

SWANA

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Newsletter

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Message from the President

Welcome to 2022! In the last newsletter I asked the question “where did the time go?” I might as well ask that again. Typically, the December-February period is the solid waste industry’s slow time where we can take a breather, plan the upcoming year, and refresh for another period of hectic activity. Seems those days are behind us; we keep pushing the limits all twelve months. Can you all believe that we are half-way through winter, with spring right around the corner. Now some of you may be overjoyed with that prospect, but as an older landfill guy I know this period brings the mud and all the operational headaches with it. I would be remiss if I did not mention that SWANA has many training resources for our members to help them plan how to effectively manage the operational transition that we experience in the northeast (from frozen to mud to dust) at your facilities. If interested, please check out the SWANA website or reach out to a Board member for more information.

There is a lot of activity coming up over the next few months. Be sure to check out the upcoming events section for more information on pending meetings and training opportunities. I also wanted to take the time to thank our contributing members to this newsletter. You will see we have guest sections in this newsletter sharing valuable information. If anyone is interested in sharing their services or information with our members, please reach out and we will see what we can do to assist.

Lastly, scholarship season is coming up. Last year our chapter was the sponsor of one the scholarship winners from SWANA National. We look forward to this year’s applicants and hopefully another National winner. Be on the lookout for emails and reminders to apply. As a parent I know that our kids can sure use the extra funds to pay for college.

SAFETY MATTERS

Did you know that SWANA offers the weekly Safety Matters in English, Spanish and now French? You can sign up to receive these in your inbox every week. Head to the www.swana.org website for more information.

REGULATORY UPDATES

Massachusetts: The Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) program has formed an advisory committee to provide broad stakeholder input into the regulatory effort associated with the new environmental justice requirements recently added through the March 2021 legislation. The SNE Chapter will be represented by Phil Goddard, S.C., who will bring his expertise and knowledge to the committee to help bridge the gap between legislation and the industry. If any member has an issue they would like brought up on this topic, please reach out to Phil and let him know your concerns. Thanks to Phil for volunteering his time on this committee. More information on this committee and the meetings can be found [here](#).

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The SNE Chapter is looking to facilitate a self-study training event in 2022 that will consist of on-line learning partnered with weekly meetings to discuss the material and to hear from guest speakers to discuss real life situations. At the conclusion of the training attendees will be able to take the associated SWANA exam and become certified in the subject matter. We are currently in the planning stages and will be distributing a survey to our members in the coming months. Please take the time to complete the survey when you receive it as it will help greatly in our planning.

MentorMatch: SWANA's mentorship program is still accepting enrollment up to February 15th. If you are interested in being a Mentor or a Mentee for at least a six month program please enroll [here](#). This is a great opportunity to expand or share your knowledge.

Are you interested in a topic and wish someone could present? Let us know and we will work hard to put together a session diving into the details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- NEWMOA & NERC – Virtual Session – “End Markets for Finished Compost” will be held on February 23, 2022, 1-2:30 pm. Information and registration can be found [here](#).
- NNE SWANA – Virtual Session – “Help Wanted – No Time to Waste” will be held on February 24, 2022, at 8 am. Information and registration can be found at www.nneswana.org
- EBC 8th Annual “Talking Trash” Conference: Southern New England – March 11, 2022. In person at the Double Tree Hotel, Westborough, MA. [register here](#)
- SWANA SOAR – Sustainability, Operations, Action, Resources. March 21-24, 2022, in Kansas City, MO. More information can be found [here](#).

WHATS IN THE NEWS?

- City of Hartford, CT – selected Murphy Road Recycling, LLC to take over the City's waste and recycling with the anticipated closure of the MIRA facility. Negotiations are underway to finalize the agreement. See [article](#) in Hartford Courant.
- Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA), CT – with the closure of the Hartford plant, has entered into tentative agreements with three locations to send the waste under its control. See [article](#) in The Connecticut Examiner.
- Waste Management is no more!! With an official name change to WM, CEO Jim Fish talks about the new branding initiative aimed at renewable energy and recycling projects. Check out his interview [here](#)
- Waste Connections announced its acquisition of ABC Disposal Services located in New Bedford,

MA. This comes on the heels of its acquisition of E.L. Harvey & Sons in 2021. This acquisition expands Waste Connections' position in the southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island markets.

Anaerobic Digestion Coalition

The Coalition of Massachusetts Anaerobic Digestion Facilities (the Coalition), which formed August 2021, is comprised of owners and operators of landfill gas-to-energy facilities and AD biogas-to-energy facilities operating in Massachusetts. The Coalition advocates for the existing 20 Landfill gas-to-energy and AD biogas-to-energy plants operating in Massachusetts. The Coalition interest is to keep this important environmental infrastructure commercially viable. This is particularly important after the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (MA DOER) amended the MA Class 1 RECs regulations in July 2021 to reduce the alternative compliance payments and remove requirements for projects outside New England to have energy supply commitments to the New England grid. Specifically, the MA DOER amendments to its regulations at 225 CMR 14 and 15 will do the following:

1. Reduce the ACP for Mass Class I RECs to \$60 per MWh in 2021, \$50 per MWh in 2022, and \$40 per MWh in 2023. This will cause market prices for these RECs to fall below the ACPs.
2. Reduce the ACP for Mass. Clean Energy Credits (CECs), which is set at 50 percent of the REC ACP, to \$20 per MWh by 2023. Because of the ties between REC and CEC markets, this could cause market prices for RECs to fall below \$20 per MWh. One forecasting service predicts a drop to \$15 per MWh in this timeframe.
3. Eliminate requirements for projects outside ISO-New England to have electricity supply commitments in New England to qualify for Mass. Class I RECs. This has and will continue to attract further supply of RECs from New York and outside the region, depressing REC market prices to \$10 per MWh or below. A flow of Massachusetts electricity rate payer money will flow out of Massachusetts to New York to support New York projects rather than Massachusetts projects.

