



**Northeast Regional E-Waste Workshop  
9/24/07**

**Connecticut Recyclers Coalition  
Timeline and Notes  
Peg Hall, Solid Waste Manager, Branford, CT**

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From 2003 or so through 9/06 CRC members discussed e-waste, started some programs or one-day collections, held a general panel discussion watched earlier e-waste proposals, testified in favor of most of them, but never took on the topic as a total top priority.

10/16/06 Connecticut Recyclers Coalition (CRC president and interested members) met with League of Conservation Voters at their request to talk about coalition building and e-waste legislation. They brought with them reps from the Electronic Manufacturers Coalition for Responsible Recycling (EMCRR – Sony, Panasonic, Philips, Sharp, IBM, Sanyo, RCA and others). EMCRR wanted CRC to sign up to support a California-style Advanced Recycling Fee (ARF). We said it sounded good, but no, we wanted to check out other options. Thus began the journey to more fully educate ourselves...

10/19/06 CRC Board meeting discussed electronics. Decided to play.

10/25/06 Rep Widlitz (pre-election!) said she'd love to be part of any learning seminars CRC put together. Didn't make any, but joined the team, and said she was introducing CSG/NERC model legislation.

11/8/06 CRC Annual meeting, told membership what was up.

11/16/06 CRC put on conference call & power point presentation by Suellen Mele of Washington Citizen's for Resource Conservation (WCRC). As former Recycling Coordinator for Middletown, CT and another founding member of CRC with Peg Hall, she was hooked, and spent countless hours with us, including lengthy phone calls before this seminar, and gave invaluable referrals to other key people, like Barbara Kyle of Computer TakeBack. Kim O'Rourke, current Recycling Coordinator for Middletown, CT and the chair of CRC's Government Affairs Committee was the other key CRC player, but there were many others at critical times. Note that neither Kim nor Peg are even Board members this year.

12/4/06 CRC put on seminar & power point presentation by Rona Cohen of Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) regarding 10-state model legislation developed with Northeast Recycling Council (NERC).

12/18/06 CRC put on a seminar with conference call & power point presentation by Carole Cifrino of Maine DEP.

12/20/07 CRC President, C.J. May, sends email to membership asking blessing for supporting Producer Responsibility model over ARF.

1/5/07 CRC Board (still by email) announces it has approved CRC support for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as a guiding principal in the crafting of Connecticut electronics waste recycling legislation.

1/8/07 CRC working e-waste group, now primarily Peg & Kim met with CT Retailers Association and Merchants Leasing organization.

1/10/07 CRC Board meeting kept Board apprised of progress. Recognizes working group must get a free hand to deal with ever-changing specifics.

1/17/07 Phone conference with Shirley Willd-Wagner of California Integrated Solid Waste Management Board. (There had been previous CA contacts, but initial "CA" model was as presented to us by EMCRR.)

In between all these were numerous phone calls, follow-ups, and internal discussions – not to mention Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years! We also had all the logistics of finding meeting rooms with conference and power point capabilities, exchanging information with limited technical support in some places – this one can't scan or set up a conference call, that one's computer crashed and there was no one to fix it so no email, different versions of software so one writes, one edits, and then no one can read, who can print in color and how important is that... And none of us have staff.

1/31/07 CRC E-Waste Working Group finalized position paper with general info about what we wanted, how it could work, what we meant by "Shared" responsibility, and why we did not support an Advanced Recovery Fee. Page 3 language worked off a paper Washington was working on, but modifications were made by us after consultation with other contacts, especially California, since they are operating under an ARF. We wanted to be very careful to be accurate and not inflammatory. This position paper should be in your package. After final legislation passed, I note with satisfaction that we got most of the concepts we wanted.

We also recognized that CSG/NERC model legislation was not everything we wanted, but that it would likely be the vehicle. There was also a DEP bill proposed that was vague and some characterized as a "study bill". We knew we would be testifying against an ARF approach.

