



EDUCATION POLICY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS POLICY AND PROCEDURE No. BOD 046

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (“CRRA”) was created in 1973 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the state Solid Waste Management Plan (“SWMP”). Since CRRA was created, the state solid waste management system has evolved from one that simply disposed of its trash in landfills to one that regarded wastes as commodities, with some being converted to electricity in trash-to-energy plants and others being converted to new materials through recycling; the latest amendment to the SWMP, dated December 2006, calls for Connecticut to recycle 58 percent of its solid waste by 2024.

The SWMP holds that education is critical to reaching that goal. The SWMP uses some form of the word “education” no less than 300 times. Page 4-21 of the SWMP reads

“Making everyone aware of his or her role in recycling is critical for the system to function at its optimum. What can and should be recycled and how to do so requires outreach that delivers consistent, repetitive messages that are audience appropriate. Focusing on our youth pays off both in the present, as they teach their parents, and the future.”

Objective 5 of the SWMP is entitled “Education and Outreach:”

“Significantly increase awareness and understanding of waste management needs, impacts and the critical social, economic, and environmental issues facing Connecticut, and build support for programs to engage citizens in actions needed to maximize waste reduction and recycling and minimize the need for additional disposal capacity.”

Clearly, education is one of the cornerstones of the state Solid Waste Management Plan, and since CRRA was created to implement that plan, education is therefore part of CRRA’s core mission.

CRRA has been providing these services, through the Mid-Connecticut Project Visitors Center & Trash Museum in Hartford (“the Trash Museum”) and The Children’s Garbage Museum in

Stratford (“the Garbage Museum”) since 1992, to the people of Connecticut (as well as visitors from all 50 United States and countries around the world) without regard to whether participants in either Museum’s education programs live in a city or town served by a CRRA solid waste project.

CRRA has long been recognized as a leader and an innovator in recycling and solid-waste management education. In 2002, the Trash Museum and the Garbage Museum received the Beth Brown Boettner Award for Outstanding Public Education by the National Recycling Coalition.

The Garbage Museum and the Trash Museum have been featured in the media in Connecticut and throughout the world, generating significant amounts of good will for CRRA and enhancing CRRA’s reputation as an innovator and leader in recycling and environmentally-responsible solid waste management. The Museums’ programs are well-received by both children and adults and reinforce CRRA’s position as Connecticut’s recycling leader.

The Garbage Museum’s and the Trash Museum’s programs are aligned with state and national science education standards and are focused on what they refer to as “the five Rs” of solid waste management: reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and rethink. These “five Rs” closely resemble Goal 1 of the SWMP:

“Significantly reduce the amount of Connecticut generated solid waste requiring disposal through increased source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.”

CRRA recognizes all these factors in its most recent Strategic Goals, promulgated in January 2008. Goal 7 reads:

*“**Recycling/Education:** Provide leadership, direction and investment for the municipalities, businesses and residents of Connecticut in assisting them to achieve the recycling goals set forth in the DEP’s solid waste plans recycling goals.”*

Therefore, it shall be the policy of CRRA to include in its annual Authority General Fund and Capital Improvement Budget (per Article 7, Section 702, Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, Revised October 25, 2007) sufficient funds to pay for the activities, programs and operations of the Trash Museum, the Garbage Museum and any other educational programs the CRRA Board of Directors believes will help Connecticut reach its recycling and waste diversion goals as specified in the Solid Waste Management Plan. It shall also be the policy of CRRA to include these activities and programs in CRRA’s Annual Plan of Operations (as described in Section 22a-264 of the Connecticut General Statutes).

ORIGINAL

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