These changes have and will continue to disrupt the MA Class I REC market, which market is important to economic viability of the Massachusetts facilities.

The landfill gas-to-energy and AD biogas-to-energy facilities operating in Massachusetts provide important environmental protection and infrastructure that help meet our climate goals as well as Massachusetts solid waste management, environmental and renewable energy policies, regulations, and laws. These projects are also important environmental protection and infrastructure that support many existing municipal programs, operations, and environmental compliance commitments. The projects provide low-cost renewable electricity to many of the Massachusetts municipal utilities. The Coalition is working through a Boston based lobbyist to create legislation that provides long-term economic support to these important Massachusetts projects to secure their economic viability. The Coalition is administered by Mr. Steve Changaris, Northeast VP of the National Waste & Recycling Association with technical support from Mr. Thomas Yeransian and Mr. George Aronson of Commonwealth Resource Management Corporation. If you are interested in supporting the Coalition, please reach out to us at tyeransian@crmcx.com

Business Spotlight - RePurposed Materials

While based out of Denver, CO, this company has yards in four other states and is looking to partner with entities across the United States. The following article was penned by Damon Carson, Founder & President of repurposedMATERIALS and provides some insight into the company and its goal. If interested in more information, please reach out to Damon directly.

If there is anyone truly aware of the amount of waste that ends up in landfills every year, and the costs associated with effectively managing this material through regulatory life of the facility, it's solid waste professionals.

Americans produce about 4.4 pounds of trash a day, which amounts to roughly 728,000 tons of daily garbage, enough to fill 63,000 garbage trucks. According to the most recent US EPA figures, most of this material is managed through incinerators or landfills.

For half a century, the solution to reducing the amount of waste destined for disposal problem has been to recycle it. But traditional recycling involves the reprocessing of materials. It uses energy, it's expensive, and at times it can be inefficient. For those reasons, recycling ranks just above 'waste-to-energy' on the waste hierarchy. Recycling keeps a portion of the disposed material out of the landfill but at what cost?

Our company asked the question: "Is there some way to more efficiently reduce waste destined for disposal?" We believe the answer is "yes," and the solution is not recycling, it's "repurposing."

Rather than melting, shredding, chipping, or grinding – which is the end result after the recycling process sorts all of the materials – repurposedMATERIALS finds new uses for materials in their current form. An old fire hose becomes a boat dock guard. A worn out conveyor belt becomes a gun range ballistics curtain. A retired street sweeper brush becomes a scratching post for cattle.

"If something is obsolete to the primary user, that doesn't mean it doesn't have value somewhere," repurposedMATERIALS owner Damon Carson said. "If you find yourself saying 'I can't use this. What am I going to do with it?' that's where we come in."

Carson challenges those in every industry to consider if there are "repurpose-able" options for their obsolete materials before simply banishing them to the landfill. Additionally, he encourages solid waste professionals to refer producers of large amounts of waste to him before they haul off their potentially "repurpose-able" materials.

"It makes sense environmentally and economically," Carson said. "Giving materials a second life keeps them out of the disposal stream, which can come with surprising cost savings." In addition to savings on disposal costs or on the expense to process as a recyclable, businesses can repurpose the material over a primary market material at a savings of 50% to 75%

repurposedMATERIALS believes they help solid waste professionals divert a significant amount of waste before it needs to be further processed as a recyclable or is destined for disposal. The Company's goal is to work with businesses and industry professionals to identify materials that can be repurposed and to get them on a truck destined for second life.

For advice on repurposing materials, contact Carson by telephone at 720-615-0281, or by email at damon@repurposedmaterialsinc.com

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SNE SWANA Chapter Committee Members

Membership

Brian Card (C) bcard@wtienergy.com
Greg McCarron
Ron St. Michel

Programming (see below)

Brian Card (C) bcard@wtienergy.com
Jackie Caceci - CT Program
Lindsey Welcome - MA Program
Inga Lermontov-Hoit - RI Program

CT - Program Development

Jackie Caceci (C) jmcaceci@tighebond.com
Greg McCarron
Amy Knight

MA - Program Development

Lindsey Welcome (C) lwelcome@brwncald.com
Barry VanLaarhoven
Amy Knight
Scott Alfonse

RI - Program Development

Inga Lermontov-Hoit (C) ingal@rirrc.org
Joseph Brennan

Young Professional

Joseph Brennan (C) jpbrennan@rirrc.org
Katie Scott

Scholarship

Ron St.Michel (C) rstmichel@sanbornhead.com
Scott Alfonse
Katie Scott

Audit

Scott Alfonse (C) scott.alfonse@gnbrrmdistrict.com
Phil Goddard
Katie Scott

Advocacy / Legislative

Phil Goddard (C) pgoddard@townofbourne.com
Barry VanLaarhoven