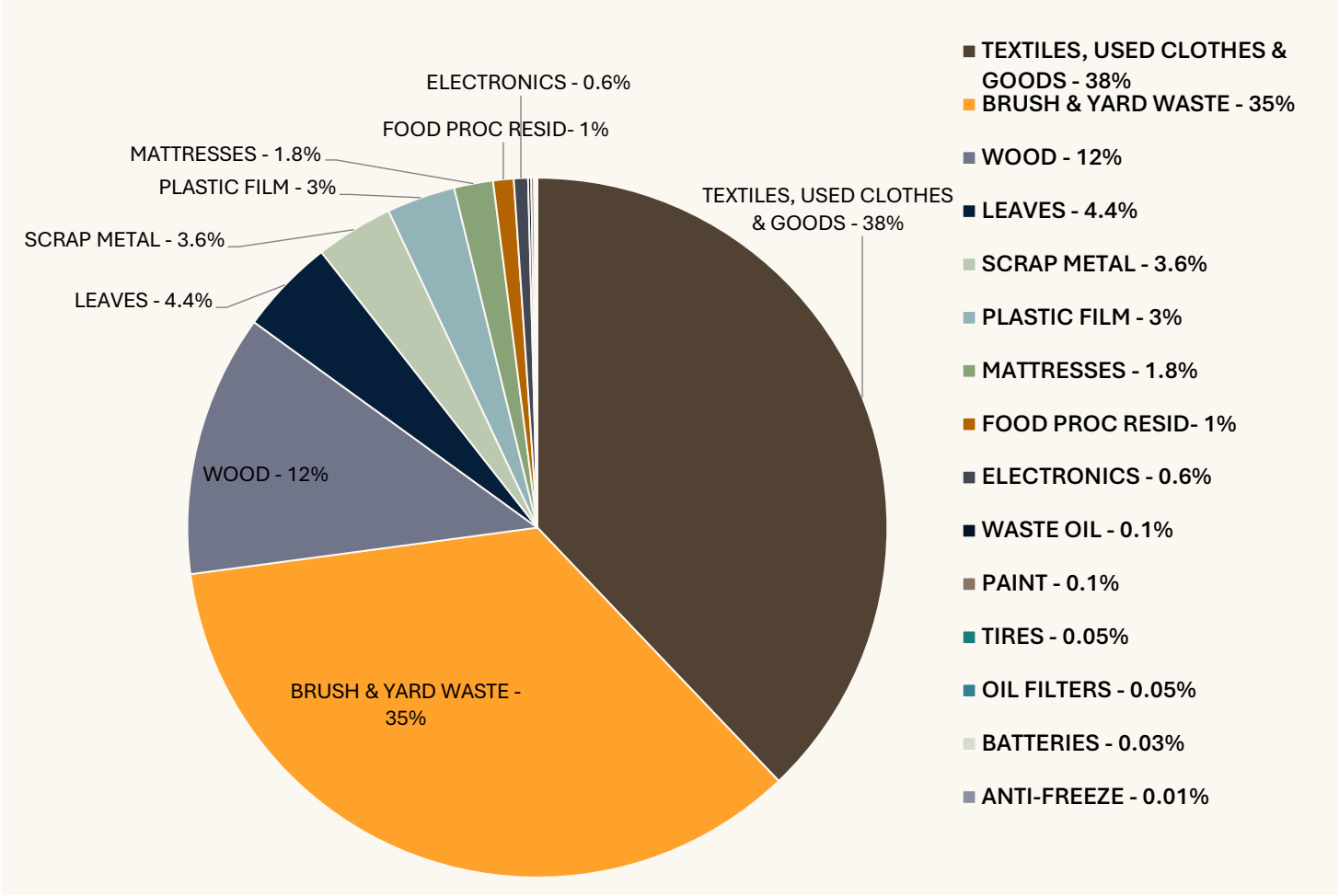


Chart 4: RiverCOG Additional Recycling (Non-WIWO) by Material Type in Tons, 2023[16]



[15] Chart compiled from the DEEP-provided aggregated dataset.

[16] Chart compiled from the DEEP-provided aggregated dataset.

Existing Conditions

Transfer Station and Drop-Off Overview

Image 1: Clinton Transfer Station

RiverCOG is home to 15 town-operated transfer stations (identified in Table 4) that provide broad services for solid waste management to its residents. As part of this study, each town was invited to participate in an interview with the project team to discuss its transfer station operations, and services provided to residents. All towns except Essex accepted the invitation. The interviews also included discussing potential challenges and opportunities if RiverCOG were to form an RWA.

Each transfer station is unique, but many provide similar services and accept an array of items for recycling and disposal. The 15 town-operated transfer stations function as residential drop-off locations where residents can bring materials, including MSW, recyclables, and more, for proper management. Nine transfer stations accept MSW, while others only accept specific materials. Some residents use the transfer stations as their primary source for MSW disposal and do not have MSW curbside collection. Transfer stations do not track how many residents use their facility for MSW disposal. Materials collected at transfer stations are then hauled to other facilities, including larger

regional transfer stations (e.g., MIRA Transfer Station (located in Essex)) for MSW as well as material recovery facilities (MRFs), recycling end markets, composting facilities, and more.

Several towns collaborate to operate shared transfer stations. The towns of Durham and Middlefield share a transfer station, which is overseen by the Durham Middlefield Interlocal Agreement Advisory Board (DMIAAB). Residents of Chester are able to use Deep River's transfer station for bulky waste only.

Commercial waste haulers rarely utilize the town-operated transfer stations, and in most cases, commercial waste is not accepted. Some towns impose higher fees for commercial users. For example, East Hampton does not charge residents a fee for brush, but commercial haulers are charged between $5-$40/load depending on the load size. Lyme also charges $10-35/load to commercial contractors for loads of brush.

Table 4 summarizes characteristics about each town's transfer station, including residential and commercial drop-off abilities, hours of operation, property size, and permit/sticker requirements. Each town's transfer station has specific operating hours and access requirements for residents and commercial entities (for those that allow commercial customers to use the facilities). Most facilities require residents to obtain a permit or sticker annually to use the site. Some towns charge for the annual permit, while others charge fees for disposing of specific items. Chester does not have a transfer station, and Essex's Transfer Station did not participate in stakeholder interviews.

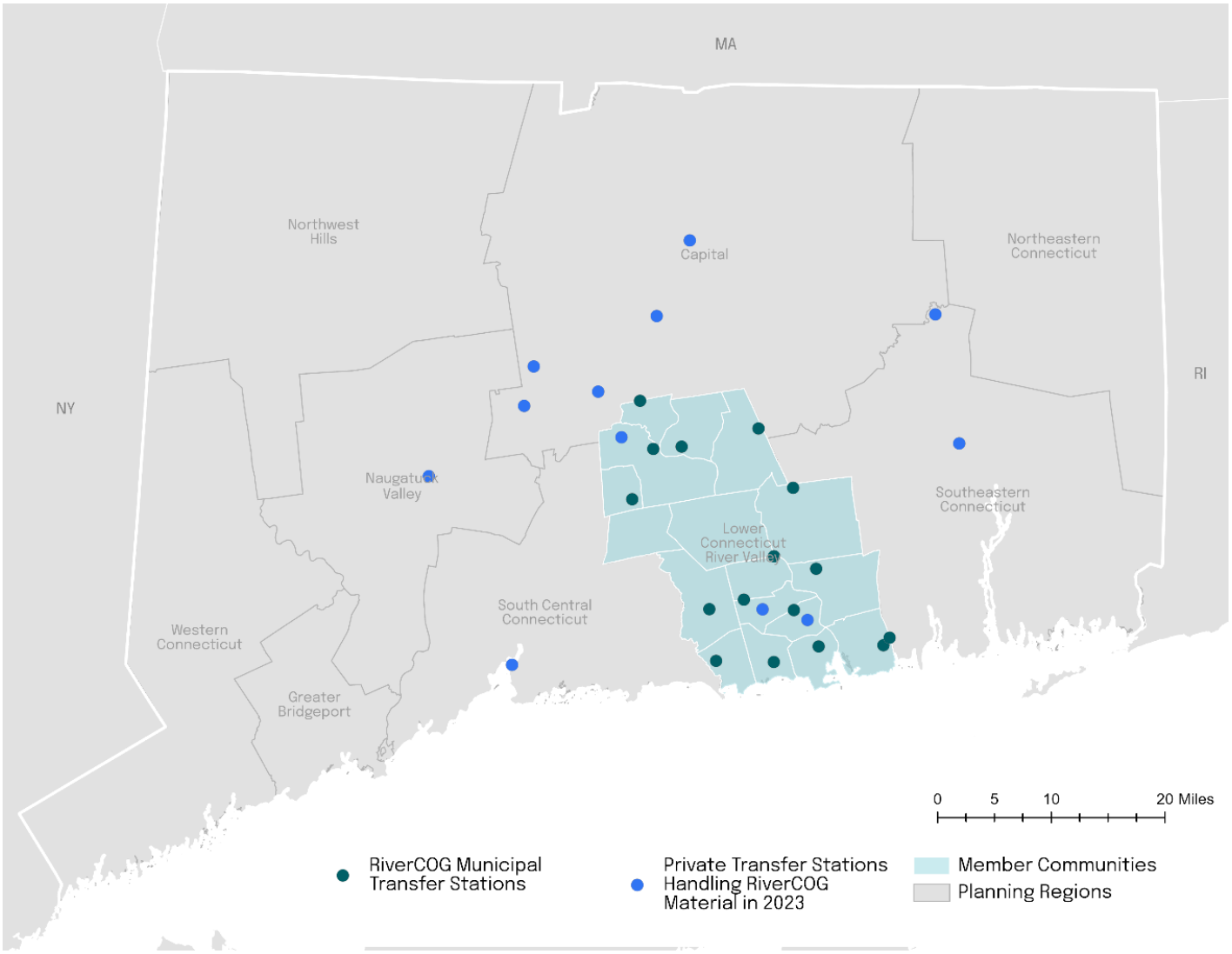
Table 4: Facility Characteristics

FACILITY	RESIDENTIAL DROP-OFF (Y/N)	COMMERCIAL DROP-OFF STATION (Y/N)	HOURS OF OPERATION	ESTIMATED PROPERTY SIZE OF TRANSFER STATION FACILITY	PERMIT/STICKER REQUIRED
Clinton Transfer Station	Y	N	Fri & Sat 7:15 AM - 3:10 PM	14 acres	Punch pass for items with fee, $32 for 20 punches
Cromwell Transfer Station	Y	N	Tues, Thurs & Sat 8:00 AM-3:00 PM	2.0 acres	Residents purchase punch pass, $50 for 20 punches
Deep River Transfer Station	Y	N	Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	2.5 acres	Residents receive one sticker per vehicle (includes Chester residents for bulky waste), no sticker fee
Durham/Middlefield Transfer Station	Y	N	Mon & Thurs 8:00 AM-7:45 PM Saturday 8:00 AM-3:00 PM	1 acre facility, 24.95 acres owned	$50 annual fee to residents

East Haddam Transfer Station	Y	Y-$100 annual fee for commercial businesses	Mon & Fri 7:00 AM-5:00 PM, Wed 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sat 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM	2.5 acres	No fee: East Haddam residents must show proof of residency. Two permits per household. $10 for additional 3rd/4th permit
East Hampton Transfer Station	Y	N	Sat 7:30 AM-3:00 PM	1 acre facility, 25 acres owned	$10 annual fee for residents
Essex Transfer Station	Y	N	Mon, Thurs, Fri & Sat 7:00 AM-3:00 PM	2 acres	$200 annual residential permit; if 65 yrs old+, $150 annual fee. Punch card $30 for 10 bags of MSW, all residents
Haddam Transfer Station	Y	N	Wed & Sat 8:00 AM-3:45 PM, Sun 8:00 AM-11:45 AM	4.4 acres	$100 yearly residential fee; if 65 yrs old+, fee is $50
Killingworth Transfer Station	Y	N	Tues 2:00-7:00 PM, Thurs 2:00-7:00 PM, Sat 8:00 AM-2:00 PM	1 acre	Killingworth residents must show proof of residency and ID. Will receive a sticker.
Hamburg Recycling Center and Lyme Transfer Station	Y	N	Recycling Center: Mon-Thurs 8:00 AM-2:00 PM & Fri-Sun 9:00 AM-4:00 PM; Transfer Station: Mon, Thurs & Sat 9:00 AM- 4 PM	1.5 acres	No fee: Lyme residents must show proof of residency
Middletown Recycling Center	Y	N	Mon-Fri 7:00 AM-2:45 PM, Sat opened seasonally	4 acres	No fee: Middletown residents must show proof of residency
Old Lyme Transfer Station	Y	N	Tues-Fri 7:30 AM-3:45 PM, Sat 8:30-4:00 PM	2 acres	No fee for Old Lyme residents
Old Saybrook Transfer Station	Y	N	Mon 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Thurs 9:00 AM-6:00 PM Fri 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Sat 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM	2.5 acres	No fee for Old Saybrook residents

Portland Transfer Station/Recycling Center	Y	N	Tues-Sat 7:30 AM-3:30 PM	1.5 acres	$30 permit for Portland residents
Westbrook Transfer Station	Y	N	Mon, Wed & Sat from 8:00 AM- 3:00 PM, except holiday closures	1 acre facility, 4 acres site	Stickers for residents only

Map 2: Transfer Stations Handling RiverCOG Material, FY 2023[17]



[17] Map compiled from the DEEP-provided aggregated dataset.