2/1/07 Kim, Peg, and Winston Averill, from the CRC Working Group met at the state capitol with Rep. Pat Widlitz – sponsor of the CSG/NERC bill, Rep Jim O'Rourke – who happens to be married to Kim (doesn't hurt), and House co-chairman of the Environment Committee, Rep. Dick Roy. Note that all Senate and House committees meet together in

CT. The Senate co-chair of Environment Committee, Senator Bill Finch, was also committed to getting e-waste legislation passed that session, but he was sponsoring an ARF model. Our position paper was introduced and started to make the rounds. Strategizing began in earnest to try to line up coalition partners.

2/3/07 (Saturday) Peg and Pat attended East Shore League of Women Voters legislative breakfast. Presented position paper and tried (successfully) to get local / regional delegation on board, as well as League.

Made contacts with varying degrees of success (or not) with HP, LWV, CT Fund for the Environment, CT Conference of Municipalities, GoodWill, electronics recyclers – 2 of whom are CRC members, other CRC members from across the state, and many others. It would have been very, very helpful if we could have started this sooner. Hewlett Packard was a coalition partner throughout, though precarious, and without much local presence. General Electric also was a manufacturer who, with HP, deflected charges that “the Manufacturers” were a united group all opposed to our position.

2/26/07 CRC and Rep Widlitz met with DEP Commissioner McCarthy and her staff including legislative liaisons, to discuss strategies, options, and DEP support for Producer Responsibility.

2/28/07 CRC (and members with multiple hats on) testified at the joint Environment Committee’s public hearing in favor of the CSG/NERC model, or the DEP bill, with a couple cautions on either, but against an ARF approach. DEP Commissioner also testified, using appropriate language, but not as strongly as CRC might have liked.

3/6/07 CRC E-Waste Working Group gave testimony to the joint Environment Committee at an invited Forum as expert witnesses. DEP Commissioner led off with a much stronger Producer Responsibility message. Also testifying were Electronic Manufacturers (EMCRR), Carole Cifrino from Maine, and Rona Cohen from CSG.

3/14/07 Peg attended Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee (BRRFOC – regional waste-to-energy project) legislative breakfast. Rep Widlitz and many other Reps and Senators there, as well CEOs of that 16-town region. Senator Meyer (familiar with it through the LWV breakfast) asked for alternate language to fix the parts of the CSG model we thought needed fixing. We still weren’t sure whether CSG /Widlitz bill could make it, or if DEP bill would be the vehicle.

BRRFOC (a CRC member, already very active in earlier years) has full-time, paid lobbyists, who we could and did get help from, but wanted some bill more than a particular bill, and would back whichever one was winning. This was not the only group we contacted who took that position.

3/15/07-3/19/07 Discussions with Rep Widlitz and others about strategy to get something through Environment Committee under one of the bill numbers. Finally decided to try to fix CSG/NERC language for Environment Committee vote. Still hoped to leave Maine-

style vs. Washington-style an open question. Couldn't be done with language and decided to try to write as Third Party Organization since hadn't heard a lot of support for Maine from legislators.

3/20/07 Kim, Peg, Suellen, and Barbara in marathon session drafted amendment. Kim finished writing 1 AM 3/21. Pat was on vacation ☺. Note that we all tried to have lives, too, and covered for each other.

3/21/07 Rep O'Rourke presented and defended amendment, sight unseen, just from Kim's crib notes. Passed Environment Committee. Sent to Legislative Commissioner's Office (LCO) to translate to legal language (though they prefer that be done first).

3/30/07 Peg and Kim met with Rep Widlitz to discuss what we had put in amendment and why, and what we hoped LCO could clarify. (Details about content in later session.)

4/2/07 Bill came back from LCO with major language changes we did not want. Rep Widlitz advised we couldn't change it now or it would start committee process all over. Defended through next 4 committees as a Work in Progress that wouldn't look the same when we fixed it on the floor. DEP asked to write final amendment.

4/12/07 Peg and Rep Widlitz met with East Shore League of Women Voters (ask individuals to call reps to support.)

4/17/07 passed Finance Committee. (This one is Pat's behind-the-scenes story.)

5/9/07 passed Government Administration & Elections Committee by consent

5/14/07 passed Appropriations.

5/22/07 passed Judiciary.

6/1/07 Passed House 139 to 7.

6/5/07 Passed Senate by consent.

7/6/07 & ceremonially 8/6/07 signed by Governor Rell. Public Act 07-189 is law.