

SWANA

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Newsletter

November 2023

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Message from the President

Apologies for not getting this newsletter to the membership in a few months. As you all know, WASTECON-Boston was held in September and our Board was very active in supporting that event and it took a great deal of effort and time to have a successful event, leaving little time to pull this together. That being said, as we approach the end of 2023 it is always a good time to reflect upon the successes and challenges the past year provided us all. I truly hope you all get a chance to relax, reflect, and refresh over the upcoming holiday period. Take the time to say thank you to your co-workers, your family, your friends, and even some strangers when you can. A kind gesture and smile can go a long way in today's world to reduce the stress and anxiety that seems to exist everywhere you turn. Please enjoy this newsletter.

SAFETY

Accidents can happen anywhere at any time to all of us. Recently a chapter member was driving through a thunderstorm in MA and a severe wind event snapped a utility pole in half, with live wires, which subsequently fell onto his SUV. What would you do in a situation like that? Luckily, this person stayed calm and contacted 911 for emergency help. Per the 911's direction, the driver stayed inside the vehicle until the utility company shut off the power to the pole. The driver was uninjured even after the vehicle was electrocuted for an hour and a half. **Safety tip:** when there is a downed powerline within 25 ft from your vehicle, do not touch the metal components of your vehicle, stay inside the vehicle (rubber tires provide insulation), and follow the 911's directions.



WASTECON 2023

WASTECON-Boston was held September 27-29, 2023 at the Hynes Convention Center. As the Host Chapter, our Board and members were very active in supporting National in planning, promoting, and organizing this event. With the support of our neighboring chapters, New York and Northern New England, SWANA members were active in Proctoring sessions, organizing Tours, and hosting various social events during this week. A great big thank you to all who volunteered and supported the event.

We also want to thank our many sponsors who supported the events. Unfortunately, our annual golf event got rained out, but many of those sponsors were gracious to move their support to our Networking Event which funds next year's scholarships. All of the sponsors supported us in ensuring we had great Networking and YP Social Events during WASTECON. A full listing of these sponsors is at the end of this newsletter.

reporting to the agency. Finally, RIDEM is expecting that POTW's will be starting to sample influent and effluent for PFAS compounds and that significant industrial users (SIU's) will need to begin monitoring in 2024.

MA: The Solid Waste Advisory Committee held its meeting on October 26, 2023. Updates to the 2022 Solid Waste Data were reviewed in addition to various MA DEP Program updates, specifically focusing on solar panel recycling. This is an emerging waste stream and MA DEP is working to stay ahead of this generation and to work with stakeholders to identify appropriate end of life scenarios. For 2022, total disposed tons was down 4% overall as compared to 2021 figures, with in-state disposal down a bit and exports up. More information can be found at the MA SWAC [page](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- NY Federation Solid Waste Conference, May 19-22, 2024, Sagamore Resort near Lake George, NY. Information can be found [here](#).

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

- Northeast rail served capacity continues to grow and attract investors. With tight capacity continuing in the northeast developing viable transfer and disposal assets with an influx of capital positions companies to take advantage of the shortfall in local disposal capacity. Story [here](#)
- Reloop report offers new ideas for passing additional bottle bill laws in the US. The report looks to “create a bridge between theory and action” by highlighting successful programs and strategies to be implemented. Further information can be found [here](#).

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Recent job opportunities have been posted by MA DEP, NEWMOA, and others in the solid waste and recycling industry. As our workforce ages, all of us need to be focused on bringing in new, energetic, and emerging talent to the industry. Many of these jobs are great entry level positions that can expose people to the great things that our industry does day in and day out. If you know of talent looking to make a change, please direct them to these agencies for more information and opportunities.



REGULATORY UPDATES

CT: The Solid Waste Advisory Committee held its meeting on October 24, 2023. During that meeting representatives from the USEPA detailed information from its recently released (October 2023) reports on food waste and GHG emissions. Included in the reports is a new Food Waste Scale detailing the hierarchy for reducing the impacts of waste food. For more information and copies of the reports go to the USEPA [website](#). Interesting fact for CT – over 95 million “nips” were sold in the State of CT over the past 12 months. With a fee of \$0.05/bottle, that equates to over \$4.7 million dollars returned to cities and towns based on the sales in that locality.



RI: EBC recently held an update to RI issues in October 2023. During that event various sections of RIDEM updated their current focus areas and objectives for the upcoming year. The main focus continues to be on PFAS issues and the updated regulations that will be going into effect by 12/31/23. Changes to surface water and groundwater regulations will now include standards for

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WASTECON 2023
Local Chapter Networking Event

Thank you to our sponsors!





**WASTECON 2023 SNE SWANA
Sponsored Golf Outing**

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