Materials Managed

The transfer stations in the RiverCOG region accept a wide variety of materials for disposal, recycling, and reuse. Materials accepted at most facilities include:

- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) or household trash
- Common recycling includes cardboard, plastics, paper, aluminum, etc.
- Yard waste, including leaves and brush
- Bulky waste items
- Scrap metal
- Mattresses
- Electronics
- Refrigerants
- Propane tanks
- Tires
- Oil and antifreeze
- Textiles

Some transfer stations accept additional items, including paint (as part of the PaintCare program), books, plastic film, and ash. Construction and demolition (C&D) waste is accepted at some facilities for disposal. Some materials are not accepted at all facilities due to high disposal costs, lack of end markets, or limited space at transfer stations.

MSW and bulky materials are sent to landfills or WTE facilities for disposal. Most other items are recycled or reused through various end markets (as detailed in the following sections). Nine transfer stations have reuse options, such as “swap areas,” for items still in usable condition. Some towns without swap areas noted they were interested in including such programs in the future if space/resources allowed.

Some towns offer cost-effective, community-based recycling options to residents. Local farms offer food scrap composting for surrounding neighbors in Lyme and East Haddam. Westbrook mentioned using waste oil to heat its facility, providing a local outlet for reusing this material.

Transfer stations also participate in statewide recycling programs for specific materials, including paint (PaintCare) and mattresses. Interviewees noted that these programs work well and provide an outlet for materials at little or no cost to the towns, allowing them to offer these services to residents.

Table 5 details the annual tonnage of materials disposed of and recycled from each transfer station. Data was provided by towns from their FY 2024 Annual Municipal Recycling Reports. The approximate tons disposed of include MSW and bulky waste. The approximate tons recycled includes all recycling,

yard waste, food waste, mattresses, batteries, scrap metal, waste oil, and other recyclable items, using conversion factors to estimate total tons. The Appendix includes more details regarding materials managed and tonnage by material type.

Image 2: Old Saybrook Commodities Exchange

Table 5: Facility Tonnage Disposed and Recycled, 2024

FACILITY	APPROXIMATE TONS DISPOSED*	APPROXIMATE TONS RECYCLED**
Clinton Transfer Station	365 tons	340 tons (1,580 gallons of waste oil)
Cromwell Transfer Station	544 tons (C&D only)	1,270 tons (1,800 gallons waste oil)
Deep River Transfer Station	1,230 tons	1,030 tons (2,400 gallons waste oil)
Durham/Middlefield Transfer Station	3,090 tons	880 tons (1,400 gallons waste oil)
East Haddam Transfer Station	4,260 tons	33,070 tons (6,250 gallons waste oil)*
East Hampton Transfer Station	4,450 tons	140 tons (497 gallons waste oil)
Essex Transfer Station	350 tons (C&D only)	3,450 tons (1,075 gallons waste oil and antifreeze)
Haddam Transfer Station	700 tons	1,110 tons (4,500 gallons waste oil)
Killingworth Transfer Station	Not provided	Not provided
Lyme Transfer Station and Hamburg Recycling Center	95 tons	170 tons
Middletown Recycling Center	9,690 tons	8,970 tons (55 gallons waste cooking oil)
Old Lyme Transfer Station	Not provided	1,530 tons (1350 gallons waste oil)
Old Saybrook Transfer Station	Not provided	260 tons (354 gallons waste oil)
Portland Transfer Station	Not provided	380 tons
Westbrook Transfer Station	Not provided	320 tons (1305 gallons waste oil)

*Tons Disposed column includes MSW and bulky waste streams. Tons Recycled column includes recycling, yard waste, food waste, mattresses, batteries, scrap metals, waste oil, and other recyclable items.

**Leaf and brush totals provided in cubic yards, and total tire counts were converted to tons using the EPA's volume-to-weight conversion factors[18]. Tire totals provided in cubic yards were converted to tons by assuming four standard car tires (two feet in diameter) could fit into a two-square-foot container. Therefore, it is estimated that 400 car tires could fit into a 100 cubic yard (CY) container and 90 pounds of tires per CY. Estimated mattress weight is based on EPA's standard volume-to weight conversion factors.[19]

[18] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Volume-to-Weight Conversion Factors*, April 2016, https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-04/documents/volume_to_weight_conversion_factors_memorandum_04192016_508fnl.pdf.

[19] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Standard Volume-to-Weight Conversion Factors*, 2016, https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-03/documents/conversions.pdf.

Contracts

Each town currently manages its own contracts for transfer stations services, including hauling materials for disposal, recycling, or delivery to end markets. Many towns haul their own materials with municipal staff to these locations, while others contract private waste haulers. Towns utilize their own staff to operate their transfer stations and do not contract out that service. The MIRA Transfer Station is also owned by the Town of Essex and is operated by CWPM.

HAULING OPERATIONS FROM TRANSFER STATIONS

Details regarding town transfer station hauling operations and contracts for MSW, recycling (WIWO), food waste, yard waste, and bulky waste material streams are detailed in Table 6**.** Not all requested details were provided by individual towns, including contract effective and expiration dates. If a town does not accept a specific material stream at their transfer station, it is labeled as "not applicable (n/a)." Based on interviews and desktop research, towns more commonly self-haul MSW and recycling to processing facilities outside the region.

Table 6: Facility Material Hauling Service Contracts[20]

FACILITY	MSW	RECYCLING	FOOD WASTE	YARD WASTE	BULKY WASTE
Clinton Transfer Station	Self-haul	Self-haul	On-site processing	On-site processing	Self-haul
Cromwell Transfer Station	N/A	*All Waste*	*Blue Earth*	Self-haul	*All Waste*
Deep River Transfer Station	Self-haul	Self-haul	*Blue Earth*	*Running Brook*	Self-haul
Durham/Middlefield Transfer Station	Self-haul	Self-haul	Self-haul	On-site processing	Self-haul
East Haddam Transfer Station	*Casella*	*Casella*	Self-haul	N/A	*Casella*
East Hampton Transfer Station	N/A	Not provided	N/A	Self-haul	Self-haul
Essex Transfer Station	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Haddam Transfer Station	Self- haul	Not provided	*Blue Earth*	N/A	Self-haul
Killingworth Transfer Station	Self-haul	Self-haul	*Blue Earth*	Not provided	Self-haul

[20] N/A indicates that the facility does not accept the material.

Hamburg Recycling Center and Lyme Transfer Station	N/A	*Casella*	Public pilot project at local farm	On-site processing for leaves; brush chipped and hauled off-site by contractor	Not provided
Middletown Recycling Center	N/A	Self-haul	*Blue Earth*	On-site processing for brush	Self-haul
Old Lyme Transfer Station	*CWPM*	*CWPM*	N/A	On-site processing	*CWPM*
Old Saybrook Transfer Station	*CWPM*	*CWPM*	*Blue Earth*	On-site processing	Self-haul
Portland Transfer Station	All Waste	Self-haul	*Blue Earth*	On-site processing	Self-haul
Westbrook Transfer Station	N/A	*CWPM*	N/A	*Running Brook* (brush); on- site processing (leaves)	*Calamari*

Five (5) transfer stations self-haul their MSW, and three (3) contract with a private hauler such as CWPM or Casella for this service. At least five (5) transfer stations also offer self-haul recycling, and approximately six (6) contract these services out to private haulers such as All Waste, Casella, and CWPM. Food waste is primarily collected by Blue Earth Compost from six (6) facilities, while two (2) self-haul this material and one (1) is collected by a local farmer through a pilot project operating out of Hartford, Connecticut. Yard waste is most commonly processed—typically by chipping, but sometimes by burning—on site (8 facilities) by town staff; however, sometimes facilities contract out part of the processing for either brush or leaves. Bulky waste is commonly self-hauled (8 facilities) or hauled by private entities, including All Waste, Calamari, Casella, and CWPM.

DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING

Once materials leave the town transfer station, they are transported to various disposal and recycling facilities for processing. Municipal solid waste (MSW) is commonly trucked outside the region to Reworld's Resource Recovery Facilities in Preston and Bristol, Connecticut, which is used by approximately 60% of the town transfer stations that provided MSW data. The materials from many town transfer stations (9 of the 15) are first consolidated at regional transfer stations, including the MIRA Transfer Station (located in Essex), the CWPM Southington Transfer Station, the Eastern Transfer Station, Calamari, and All Waste, and from there, are sent to disposal and recycling facilities. This intermediate step is common in the solid waste business to increase operational efficiency as the disposal and recycling facilities are located outside of the region.

Materials from Clinton, Chester, Deep River, Essex, East Haddam, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook are first collected at their individual transfer stations (either self-haul or contracted based on information provided above) and then are sent to the MIRA Transfer

Station (located in Essex) Towns using the MIRA Transfer Station (located in Essex) continue to operate under the MIRA Municipal Service Agreement, which was amended to the "Tier 1 Short Term Municipal Service Agreement Amendment." This amendment was offered to municipalities in July 2022 as part of MIRA's closure of the Resource Recovery Facility in Hartford to offer a transition period for municipalities who wanted to continue utilizing MIRA transfer stations until June 30, 2027. From there, MSW and bulky items are sent to Reworld's Resource Recovery Facility in Preston, and recyclables (WIWO) are sent to the Murphy Road Recycling facility in Berlin.

MSW and recycling from Middletown are consolidated at the CWPM Southington Transfer Station, where MSW is transported out of state to a landfill in Pennsylvania and recycling is sent to MRFs in Connecticut. Bulky waste is consolidated at the Eastern Transfer Station in Deep River from town transfer stations in Deep River and Killingworth. Bulky waste from Old Saybrook and Westbrook is consolidated at the Calamari facility in Essex.

ORGANICS

As described in the previous section, food waste is commonly managed by Blue Earth, which provides collection containers at six (6) transfer stations and hauls the material to Quantum Biopower's anaerobic digester in Southington, Connecticut. At least two (2) towns, including Lyme and East Haddam, partner with local farmers to manage food waste. Food waste is collected at the town transfer station and transported by local farmers for composting at their farms. While these operations are small, only accounting for 2 percent of the region's food waste diversion, they can serve as a model for local diversion programs for communities across the region. Clinton (featured in Image 3) is the only town to incorporate food waste into its yard waste for onsite composting operations at the Transfer Station. The program has been in place for two (2) years and is managed by the two (2) transfer station staff. The finished compost is free to residents. There is an opportunity to develop this model at other transfer stations, as it is cost effective for the Clinton Transfer Station.

Blue Earth Compost, based in Hartford, CT, is a private company that provides food waste collection services to multiple communities within the RiverCOG region. Blue Earth offers 32-gallon carts, 64-gallon carts, and three-yard dumpsters to their customers, and charges collection, container, and cleaning fees for each container a customer uses. The cleaning fee is optional but recommended by the company. Each container size has a different fee, so monthly costs can vary depending on how often a community needs collection and how many containers they need to hold their collected food waste. Deep River pays $12 per cart for ten 64-gallon carts, and Haddam pays $6 per cart for thirteen 32-gallon carts. If a community needed a dumpster to hold food waste, a three-yard dumpster is $50 per dumpster. Blue Earth has a two-year agreement with Haddam to provide weekly food waste collection service and charges a $35 service fee per collection.

When asked about recycling food waste, many towns expressed concerns with potential for vermin, bears, and the odors associated with adding food waste to existing yard waste composting. There was an interest, however, to learn more about successful programs in other towns and in other parts of the state. Food waste diversion presents a significant opportunity to reduce the amount of waste sent to out-of-state landfills and waste-to-energy facilities in Connecticut, aligning with the state's goal to achieve 65% diversion.

As previously noted, yard waste is often managed on site within each RiverCOG community. Portland accepts yard waste and grass clippings, which are processed over a three-year period in seven on-site piles. Each pile is turned four times per year, and the finished compost is given away to residents. Portland noted that it pays $40 per ton for material to be managed on site and subsequently chipped by Connecticut Mulch Distributors, based out of Enfield, Connecticut. Similarly, Clinton also operates a compost site on its property, where finished compost is screened and made available for residents to use at home. Some towns contract with a third party vendor to grind materials on site at the Transfer Station and the mulch is transported by the vendor and sold at the vendor's facility. For example, Deep River and Wesbrook contract with Running Brook for these services. Uniquely, East Haddam burns yard waste on site.

Image 3: Resident at Clinton Compost Site

Bulky waste may be sent to similar disposal facilities as MSW. Clinton, Haddam, Old Lyme, and Portland all dispose of their bulky waste at the same facility as their MSW (Reworld Resource Recovery

Facility in Preston). Chester has an annual contract with Deep River for bulky waste disposal, which includes appliances, brush, leaves, mattresses, tires, and other items as described within their agreement.

Details regarding material disposal and recycling facilities are provided in Table 7. Not all requested details were provided by individual towns, as noted below.

Table 7: Transfer Station Material Disposal and Recycling

FACILITY	MSW	RECYCLING	FOOD WASTE	YARD WASTE	BULKY WASTE
Clinton Transfer Station	*Reworld (Preston, CT)*	*Murphy Road Recycling (Berlin, CT)*	On-site	On-site	*Reworld (Preston, CT)*
Cromwell Transfer Station	N/A	*All Waste*	*Quantum BioPower*	*Collins Farm*	*All Waste*
Deep River Transfer Station	*Reworld (Preston, CT)*	*Murphy Road Recycling (Berlin, CT)*	*Quantum BioPower*	*Running Brook*	*Eastern TS (Deep River, CT)*
Durham/Middlefield Transfer Station	*Reworld (Bristol, CT)*	Paper mills in MA and NH for paper and Casella (Willimantic, CT) for bottles and cans	Quantum BioPower	On-site	Calamari
East Haddam Transfer Station	*Reworld (Preston, CT)*	*Murphy Road Recycling (Berlin, CT)*	*Cold Spring Farm*	Brush under 3 inches burned on-site	Not provided
East Hampton Transfer Station	N/A	Not provided	N/A	On-site (leaves), Scotts in Lebanon, CT (brush)	*All Waste*
Essex Transfer Station	*Reworld (Preston, CT)*	*Murphy Road Recycling (Berlin, CT)*	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Haddam Transfer Station	*Reworld (Preston, CT)*	*Murphy Road Recycling (Berlin, CT)*	*Quantum BioPower*	N/A	*Reworld (Preston, CT)*
Killingworth Transfer Station	*Reworld (Preston, CT)*	*Murphy Road Recycling (Berlin, CT)*	*Quantum BioPower*	Not provided	*Eastern TS (Deep River, CT)*
Hamburg Recycling Center and Lyme Transfer Station	N/A	*Casella (Willimantic, CT)*	Public pilot project at local farm	On-site processing for leaves, brush chipped and taken away by contractor	Not provided
Middletown Recycling Center	*N/A*	*Murphy Road Recycling (Berlin, CT)*	Quantum BioPower	*Kolman Farms* (mixed yard waste)	CWPM (Berlin, CT)
Old Lyme Transfer Station	*Reworld (Preston, CT)*	*Murphy Road Recycling (Berlin, CT)*	N/A	On-site processing	*Reworld (Preston, CT)*
Old Saybrook Transfer Station	*Reworld (Preston, CT)*	*Murphy Road Recycling (Berlin, CT)*	*Quantum BioPower*	Chipped wood sold to public; composted	*Calamari*

				leaves sold to contractor	
Portland Transfer Station	*All Waste (Hartford)*6F[21]	*Murphy Road Recycling (Berlin, CT)*	*Quantum BioPower*	Compost given to public; Brush taken by CT Mulch after chipped	*All Waste (Hartford)*
Westbrook Transfer Station	N/A	*Murphy Road Recycling (Berlin, CT)*	N/A	*Running Brook*	*Calamari*

COSTS

Towns incur various costs for the collection, disposal, and recycling of materials managed at their transfer stations. Towns using the MIRA Transfer Station (located in Essex) that are part of the Tier 1 Short Term Municipal Service Agreement Amendment paid a MSW disposal tip fee of $131 per ton in FY 2025. As previously mentioned, towns included in the agreement include Chester, Clinton Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. The disposal fee will increase to $136 per ton in FY 2026 and $141 per ton in FY 2027. [22] The towns that continue to utilize the MIRA Transfer Station (located in Essex) do not pay for recycling (WIWO) collection or processing as these costs are covered by remaining MIRA funds until the contracts expire on June 30, 2027. After the contract expires in 2027, these towns will need to contract for WIWO services at additional cost.

Private waste haulers provide a variety of collection and disposal services, either contracting directly with residents or by contracting with the municipality. Some towns were able to provide contract details and costs for services, but results were limited. Table 8 provides a summary of collection, disposal, and recycling costs provided by the towns in the RiverCOG who are contracting out for these services. More details can be found in Appendix VII.A: Supporting Tables.

Table 8: Material Costs for Collection, Disposal and Recycling

MATERIAL	COLLECTION	DISPOSAL	RECYCLING
MSW	Not provided, predominantly self-hauled	$98 - $140 per ton	N/A
Recyclables	Minimal info provided, predominantly self-hauled (e.g., $1,250/month for private hauling)	N/A	Minimal info provided, ex. $100/ton
Food Waste	Range from $900/month to $35/collection of 32-gallon container	N/A	Fee bundled with collection

[21] This is a transfer station; no information was provided on where this MSW is transferred to for disposal.

[22] Connecticut Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority. (2023, August). Sample second amendment to Tier 1 MSA. Retrieved from https://www.ctmira.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Sample-Second-Amendment-to-Tier-1-MSA-The-Tier-1-Short-contract-with-hauler-letter.pdf

Yard Waste	Mainly managed on site, otherwise bundled with recycling costs for CT Mulch	N/A	CT Mulch - $40/ton
Bulky Waste	Various haulers, costs not provided	$105-$175 per ton	Not provided

The costs provided for collection and disposal were limited, but MSW ranged between $98 to $140 per ton, with the majority of towns paying near the higher end. Minimal information was provided regarding costs for managing recyclables, primarily due to many of the towns not currently paying for recycling through the outstanding MIRA agreement with the MIRA Transfer Station (located in Essex); however, Old Saybrook noted that it pays $100 per ton for recycling processing. Food waste is predominantly collected and processed by Blue Earth, who offers various package types ranging from $900 per month to $35 per collection. Most towns manage their yard waste on site or use CT Mulch, who charges a bundled fee of $40 per ton for collection and processing. Bulky waste is managed by various haulers and disposal fees provided are higher than those for MSW.

Operating Budgets

Town operating budgets range significantly based on the level of services provided, contracts for collection and disposal, fees charged to residents, and alternative funding sources. Nearly all towns mentioned that their operations are supported through general funds or other supporting budgets beyond user fees and revenues generated by the transfer stations. The operating budgets include the operations of transfer stations and other waste and recycling services provided by the towns. Middletown and Old Lyme provide curbside collection, which is included in their operating budgets.

Staffing is essential to the operation of every facility but varies by location. Cromwell, for example, has two full-time staff, while Killingworth employs three part-time staff members. In contrast, Durham/Middlefield's Site Administrator is a full-time staff person, and their 11 maintenance and drivers are part-time employees (many are also paid municipal firefighters). Staffing data was not provided by other facilities. New programs and services are dependent on staff availability and budget for new staff members.

Image 4: Staff Assisting Residents at Killingworth Transfer Station

Table 9 details the operating budget for managing each facility, the cost to residents for an annual fee, revenues generated from the facility through item fees or sale of recyclables including applicable Nickel Per Nip (NIP) funds, and a calculated cost per household for facility operations.

Table 9: Town Budgets, Revenues and Cost per Household

TOWN	OPERATING BUDGET[23]	ANNUAL COST TO RESIDENTS (PERMIT FEE)	REVENUES	APPROXIMATE COST PER HOUSEHOLD[24]
Chester[25]	$177,000	N/A	$2,393.80 (NIP fund)	$122
Clinton	$175,000	Punch pass, $32 for 20 punches	$20,173.15 (NIP fund)	$28
Cromwell	$877,125	Punch pass, $50 for 20 punches	$61,725.42 (facility revenues) $30,742.70 (NIP fund)	$142
Deep River	$401,882	No fees	$15,600 (scrap metal) $8,513.85 (NIP fund)	$164
Durham/ Middlefield[26]	$827,233	$50 annual permit	$313,809.22 (facility revenues) $19,111.05 (NIP fund)	$152
East Haddam	$1,000,000	No fees	$2,000 (facility revenues) $10,194.55 (NIP fund)	$220
East Hampton	$242,000	$10 annual permit	Tipping fees for bulky waste and electronics recycling $22,531.20 (NIP fund)	$47
Essex Transfer Station	$331,106	$200 annual permit	Not Provided	$98
Haddam	$444,130	$100 annual permit	Material sales directed to general fund $15,241.45 (NIP fund)	$138
Killingworth	$300,000	No fees	Not Provided $4.422.70 (NIP fund)	$125
Lyme	$135,384	No fees	$7,000/year in fees at transfer station for specific materials	$124

[23] The most recent available operating budget was included, typically for FY 2023–24. Cromwell provided FY 2025–26, and Haddam and Deep River provided FY 2024–25.

[24] The cost per household was calculated by dividing each town's operating budget by its total number of housing units.

[25] Chester's operating budget includes fees paid to Deep River for use of its transfer station, as well as tipping fees and costs for special collection and disposal services.

[26] Durham and Middlefield share a combined budget for the operation of their transfer station. Each town contributes funds through a per-household fee, and user fees are charged to residents.

Middletown13F[27]	$2,309,175	No fees	$30,000-$60,000 yearly for scrap metal $67,243.55 (NIP fund)	$105
Old Lyme14F[28]	$1,029,500	No fees	$7,845 (NIP fund)	$222
Old Saybrook	$750,000	No fees	$80,000- $90,000 for bulky and branch fees $18,840.75 (NIP fund)	$121
Portland	$376,502, additional $101,520 for building maintenance	$30 annual permit	$362,412 (FY23-24) $18,019.40 (NIP fund)	$125
Westbrook	$170,000	No fees	$40,000- $50,000 for bulky waste fees $11,410.80 (NIP fund)	$35

Each town provides different levels of service, with varying associated budgets, costs to residents, and revenues received. Nearly half of the town transfer stations charge residents fees for using the facilities. The average cost per household across the region is $123 per household annually.

Facility Constraints

Facilities within the RiverCOG region vary in equipment, layout, and staffing levels, all of which influence their capacity to manage incoming materials. Some facilities plan to purchase new equipment to accommodate their current incoming volumes, and others are managing with what they have currently. Through the interviews, the project team identified constraints and proposed solutions that have been considered or are underway in each town.

Westbrook recently installed a new scale to improve operational efficiencies. East Hampton and Old Saybrook noted their interest in purchasing new scales to weigh materials and charge more accurate fees for items dropped off at their facilities. This efficiency could help collect additional revenue to support operations. Conversely, other towns like Clinton noted that estimating weights is effective for its operations and said it is not interested in installing a scale. The upfront cost of purchasing a scale can be a barrier for some towns, with the Westbrook scale costing $106,510.83.

Clinton and Killingworth both expressed interest in purchasing new compactors to increase efficiencies at their operations. Similarly, Deep River noted it hopes to purchase a small compactor

[27] Middletown provides residential curbside collection in the Sanitation District.

[28] Old Lyme provides residential curbside collection.

unit to compact different single-stream materials to manage the materials with high volume and low weight.

Communities have allocated funds for a range of additional equipment, such as Cromwell purchasing a new backhoe and Durham/Middlefield budgeting for the purchase of a new roll-off truck (via 5–7-year lease payment option). Portland considered purchasing a woodchipper or grinder to manage its yard waste. Deep River noted it would consider getting additional storage for materials, especially if it increased the volume accepted at its facility. Killingworth is constructing covers for its bulky waste and recently purchased new containers. Deep River also purchased a new camera for the office and new containers.

In addition to equipment, facilities have considered implementing changes to their site layouts and infrastructure. Haddam noted that its layout works well but can get congested at times. East Haddam would like to replace the building used for its tipping compactor, but due to the high estimated cost, it continues to use its existing facility. Old Saybrook created a proposed redesign of its transfer station to address limited space for materials, including yard waste, but it has not been approved yet.

Expansion and Improvement Opportunities

Facilities in the RiverCOG range in size, layout, number of buildings and types of amenities, proximity to major roadways, and potential options for expansion or improvements. Some facilities within the region have no plans to expand, due to various site limitations, and the fact that their current set-up is sufficient to meet the waste needs of the town. While others are interested in and have the option to expand and handle greater volumes or new material types.

SPACE CONSTRAINTS

As was typical in the region in the 1970s, most towns operated their own landfill, which was generally located on town-owned property. When these landfills were closed throughout the 1980s [29], towns became responsible for maintaining these sites. Many of today's transfer stations were subsequently established on or adjacent to these closed facilities, greatly limiting options for future expansion or redevelopment. The transfer stations in Haddam, Deep River, East Hampton, Portland, Durham/Middlefield, and Westbrook all operate on or near their closed landfills, presenting challenges for expanding their current facility footprints—especially since disturbing capped landfills is prohibited with very few exceptions. East Hampton's transfer station is further constrained by a state-issued permit that limits the facility to roughly its current size.

ADJACENT LAND-USES

Other transfer stations are constrained by adjacent land-uses or environmental factors. Haddam's transfer station, for example, abuts both Haddam Meadows State Park and the Connecticut River,

[29] Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP), "Closed Landfills Map (PDF)," https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/site_clean_up/brownfields/closedlandfillsmappdf.pdf

making future expansion impractical. Although Killingworth's transfer station is located on the town's municipal campus, nearby properties are affected by a long-term per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) remediation effort, which limits opportunities for expansion. In addition, the site's proximity to public drinking water reservoirs further constrains operations. As a result, operational decisions at the transfer station must carefully account for such these environmental considerations and associated challenges. Similarly, Old Saybrook's transfer station is located on an aquifer, which limits the facility's ability to expand or be redesigned.

CO-SITING BENEFITS

As is often the case, co-siting facilities at transfer stations offer a straightforward way for towns to defray costs and make productive use of available town-owned property. One emerging example of this approach is the installation of solar panel arrays on or near closed landfills, which has become a common model for site remediation, energy generation, and one of the few activities permitted on capped landfills. Examples can be found in Deep River, who commissioned a 675kW solar array in October 2024, and in Middletown, who commissioned an 809kW system in November 2024.[30,31] Portland is actively negotiating the installation of its own 1mW system, with construction anticipated to begin in the fall of 2026. These projects demonstrate how solar installations can both offset operating costs and serve as a replicable model for other towns.

Some towns face space and budget constraints that prevent them from expanding or upgrading their transfer station facilities. While conveniently located facilities are beneficial to residents, it can also present physical or environmental limitations that restrict expansion potential. This forces towns to prioritize certain programing over others. For example, Deep River prioritized installing a solar panel array on its property adjacent to the transfer station, and is currently working to cap the remaining section of its landfill. The solar array generates $43,000 per year from the solar lease, and the capped landfill would give the town additional space for future programs. During the interview, Deep River indicated a desire to manage brush and/or leaves on the closed portion of the landfill rather than having the materials hauled away by a private contractor. This would save costs. However, the proximity of the Transfer Station to nearby wetlands makes expansion particularly challenging. Together, these factors illustrate the diverse constraints that can affect a transfer station's ability to expand or improve operations.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER COLLABORATION

Opportunities exist for greater collaboration between the region's towns. The transfer stations in East Haddam, Lyme, and Durham/Middlefield all have the capacity to accept additional materials, which could provide a benefit to nearby towns that are limited in their processing. Durham/Middlefield

[30] Verogy to develop 3 solar landfill projects in Connecticut, Solar Power World, February 21, 2024

[31] Verogy and City of Middletown Celebrate Solar at Former Landfill, Verogy, November 19, 2024

specifically noted in their interview that it is open to accepting material from other towns in the area if both communities agree as part of an inter-local agreement.

Some towns also indicated that they have plans to expand program offerings. For instance, Cromwell plans to start a construction swap-shop. Durham/Middlefield would like to start collecting one pound propane tanks. Killingworth may modify its facility to manage brush and compost or construct an anaerobic digester on its property in the future. Middletown would like to collect gas cylinders and offer more organic material programs in the future. and offer more organic material programs in the future.

Future expansion efforts may involve collaboration between towns to allow residents to use facilities in neighboring communities, adding a level of convenience, particularly where site expansion or improvements are challenging. Regional planning efforts could take a broader approach to facility expansions and improvements to provide greater benefits and enhanced services for multiple towns. Collaboration may include sharing plans for site expansions, discussing shared services, exploring cooperative purchasing, and understanding common challenges and potential mitigation measures, such as limited space or groundwater concerns.

TRANSFER STATIONS AS ASSETS

Throughout the interviews, it became clear that transfer stations are a valuable asset in many communities and are well-utilized by residents. Durham/Middlefield reported that 70-75% of their residents use the transfer station annually. In Killingworth, about 60% of residents use the local transfer station. Haddam and Cromwell both offer a financial incentive to senior citizens to pay 50% less in fees to use the transfer station.

Transfer stations not only provide an essential service for waste disposal, but also serve as community gathering spaces where residents connect with their neighbors. This social aspect creates both an opportunity and an incentive to strengthen education and outreach efforts, encouraging greater use of transfer stations by town residents, and potentially, by neighboring towns for materials not collected curbside (e.g., hazardous waste, bulky items, food waste).

Curbside Collection

Residential Collection

Curbside collection for MSW, recycling, and bulky items varies significantly between towns. Apart from Middletown and Old Lyme, towns do not provide curbside collection.

Middletown Residential Curbside Collection Programs

Middletown provides curbside MSW and recycling collection to residents and some commercial entities within an area of the downtown known as the Sanitation District. Residents who reside in the Sanitation District are provided with 65- or 95-gallon curbside carts, and businesses are serviced via dumpsters. Outside of the Sanitation District, Middletown residents must hire a private hauler or take their MSW and recycling to the Middletown Transfer Station. Unlike most towns in the region, Middletown offers scheduled bulky waste curbside collection for all residents for a fee of $75 per collection, with an additional charge of $36 per mattress or box spring.

Old Lyme Residential Curbside Collection

Old Lyme contracts with CWPM for curbside MSW and recycling collection for residences in town, excluding those on private roads, and provides participating households with green and blue cans. This contract also includes MSW disposal and allows the town to receive a recycling rebate if the average community revenue is favorable. The total collection contract accounts for approximately 58% of the town's annual waste budget.

Additional Residential Curbside Collection

Cromwell also provides bulky item curbside collection for residents for a fee of $10 per item. Private junk removal companies, such as EcoClear Junk Removal and Transportation, Haulin' Oats Junk Removal, Junk Bear, The Junk Defenders, JunkDoor, and U Call We Haul, fill in remaining regional service gaps.

Curbside Food Waste Collection

Middletown also implemented a pilot curbside food waste collection program in 2022 as part of a DEEP-funded project, asking residents to put food waste in special bags for co-collection with MSW. The program was implemented in late 2023 for all households serviced in the Sanitation District. Collected food waste bags are sorted from the MSW at CWPM's Southington transfer station and hauled by CWPM to Quantum Biopower for processing. Based on interview information, the Middletown Sanitation District collects approximately 63 tons of food waste from residents and 168 tons from city collection sites for non-Sanitation District residents and downtown businesses with dumpster service annually (FY 2025). Program participation is lower than the city hoped for, as household compliance is 60-70%. Middletown may not continue this program after DEEP funding ends in 2025.

Other towns offer other food waste collection options. Clinton noted that the cost for food waste collection is significant, expressed interest in lower-cost options, and had concerns with processing the material on site. Portland may consider working with local farms in the future to manage food waste instead of a food waste collection service to save money and focus on local solutions.

Curbside Collection by Private Haulers

Many private waste haulers provide curbside collection for MSW and recycling for RiverCOG residents who choose to pay for these services. Key waste haulers operating in the region providing curbside MSW and recycling collection include AJ Waste Systems, All Waste, Casella Waste, CWPM, Finkeldey, Goduti Waste, Hometown Waste, Jansky Rubbish Removal, John's Refuse, Solari Brothers Carting, and Sweitzer Waste.

The cost of private collection is in addition to the taxes used to fund the local transfer stations. Some towns noted that only a few, and in some cases only one, private waste hauler operates within their boundaries. For example, All Waste is the only hauler registered in the town of East Hampton, while Jansky's Rubbish Removal serves as the only residential waste hauler in Lyme, where residents must contract privately for collection. Residents may choose not to pay for curbside collection, particularly in towns that offer MSW drop-off at their transfer stations. Bringing MSW to transfer stations can be more cost-effective for residents when the option exists.

Because private haulers contract directly with households, prices and service levels for curbside collection vary by town and contractor. These fees are influenced by factors such as service level, location, and route density. Since private haulers operate independently of town operations, detailed pricing and service information are often not readily available to municipal staff and are difficult to compare across towns.

East Hampton indicated that residents pay All Waste $111.75 quarterly for weekly MSW and every other week recycling collection. Lyme indicated that residents pay $52 every two months for weekly MSW and $10 every two weeks for recycling service. All Waste charges between $105 and $114 per quarter in the towns of Chester, East Hampton, Essex, and Old Saybrook for weekly trash and single-stream recycling curbside pickup. Sweitzer charges $108 per quarter for the same service in Deep River. Regional collaboration may offer more coordinated efforts with private haulers and an opportunity for transparent pricing through contracts or private hauler license requirements.

Several towns noted that while private haulers operate within their borders, they are often not licensed by the individual towns. Furthermore, they often struggle to get accurate data from private haulers about materials collected, including annual tonnage and final material destinations. Numerous towns indicated challenges in coordinating with private haulers and accessing the necessary data about their own town's waste system. During the interviews, a common concern was the difficulty towns face in tracking which private haulers operate within their boundaries, and more importantly, how much material they manage.

Future regional considerations could include regional coordination with private waste haulers through licensing requirements, reporting requirements, and regional service consistency. Many of the same waste haulers provide service across multiple towns. Regional collaboration could help towns obtain more information from haulers, particularly if DEEP establishes requirements for annual reporting or licensing.

RiverCOG could also consider regional contracts for curbside collection to improve efficiencies, offer competitive rates for residents, and provide a consistent level of service. Contracting for collection could include specific towns, specific housing types, or provide options for selection through collective contracting as a region. Old Lyme provides funding to subsidize curbside collection for residents, which can always make services more cost-effective for residents. A regional approach may result in lower costs of service for residential households.

Municipal Facility Collection

Municipal facility collection is handled by town staff or contracted haulers, depending on the community. Although most towns did not provide information on this topic during the interview process, the Town of Chester did share details that can serve as an example of the services offered at municipal facilities. Chester contracts with Olsen's Sanitation, a private hauler, to collect MSW and recyclables from the Town Hall waste collection area, the Meeting House, the Firehouse, the Public Library, and the Cedar Lake Seasonal Snack Shack. Olsen's Sanitation hauls the municipal trash and recycling from these locations to the MIRA Transfer Station (located in Essex).

Chester's Department of Public Works (DPW) employees collect MSW on Main Street, Spring St./Jennings Pond, Parker's Point, West End Cemetery, Laurel Hill Cemetery, Railroad Ave., the fireboat dock, Department of Public Works garage, 20 Water Street, Maple St. Parking Lot and the North Quarter Park and deliver the MSW to the MIRA Transfer Station (located in Essex). In addition, Chester's DPW staff collects garage and work-related electronics, scrap metal, trees/brush, non-household bulky waste, and construction and demolition material. The Chester DPW staff also hauls roadway and roadside, parks and cemetery trees, brush, and debris to the Deep River Transfer Station, as part of the Town of Chester's and the Town of Deep River's bulky waste agreement. The DPW staff hauls town construction and demolition material and acceptable non-household bulky waste to the Eastern Transfer Station and is charged $120/ton. DPW staff hauls collected scrap metal to Calamari's Recycling, and there is no deposit fee.

Old Lyme recently contracted with Black Earth to collect food scraps pilot program.

Similarly to residential collection, private haulers servicing municipal facilities may not be offering consistent pricing and service levels across RiverCOG towns, presenting an opportunity for the towns to collaborate on contracts and services provided.

Private Facilities

Private waste facilities in the region transfer and process MSW, WIWO recycling, bulky materials, food waste, textiles, electronic waste, oil, tires, and more. Key private facilities that support current RiverCOG operations are shown on Map 2, Map 3, and Map 4 below and are described in more detail in the following sections.

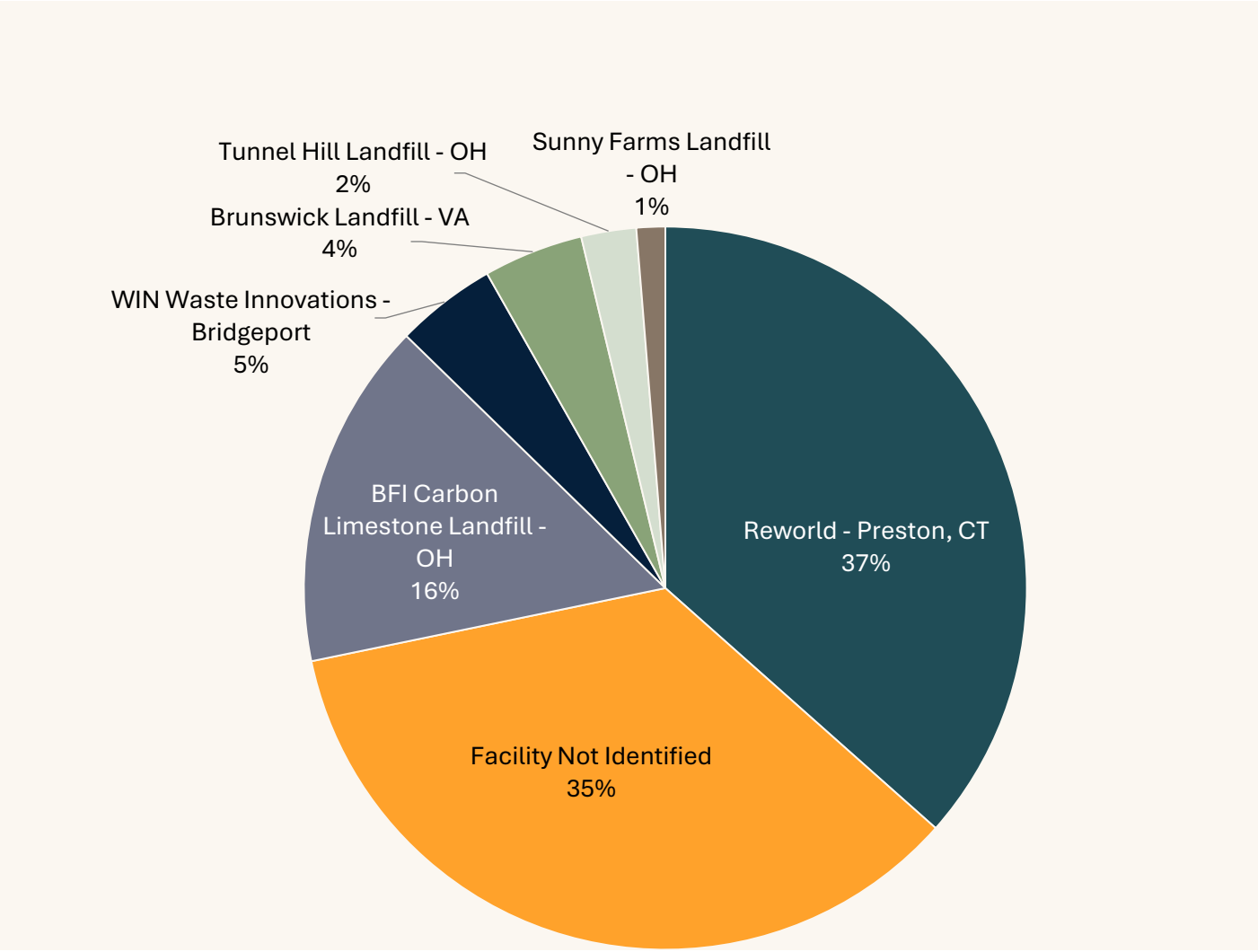
Municipal Solid Waste

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) disposal in Connecticut has become more challenging in recent years due to the closure of MIRA and other waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities, increased privatization, and decreasing landfill capacity. Approximately 40% of MSW generated in Connecticut is sent for disposal outside the state via truck or rail. Of that 40%, approximately 89% is landfilled and 11% is sent to waste-to-energy facilities.[32] Specifically, for the RiverCOG towns, approximately 24% of all MSW (including materials managed by town transfer stations and all other materials managed by private haulers) is exported to landfills in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York. Approximately 40% remains in state, with the majority sent to the Reworld‘s Resource Recovery Facility in Preston (36%) and minor quantities (4%) sent to the WIN Waste Innovations RRF in Bridgeport—both of these facilities are WTE where the MSW is burned to create electricity. Figure 1 summarizes the percentage of MSW sent to out-of-state landfills and in-state facilities according to the DEEP dataset from fiscal year 2023. According to this dataset, the two (2) primary disposal destinations identified for the region’s MSW in FY 2023 were Reworld’s Resource Recovery Facility—receiving approximately 36% of the region’s tonnage—and the BFI Carbon Limestone Landfill in Lowellville, Ohio, receiving approximately 16% of the region’s tonnage.

For 35% of the total municipal solid waste disposed, the transfer station that initially received the MSW did not report a final disposal destination to DEEP. For example, in 2023, Murphy Road - Middletown didn’t identify an end destination for approximately 50% of the tons they received, which amounts to approximately 15,000 tons from RiverCOG towns. Additionally, CWPM Berlin didn’t report end destination for approximately 50% of their inbound tonnage, however they received fewer tons from RiverCOG towns.

[32] Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. *2023 Diversion and Disposal Report (Final)*. Retrieved from https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/reduce_reuse_recycle/data/2023/diversion_report_2025-final.pdf

Chart 5: Percentage (greater than 1% by weight) of RiverCOG MSW Sent for Disposal In and Out of State, FY 2023



There are 11 transfer stations that receive MSW from town transfer stations and private haulers prior to disposal (details provided in Appendix). In FY 2023, aggregated tonnage datasets provided by DEEP show that approximately 43% of materials sent to transfer stations were received by the Middletown transfer station operated by Murphy Road Recycling, and an additional 30% were delivered to the MIRA Transfer Station (located in Essex). The remaining 27% of the RiverCOG MSW that moves through transfer stations is managed by the following facilities:

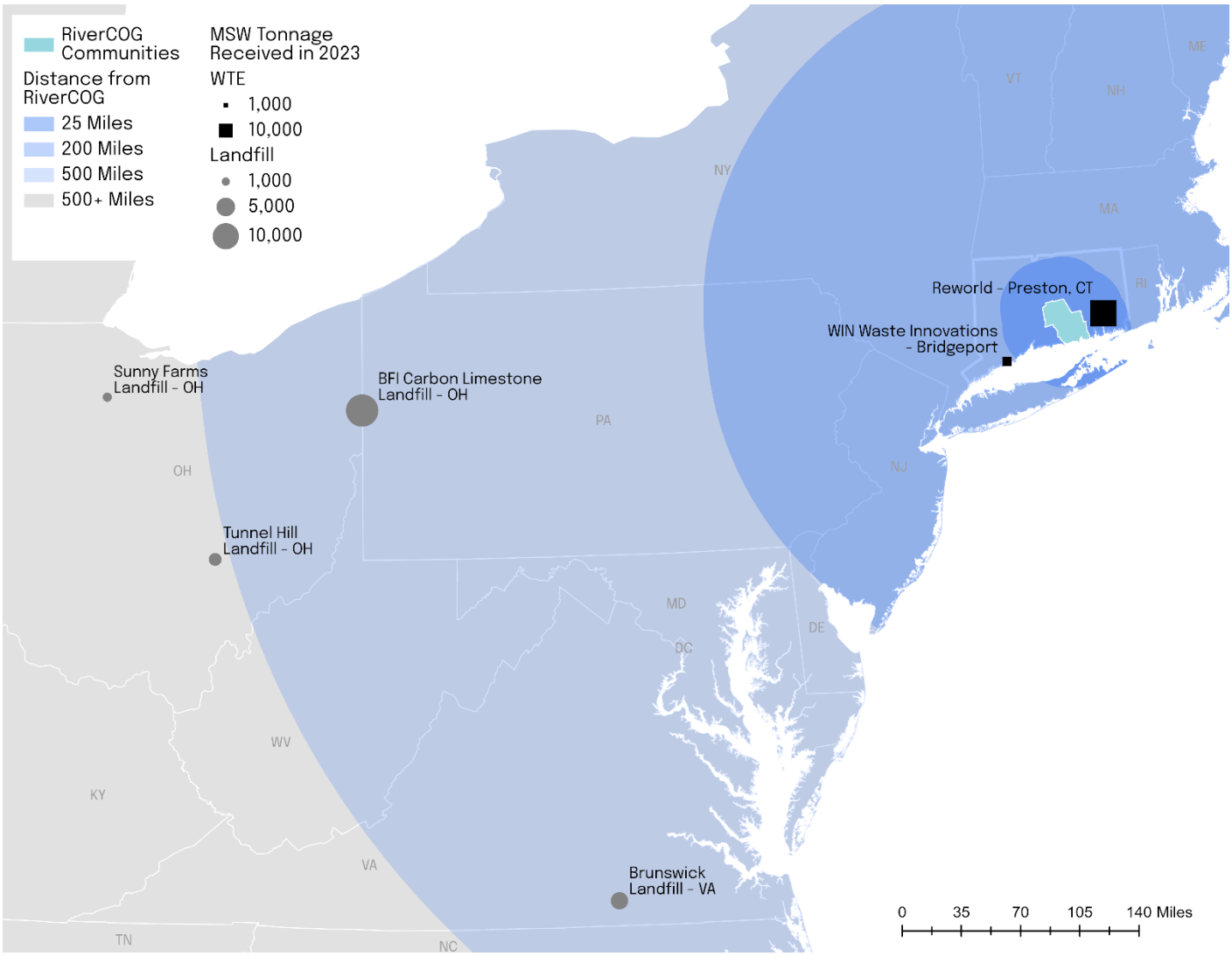
- CWPM Southington Transfer Station or “Central CT Resource Recovery Transfer Station”
- CWPM Berlin Transfer Station
- CWPM Bozrah Transfer Station
- CWPM Deep River Transfer Station

- CWPM Plainville Transfer Station[33]
- F&G Railroad Hill Transfer Station (Waterbury)
- Murphy Road Recycling Hartford Transfer Station
- Murphy Road Recycling New Haven Transfer Station
- Murphy Road Recycling Nutmeg Rd. Transfer Station (South Windsor)
- Willimantic Waste Windham Transfer Station

Details on material quantities managed by all transfer stations described above are provided in the Appendix.

[33] This facility primarily transfers paper direct to end market paper mills.

Map 3: Final Disposal Destinations for RiverCOG Material, 2023[34]



Recycling

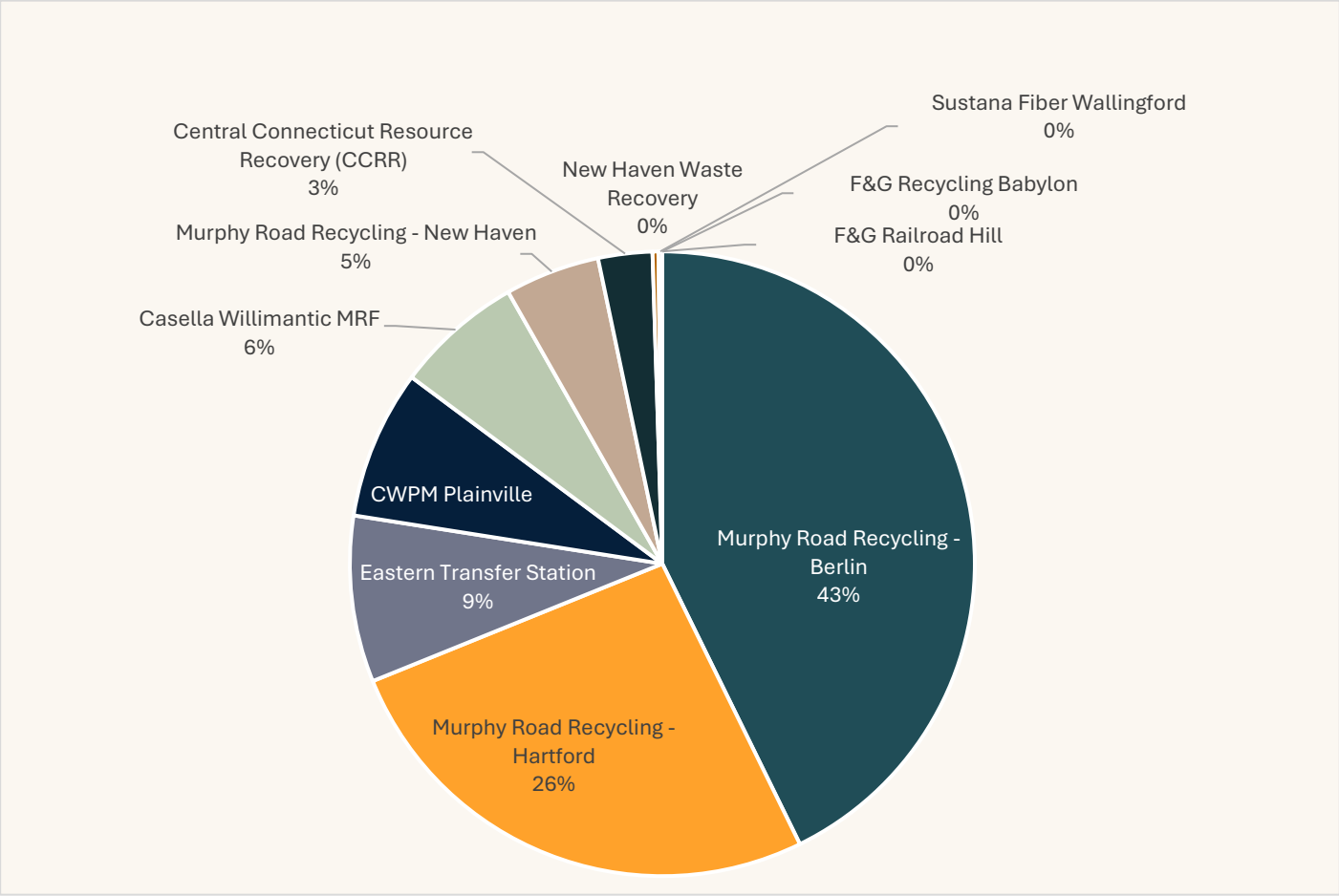
There are three (3) primary material recovery facilities (MRFs) in the region that accept materials from RiverCOG towns, including the Murphy Road Recycling Berlin facility, the Murphy Road Recycling Hartford facility, and the Casella's Willimantic facility. As previously discussed, recycling (WIWO) collected from 11 of the 17 towns first goes to the MIRA Transfer Station (located in Essex)for consolidation and then is trucked to Murphy Road Recycling in Berlin for processing. CWPM also stated in an interview that all commercial material, in addition to the town transfer station material, is delivered to the MIRA Transfer Station (located in Essex). As of fiscal year 2023, and displayed in Figure 2, Murphy Road Recycling Berlin receives approximately 43% of all the recycling generated by the RiverCOG region, including residential and commercial material. Murphy Road Recycling Hartford

[34] Map compiled from the DEEP-provided aggregated dataset.

facility receives approximately 26% of WIWO recyclables. These tonnages may be slightly different for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 as operations change.

The Eastern Transfer Station in Deep River, receives almost 9% of the region's recyclables. It is also considered a recycling facility (MRF) within the DEEP data because it sends source-separated paper direct to paper mills in Massachusetts and New Hampshire from the Durham/Middlefield Transfer Station. Durham/ Middlefield residents separate paper from other recyclables, the paper is hauled to the Eastern Transfer Station by town staff, where it is baled, prior to being sent to the paper mills. The CWPM Plainville facility, receives nearly 8% of the region's recyclables, and also sends some paper materials directly to paper mills out of state. Casella's Willimantic MRF receives nearly 7% of the region's WIWO recyclables.

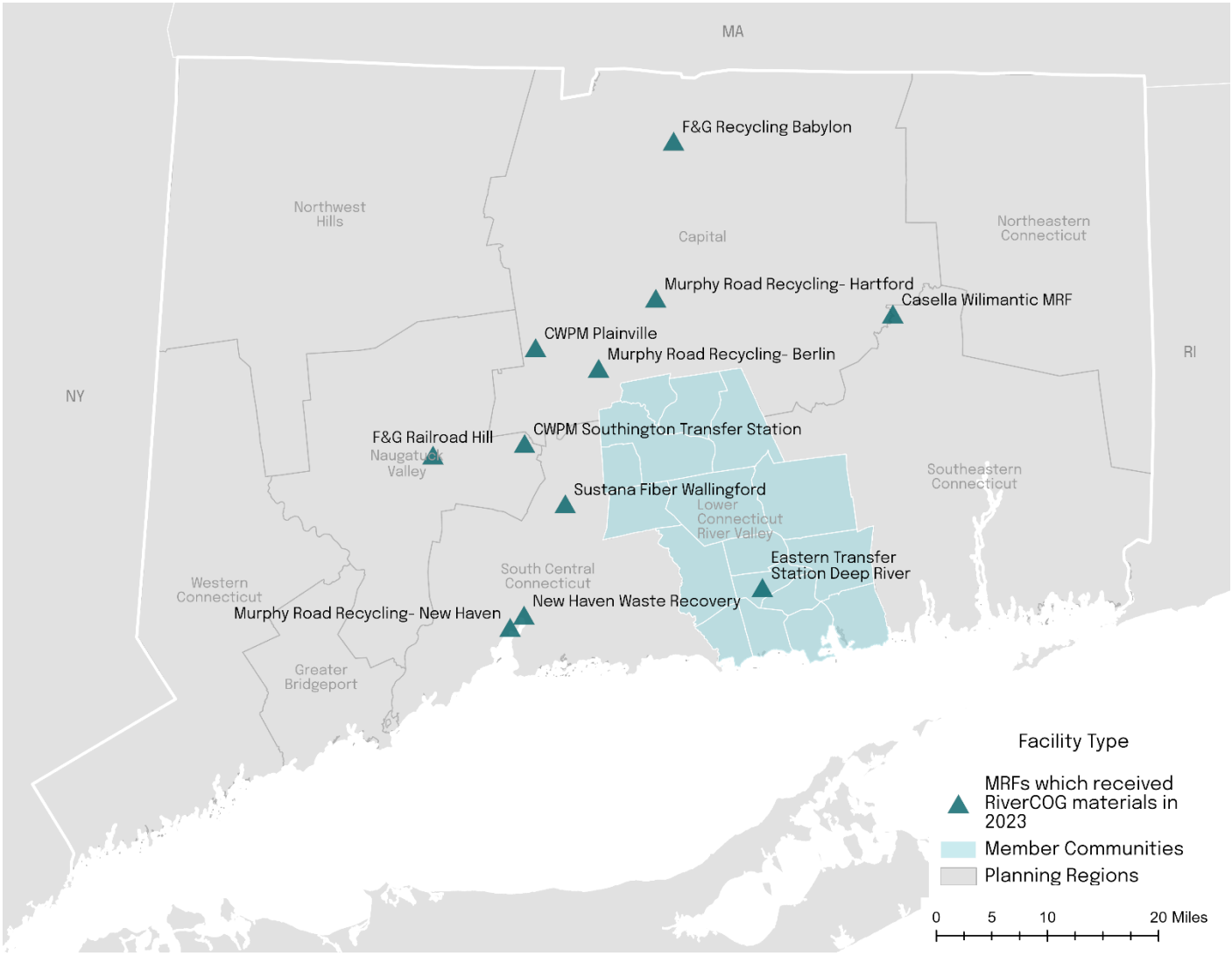
Chart 6: Percent of RiverCOG Recycling Sent to MRFs, FY 2023[35]



The following map displays all MRFs in Connecticut and highlights the 11 facilities that receive material from the RiverCOG. All but one of these facilities are located outside the RiverCOG region.

[35] Chart compiled from the DEEP-provided aggregated dataset. See Appendix Table 14 for tonnages sent to each MRF in FY 2023.

Map 4: Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) Receiving RiverCOG Material, 2023[36]



[36] Map compiled from the DEEP-provided aggregated dataset.

Organics

Image 5: Food Waste Bins at the Deep River Transfer Station for Blue Earth Compost

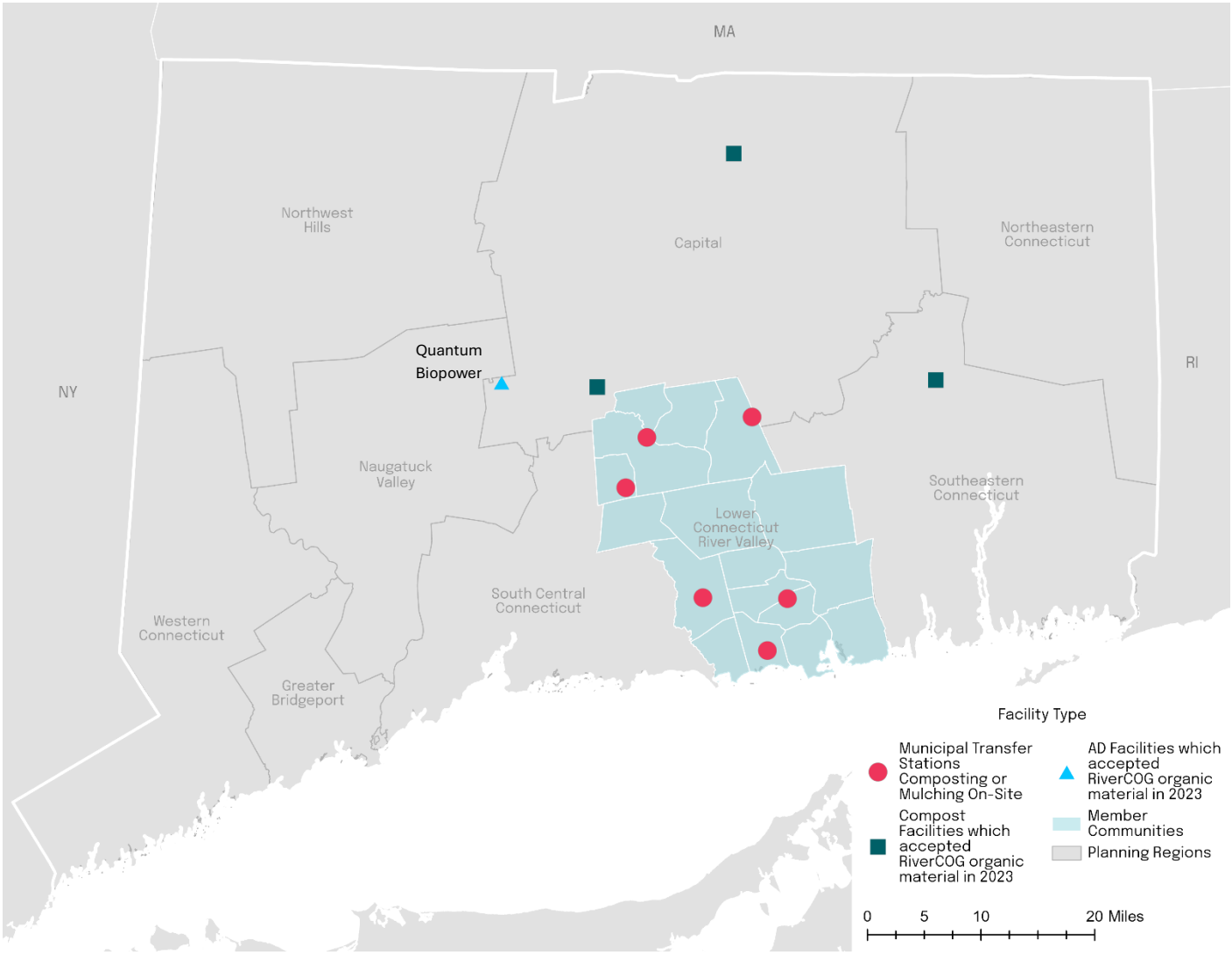
Organics operations, including food waste and yard waste, vary across all RiverCOG towns as efforts are not coordinated on a regional basis. Both yard waste and food waste are recycled by most towns via their transfer station collections instead of curbside services. Yard waste, including brush and leaves, is primarily managed on site at town transfer stations such as Middlefield, East Hampton, Essex, Killingworth, Middletown, and Westbrook. Private facilities accepting yard waste include Collins Compost Farm, Kolman Farm, Running Brook Farms, Scott's Earthgro, and WeCare Denali. Some private facilities also provide chipping services on site for transfer stations such as at Westbrook. According to 2023 DEEP datasets, local Connecticut farms manage approximately 17% of the region's yard waste, with the remainder being managed by town transfer stations on site (78%), WeCare Denali (less than 1%), and Scott's Earthgro (2%). A detailed breakdown of these tonnages is provided in the Appendix.

Image 6: Quantum Biopower Facility in Southington CT

As previously discussed, food waste is predominantly hauled by Blue Earth Compost and delivered to the Quantum BioPower anaerobic digestion facility in Southington, Connecticut. According to fiscal year 2023 DEEP datasets, Quantum BioPower only receives approximately 1% of the region's food waste. Another private partner operating in this space includes Bright Feeds who convert food waste into animal feed. Based in Berlin, CT, Bright Feeds accepts a small amount (less than 1%) of the region's food waste according to fiscal year 2023 DEEP datasets. Alternative partnerships can be found in East Haddam, who currently works with Cold Spring Farm to manage its food waste.

Map 5 displays the locations of all municipal transfer stations and other facilities that are composting RiverCOG materials.

Map 5: Organics Facilities Processing RiverCOG Material, 2023[37]



Conclusion

As RiverCOG looks ahead, one of the most significant opportunities lies in exploring how greater collaboration across municipalities could reshape waste and recycling services. A regional approach or interlocal agreements between towns can unlock efficiencies that are difficult, if not impossible, for individual towns to achieve on their own. Interlocal agreements scale the benefits of a regional approach, and tailor it to the needs of a group of towns with an affinity for working together. At its core,

[37] Map compiled from the DEEP-provided aggregated dataset.

regionalization and interlocal agreements are about scale, coordination, and shared capacity: creating a system that works smarter, not just bigger.

Interviews with town representatives underscored both the interest and caution surrounding greater collaboration, with many communities expressing curiosity about how their neighbors manage waste and recycling. Even simple information sharing could help towns identify cost savings, adopt successful programs, and expand services more effectively. This kind of transparency is often the first step toward deeper forms of collaboration.

At the same time, towns were clear that transfer stations are not just functional assets, but community hubs. Residents value them as trusted local resources, and no town wants to lose this point of connection. While there is some hesitation in the potential for regional systems to diminish local control or overwhelm limited capacity, there is also an openness to explore lighter-touch collaboration including shared staff support through the COG, coordinated programs, outreach, and advocacy.

By aligning efforts strategically, communities can reduce duplication, strengthen bargaining power, and ensure that services are delivered more consistently across the region. Regionalization also creates space for innovation, allowing investments in new infrastructure and programs that would be out of reach for single municipalities. Beyond cost savings, this kind of collaboration builds resilience by helping towns adapt to shifting regulations, changing recycling markets, and the growing need for sustainable waste diversion strategies.

The closure of MIRA, both at the individual facilities and within the organization itself, exposed the drawbacks of a large, integrated system that lacked community roots. This lack of ownership by its stakeholders led to a cycle of decline, aging infrastructure, and a reduction in capital reinvestment. Its closure highlights the changing priorities seen across the state's waste system and presents additional challenges for sustainably managing Connecticut's waste. However, it also presents new opportunities. Through local leadership, state support, and public/private innovation, communities can reenvision the waste system in a more responsive and sustainable manner.

State statutes provide a comprehensive legal framework that lays the foundation for exploring opportunities to regionalize and coordinate waste and recycling systems across RiverCOG. With thoughtful planning and targeted investment, RiverCOG communities can harness the benefits of collaboration to enhance waste material recovery rates and improve the overall quality of life for its residents.

Appendix

FACILITIES AND DEEP-PROVIDED DATASETS

Table 10: RiverCOG Municipal Transfer Stations & Recycling Centers – Map 2

FACILITY NAME	ADDRESS	CITY
Clinton Transfer Station	117 Old Nod Road	Clinton
Cromwell Transfer Station	100 County Lane Drive	Cromwell
Deep River Transfer Station	220 Winthrop Road	Deep River
Durham/Middlefield Transfer Station	Cherry Hill Road	Middlefield
East Haddam Transfer Station	Nichols Hill Road	East Haddam
East Hampton Transfer Station	Bear Swamp Road	East Hampton
Essex Municipal Transfer Station	5 Town Dump Road	Essex
Haddam Transfer Station	750 Saybrook Road	Haddam
Killingworth Transfer Station	Recycle Way, Route 81	Killingworth
Lyme Transfer Station	110 Brush Hill Road	Lyme
Hamburg Recycling Center (Lyme)	213 Hamburg Road	Lyme
City of Middletown Recycling Center	185 Johnson Street	Middletown
Old Lyme Transfer Station Four Mile River Road	109 Four Mile River Road	Old Lyme
Old Saybrook Transfer Station	479 Middlesex Turnpike	Old Saybrook
Portland Transfer Station / Recycling Center	33 Sandhill Road	Portland
Westbrook Transfer Station	154 McVeagh Road	Westbrook

Table 11: Private Transfer Stations Handling RiverCOG Material in 2023, DEEP Datasets – Map 2

FACILITY NAME	OWNER	ADDRESS	CITY	RIVERCOG MSW TONNAGE RECEIVED IN 2023	% OF ALL RIVERCOG MSW RECEIVED AT FACILITY
Murphy Road Recycling Middletown Transfer Station	Murphy Road Recycling	90 Industrial Park Road	Middletown	31,340	43%
Essex Transfer Station	Town of Essex	5 Town Dump Road	Essex	22,317	30%
CWPM Berlin Transfer Station	CWPM	415 Christian Lane	Berlin	9,386	13%
–Murphy Road Recycling Hartford Transfer Station	Murphy Road Recycling	123 Murphy Road	Hartford	6,384	9%
Willimantic Waste Windham Transfer Station	Casella	8 Industrial Park Road	Windham	1,594	2%
CWPM Southington Transfer Station / Central CT Resource Recovery Transfer Station	CWPM	65 Triano Drive	Southington	1,328	2%
CWPM Deep River Transfer Station	Perrotti Brothers LLC	400 Commercial Drive	Deep River	837	1%
Murphy Road Recycling Nutmeg Rd. Transfer Station (South Windsor)	Murphy Road Recycling, LLC	600 Nutmeg Road	South Windsor	105	0%
CWPM Bozrah Transfer Station	CWPM	8 Commerce Park Rd	Bozrah	70	0%
Murphy Road Recycling New Haven Transfer Station	Murphy Road Recycling, LLC	19 Wheeler Street	New Haven	48	0%
F&G Railroad Hill Transfer Station (Waterbury)	F&G Recycling, LLC	260 Railroad Hill	Waterbury	39	0%
CWPM Plainville Transfer Station [38]	CWPM	25 Norton Pl	Plainville	28	0%

[38] According to the 2023 DEEP aggregated dataset, these facilities are transfer stations receiving MSW from RiverCOG towns. It is known that the CWPM facility in Plainville is primarily a paper-baling operation.

Table 12: Final Disposal Destinations for RiverCOG MSW in 2023 – Map 3

FACILITY NAME	OWNER	FACILITY TYPE	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	RIVERCOG MSW TONNAGE RECEIVED IN 2023		% OF ALL COG MSW DISPOSED HERE	~MILES FROM HADDAM SWING BRIDGE
Reworld - Preston, CT	Reworld Waste LLC (Covanta)	WTE	132 Route 12 / Military Highway	Preston	CT	35,518		35.88%	42
Facility Not Identified[39]						34,209		34.56%	
BFI Carbon Limestone Landfill - OH	Republic Services	Landfill	8100 SOUTH STATELINE ROAD	Lowellville	OH	15,088		15.24%	540
WIN Waste Innovations - Bridgeport	WIN Waste Innovations	WTE	6 Howard Avenue	Bridgeport	CT	4,376		4.42%	60
Brunswick Landfill - VA	Brunswick County SW	Landfill	107 MALLARD CROSSING ROAD	LAWRENCEVILLE	VA	4,340		4.38%	525
Tunnel Hill Landfill - OH	WIN Waste Innovations	Landfill	2500 T R 205 Rout 2	New Lexington	OH	2,390		2.41%	650
Sunny Farms Landfill - OH	WIN Waste Innovations	Landfill	12500 W County Rd 18	Fostoria	OH	1,248		1.26%	675

Table 13: Final Disposal Destinations for RiverCOG Material in 2023 Receiving <1% by Weight, DEEP Dataset – Unmapped[40]

FACILITY NAME	OWNER	FACILITY TYPE	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE
Apex Landfill - OH	Apex Environmental, LLC.	Landfill	11 COUNTY ROAD 78	Amsterdam	OH
Arrowhead Landfill - AL	Waste Connections	Landfill	622 TAYLOR ROAD	Marion Junction	AL
F&G Recycling - Babylon	F&G Recycling, LLC	TS	1221 Harvey Lane	Suffield	CT
Covanta Fairfax - VA	EQT Infrastructure	WTE	9898 Furnace Rd	Lorton	VA
CWPM Berlin Transfer Station	CWPM	TS	415 Christian Lane	Berlin	CT
Empire Sanitary Landfill - PA	Waste Management	Landfill	398 S Keyser Ave	Taylor	PA
F & G Recycling Shoham Road, - E. Windsor	F&G Recycling, LLC	TS	5 Shoham Road	E. Windsor	CT
F&G Railroad Hill Transfer Station - Waterbury	F&G Recycling, LLC	TS	260 Railroad Hill	Waterbury	CT
Fitchburg Westminster Landfill- MA	WM	Landfill	101 FITCHBURG ROAD	WESTMINSTER	MA
Keystone Sanitation Landfill - PA	Family Owned	Landfill	249 Dunham Dr	Dunmore	PA
Lisbon RRF	Eastern CT Resource Recovery Authority	WTE	425 South Burnham Highway	Lisbon	CT
Manchester Sanitary Landfill	Town of Manchester	Landfill	311 Olcott ST	Manchester	CT
Murphy Road Recycling - Berlin	Murphy Road Recycling	TS	655 Christian Lane	Kensington	CT
Murphy Road Recycling Hartford	Murphy Road Recycling	TS	123 Murphy Rd	Hartford	CT
Murphy Road Recycling Nutmeg Rd. Transfer Station-South Windsor	Murphy Road Recycling	TS	600 NUTMEG ROAD	SOUTH WINDSOR	CT
Reworld - Bristol, CT	Reworld	WTE	170 Enterprise Drive	Bristol	CT

[39] No further information provided, facility was not reported to DEEP.

[40] These facilities were reported as final or second destinations of RiverCOG MSW in 2023.

Seneca Meadows Landfill - NY	Seneca Meadows	Landfill	1786 Salcman Rd	Waterloo	NY
UNIDENTIFIED - (O-O-S) DISPOSAL FACILITY[41]					
UNIDENTIFIED - DISPOSAL FACILITY[42]					
Washington Landfill[43]					
Willimantic Waste- Windham	Willimantic	TS	8 Industrial Park Rd	Windham	CT
WIN Waste Innovations - Lisbon	WIN Waste Innovations	WTE	425 South Burnham Highway	Lisbon	CT

Table 14: MRFs Handling RiverCOG WIWO in FY 2023 DEEP Dataset – Map 4

WIWO = Mixed Recycling including single stream, corrugated, mixed paper, mixed plastic.

Non-WIWO = Additional Recycling including scrap metal, plastic film, recyclable wood, mattresses, oil filters.

FACILITY NAME	OWNER	ADDRESS	CITY	TOTAL WIWO TONNAGE	% TOTAL RIVERCOG WIWO
Murphy Road Recycling - Berlin	Murphy Road Recycling	655 Christian Lane	Kensington	4,996	42.7%
Murphy Road Recycling - Hartford	Murphy Road Recycling	123 Murphy Rd	Hartford	3,051	26.1%
Eastern Transfer Station	Perrotti Brothers LLC	400 Commercial Drive	Deep River	1,010	8.6%
CWPM Plainville	CWPM	25 Norton Pl	Plainville	899	7.7%
Casella Wilimantic MRF	Casella Waste Systems	185 Recycling Way	Willimantic	767	6.6%
Murphy Road Recycling - New Haven	Murphy Road Recycling	104 John W Murphy Drive	New Haven	568	4.9%
CWPM Southington Transfer Station / Central CT Resource Recovery Transfer Station	Central Recycling & Transfer, LLC	22 Burton Ave	Cheshire	333	2.8%
New Haven Waste Recovery	NHSWRA	260 Middletown Ave	New Haven	32	0.3%
Sustana Fiber Wallingford	Sustana	718 N Colony Rd	Wallingford	25	0.2%
F&G Recycling Babylon	F&G Recycling, LLC	1221 Harvey Ln	Suffield	6	0.0%
F&G Railroad Hill	F&G Recycling, LLC	260 Railroad Hill	Waterbury	1	0.0%
Grand Total				**11,686**	

[41] No further information reported.

[42] No further information reported.

[43] No further information reported.

Table 15: Facilities Handling Additional (Non-WIWO) Recycling from RiverCOG in FY 2023 DEEP Dataset – Unmapped

FACILITY NAME	MATERIAL	TOTAL TONS	% TOTAL RIVERCOG NON-WIWO RECYCLING
BAYSTATE TEXTILES	Textiles, Goods	12,403	63.5%
RUNNING BROOK - DEEP RIVER	Wood (non-treated)	2,812	14.4%
UNIDENTIFIED - RECY FACILITY	Plastic Film	1,000	5.1%
F & G - SHOHAM RD - E. WINDSOR (RECYCLE)	Scrap Metal, Wood	707	3.6%
CALAMARI RECYCLING (SCRAP METAL)	Scrap Metal, Storage Batteries	662	3.4%
RUNNING BROOK - KILLINGWORTH	Wood (non-treated)	494	2.5%
WILLIMANTIC WASTE (RECYCLE)	Mattresses	416	2.1%
BELLTOWN RECYCLING	Freon, Scrap Metal	339	1.7%
TAKE 2 RECYCLING-EPR-CER	Electronics, Bulbs, Batteries, Scrap Metal	220	1.1%
PARK CITY GREEN	Mattresses	173	0.9%
NICHOLS AUTO PARTS, INC.	Scrap Metal	110	0.6%
CLEAN HARBORS OF CT INC (BRISTOL)	Paint, Waste Oil	45	0.2%
MURPHY RD - CAPITOL RECYCLING	Plastic Film, Wood	35	0.2%
TRADEBE (ADVANCED LIQ/UTD IND'L/UTD OIL/BPT UTD)	Antifreeze, Waste Oil	32	0.2%
MURPHY RD - HARTFORD (RECY)	Scrap Metal	20	0.1%
CT OIL RECYCLING SRVCS - (JOCOSA)	Oil Filters	16	0.1%
DON STEVENS TIRE (TIRE VRF)	Tires	16	0.1%
EGC ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Waste Oil	6	0.0%
MUNICIPAL FURNACE	Waste Oil	5	0.0%
WESTERN OIL INC	Antifreeze, Waste Oil	4	0.0%
GOODWILL	Textiles, Goods	4	0.0%
SAFETY - KLEEN (W. BROOKFIELD, MA)	Waste Oil	3	0.0%
INTERSTATE BATTERIES (KILLINGWORTH, CT)	Storage Batteries	3	0.0%
BOB'S TIRE COMPANY	Tires	1	0.0%
PARACO GAS CO.	Propane Tanks	1	0.0%
NLR - NORTHEAST LAMP RECYCLING	Batteries	0.5	0.0%
UNIDENTIFIED - (CT) - END USER	Plastic Film	0 .3	0.0%

Table 16: Organics Facilities Handling RiverCOG Material in FY 2023 – Map 5

Organics= food waste, yard waste such as brush and leaves, and other naturally decomposing materials.

FACILITY NAME	OWNER	ADDRESS	CITY	MATERIAL	TOTAL TONS	% OF ALL REPORTED RIVERCOG ORGANIC MATERIAL IN 2023
WeCare Denali	WeCare Denali	235 Sadds Mill Road	Ellington	Brush, Yard Waste	2.00	0.02%
Bright Feeds	Bright Feeds	76 Fuller Way	Berlin	Food Processing Residuals	38.40	0.29%
Scott's Earthgro	Scotts	20 Industrial Road	Lebanon	Brush, Yard Waste	303.00	2.29%
Quantum Biopower	Circular Services	49 DePaolo Dr	Southington	Food Processing Residuals	186.11	1.41%

Table 17: Organics Facilities Handling RiverCOG Material in FY 2023 DEEP Dataset – Unmapped
Organics= food waste, yard waste such as brush and leaves, and other naturally decomposing materials.

FACILITY NAME	MATERIAL	TOTAL TONS	% OF ALL REPORTED RIVERCOG ORGANIC MATERIAL IN 2023
BLUE EARTH COMPOST (Hauler only, no facility)	Food Processing Residuals	85.77	0.65%
LOCAL CT FARM[44]	YARD WASTE	2,245.00	16.98%
MUNICIPAL COMPOSTING/MULCHING	Leaves, Yard Waste	13,358.96	78.37%
Municipal Transfer Stations Processing Organics on site, as reported to DEEP FY 2023:			

Table 18: Volume Reduction Facilities (VRFs) Handling RiverCOG Material in FY 2023 DEEP Dataset – Unmapped

A VRF is a regulated facility where solid waste is processed to reduce its volume for easier handling, transportation, or disposal. Examples include crushing, baling, or shredding.

FACILITY NAME	OWNER	ADDRESS	CITY	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION	REPORTED TONS	% OF TOTAL RIVERCOG TONS SENT TO VRF IN 2023
Calamari Recycling	Calamari Recycling Company, Inc	20 Town Dump Road	Essex	Mixed C&D	1,869.66	71.2%
Central CT Resource Recovery	CWPM	65 Triano Drive	Southington	Oversized MSW	131.56	5.0%
New Haven Waste Recovery	NHSWRA	260 Middletown Ave	New Haven	Mixed C&D	135.00	5.1%
Willimantic Waste Windham	Willimantic	8 Industrial Park Road	Windham	Tires, Wood, Brush/Stumps	488.38	18.6%

[44] No further information reported to DEEP.

SUPPORTING TOWN DATA

MATERIALS ACCEPTED BY FACILITY

Table 19: Materials Accepted by Facility

FACILITY	MSW	RECYCLING	YARD WASTE	BULKY WASTE	SCRAP METAL	HHW	APPLIANCES	ELECTRONICS	MATTRESSES
Clinton Transfer Station	Yes	Yes	Yes-leaves, brush, grass	Yes	Yes	Yes-Paint, oil	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cromwell Transfer Station	No	Yes	Yes-leaves, brush, grass	Yes	Yes	Yes-oil anti-freeze	Yes	Yes	Yes
Deep River Transfer Station	Yes	Yes	Yes-leaves, brush	Yes	Yes	Yes-oil	Yes	Yes	Yes
Durham/Middlefield Transfer Station	Yes	Yes	Yes-leaves, brush	Yes	Yes	Yes-oil, anti-freeze	Yes	Yes	Yes
East Haddam Transfer Station	Yes	Yes	Yes-leaves	Yes	Yes	Yes-Paint*, oil, anti-freeze	No	Yes	Yes
East Hampton Transfer Station	No	No	Yes-leaves, brush	Yes	Yes	Yes-oil		Yes	Yes
Essex Transfer Station	Yes	Yes	Yes – leaves, brush	Yes	Yes	Yes – oil, anti-freeze, paint	Yes	Yes	Yes
Haddam Transfer Station	Yes	Yes	Yes-leaves, brush	Yes	Yes	Yes-oil, anti-freeze		Yes	Yes
Killingworth Transfer Station	Yes	Yes	Yes-brush	Yes	Yes	Yes-oil, anti-freeze		Yes	Yes

Lyme Transfer Station	No	Yes	Yes-leaves, brush	Yes	Yes	Yes-oil, anti-freeze		Yes	Yes
Middletown Recycling Center	No	Yes	Yes-leaves, brush, grass	Yes	Yes	Yes-cooking oil, anti-freeze	Yes	Yes	Yes
Old Lyme Transfer Station	No	Yes	Yes-leaves, brush	Yes	Yes	Yes-oil, anti-freeze		Yes	Yes
Old Saybrook Transfer Station	Yes	Yes	Yes-leaves. brush	Yes	Yes	Yes-paint, oil, anti-freeze		Yes	Yes
Portland Transfer Station	Yes	Yes	Yes-leaves, brush, grass	Yes	Yes	Yes-paint, anti-freeze		Yes	Yes
Westbrook Transfer Station	No	Yes	Yes-leaves, brush	Yes	Yes	Yes-oil		Yes	Yes

*Partner with Shagbark Hardware for paint disposal.

CONTRACTS BY FACILITY

Details below were provided by towns through interviews and direct contact. According to the Tier 1 Short Term Municipal Service Agreement Amendments provided by MIRA prior to dissolution, the MSW tip fee will be $131 per ton in fiscal year 2025 for all towns continuing to utilize these contracts. This includes towns sending material to the MIRA Transfer Station (located in Essex). Towns included in the agreement include Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, East Haddam, Haddam, Killingworth, Old Saybrook, Lyme, Old Lyme, and Westbrook.[45]

Note: “n/a” indicates that the material is not accepted at this facility and therefore no cost is associated.

[45] No fee charged for clean/dry mattresses, but if they are soiled/wet, some towns charge a fee between $10-30.

Table 20: Contracts by Facility

FACILITY		MSW COLLECTION	MSW DISPOSAL	RECYCLING COLLECTION	RECYCLING DISPOSAL	BULKY WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL	METAL AND RECYCLING	FOOD WASTE COLLECTION AND PROCESSING	YARD WASTE PROCESSING
Clinton Transfer Station	**Vendor**	Self-haul	Reworld (Preston)	Self-haul	Murphy Road Recycling	Self-haul to CWPM	Nichols Recycling	On site processing	On site processing
	Cost	Not provided	$131/ton	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Cromwell Transfer Station	**Vendor**	n/a	n/a	All Waste	All Waste	All Waste[2]	Simms[3]	Blue Earth	Self-haul to Collins Farm
	Cost	n/a	n/a	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Deep River Transfer Station	**Vendor**	Self-haul	Reworld (Preston)	Self-haul	Murphy Road Recycling	Self-haul to Deep River-Eastern TS	Self-haul to Calamari	Blue Earth	Running Brook in Killingworth
	Cost	Not provided	$131/ton	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Approx. $900/month	Not provided
Durham/ Middlefield Transfer Station	**Vendor**	Self- haul	Reworld (Bristol, CT)	Self-haul	Eastern TS (Deep River, CT) for paper, bottles, and cans; Paper mills in MA and NH for paper	Self-haul to Calamari	Self-haul to Calamari	Self-haul to Quantum BioPower	On-site processing
	Cost	Not provided	$97.85/ton		Approx. $1,250/month	$135/ton	$90-120/month, varies by month	$55/ton disposal fee	Not provided
East Haddam Transfer Station	**Vendor**	Casella	Willimantic Waste Paper Co	Casella	Willimantic Waste Paper Co	Casella	Calamari	Self-haul to Cold Spring Farm	n/a
	Cost	Not provided	$100.56/ton	Not provided	ACR minus processing fee	$105/ton for bulky waste disposal	Not provided	Not provided	n/a
East Hampton Transfer Station	**Vendor**	n/a	n/a	Not provided	Not provided	Self-haul to All Waste	Belltown Recycling Center	n/a	Self-haul brush to Scotts (Lebanon)

	Cost	n/a	n/a	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	n/a	Not provided
Essex Transfer Station	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Haddam Transfer Station	**Vendor**	Self-haul	Reworld (Preston)	Not provided	Murphy Road Recycling	Self-haul to Reworld (Preston)	Connecticut Scrap	Blue Earth	n/a
	Cost	Not provided	$131/ton	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Vendor provides 13, 32-gallon containers. $35/collection, $6/container, and $1 cleaning fee/container.	n/a
Killingworth Transfer Station	**Vendor**	Self-haul to Essex, $131/ton (2025), $141/ton (2026)	Reworld (Preston)	Self-haul	Murphy Road Recycling	Self-haul to Deep River-Eastern TS	Not provided	Blue Earth	Not provided
	Cost	Not provided	$131/ton	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Hamburg Recycling Center & Lyme Transfer Station	**Vendor**	n/a	n/a	Casella	Willimantic CT	Not provided	Willimantic/ Casella	Public pilot project at local farm	Brush chipped by local contractor
	Cost	n/a	n/a	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Middletown Recycling Center	**Vendor**	Not provided	CWPM-Southington Facility	Not provided	Murphy Road Recycling	Not provided	CT Scrap	Southington, CT	Kolman Farms (mixed yard waste)
	Cost	Not provided	$118.45/ton; $127.72/ton for sorted MSW ($9 more than contracted cost)	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided

Old Lyme Transfer Station	**Vendor**	CWPM	Reworld (Preston)	CWPM	Murphy Road Recycling	CWPM to Reworld (Preston)	Not provided	n/a	Onsite processing
	Cost	Not provided	$131/ton	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	n/a	Not provided
Old Saybrook Transfer Station	**Vendor**	CWPM	Reworld (Preston)	CWPM	Murphy Road Recycling	Calamari	Calamari	Blue Earth	On site processing- composted leaves sold to contractor
	Cost	Not provided	$140/ton through 2027	Not provided	$100/ton	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Portland Transfer Station	**Vendor**	Via rail	All Waste (Hartford)	Self-haul	All Waste (Berlin); Murphy Road Recycling	All Waste (Hartford)	Belltown Recycling Center	Blue Earth	Brush taken by CT Mulch after chipped
	Cost	Not provided	$110/ton	Not provided	Not provided	$175/ton	Pay for material by the ton	Not provided	$40/ton
Westbrook Transfer Station	**Vendor**	n/a	n/a	CWPM	Murphy Road Recycling	Calamari	Calamari	n/a	Running Brook (brush)
	Cost	n/a	n/a	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	n/a	Not provided

Note: n/a indicates that the facility does not accept that material at its facility, and therefore, no cost is associated with it.

SOLID WASTE HAULERS

Towns annually report to DEEP all solid waste haulers providing MSW and recycling services that operate within the borders of their town annually to DEEP. Table 21 details all waste haulers operating in RiverCOG per town FY 2024 reports.

Table 21: Waste Haulers Operating in RiverCOG

HAULER NAME	SERVICES PROVIDED	COMMUNITIES OPERATE IN	FACILITIES
AJ Waste	Commercial refuse and bulky waste drop-off services	Durham/Middlefield	Cheshire, CT
All Waste	Residential and commercial refuse and recycling service	Chester, Middletown, Old Saybrook, Clinton, Deep River, Durham, Middlefield, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Westbrook, Haddam, Cromwell	Hartford, CT
Baystate Textile	Textile recycling	Deep River, Haddam	Kingston, MA
Belltown Recycling	Scrap metal recycling services and Bulky services.	Portland	East Hampton, CT
Blue Earth Compost	Food scrap collection	Chester, Portland, Old Saybrook, Killingworth, Haddam, Cromwell, Deep River, Middletown	
Bob's Tire Company	Tire disposal and recycling services	Old Lyme	New Bedford, MA
Calamari	Scrap Metal and Bulky Waste collection	Westbrook, Old Saybrook, East Haddam, Deep River	Essex, CT
Casella Waste	Residential and commercial refuse and recycling service. Bulky waste removal and processing.	Middletown, Essex, Lyme, Old Lyme, East Haddam	Willimantic, CT
Clean Harbors	HHW disposal	Chester	
CRM	Crumb rubber manufacturer	Westbrook	Plainfield, CT
CT Mulch	Yard waste chipping services	Portland	Enfield, CT
CT Oil Recycling	Waste oil, antifreeze, oil filter collection services	Middletown	
Curbside Compost	Residential and commercial food scrap collection services	Middletown	
CWPM	Residential and commercial refuse and recycling service	Old Saybrook, Old Lyme, Westbrook, Deep River,	Southington Facility

		Durham/Middlefield, Essex, Portland, Haddam	
Dependable Hydraulics	Waste Oil service	Deep River	North Branford, CT
Divert Collections of CT	Non-residential food scrap collection	Middletown	Concord, MA
Don Steven's Tire Co, Inc	Tire disposal and recycling services	Portland	
Federal Oil	Waste Oil service	Portland, Haddam	Killingworth, CT
Finkeldey	Bulky waste (dumpster rentals)	Chester, Westbrook, Old Saybrook	
Goduti Waste & Recycling	Residential and commercial refuse and recycling services	Durham/Middlefield	
Gorilla Dumpster	Bulky and yard waste disposal	Clinton	
Hometown Waste		Old Saybrook, Clinton, Westbrook	
Incarnation Camp	Recycling diversion program	Essex	
Interstate All Battery Center	Battery recycling services	Old Lyme	
Jansky's Rubbish Removal	Residential and commercial refuse and recycling service	Chester, East Haddam, Essex, Lyme	East Haddam, CT
John's Refuse	Residential and commercial refuse and recycling service	Old Saybrook, Clinton, Durham, Middlefield, Westbrook	
Madore Landscaping	Leaf disposal	Haddam	Haddam, CT
MIRA		Chester	
Olsen's Sanitation	Residential refuse and recycling collection.	Chester, Essex, Deep River	Chester, CT
Paraco Gas	Propane gas services	Old Lyme	Waterbury, CT
Pete's Waste Removal	Residential refuse and recycling service	Deep River, Haddam	Haddam, CT
Richard Riggio and Sons	Bulky waste disposal	Essex	
Running Brook Farms	Yard waste processing	Westbrook, Deep River	Killingworth, CT
Solari Brothers Carting	Residential refuse and recycling service. Bulky waste collection.	Old Saybrook, Westbrook, Clinton, Essex, Deep River	
Stericycle	Medical waste disposal	Middletown	Middletown, CT

Supreme Forest Products	Brush disposal	Haddam	Southington, CT
Sweitzer Waste	Residential and commercial refuse and recycling service. Bulky waste collection.	Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex	Clinton, CT
Take 2 Recycling	Electronics recycling	Deep River, Old Lyme, Portland, Westbrook, Haddam	Waterbury, CT
WeCare Denali	Organics management	Old Lyme	Ellington, CT
Western Oil	Waste oil and HHW disposal	Old Lyme	Lincoln, RI