



Rhode Island Compost!

**CONFERENCE
AND TRADESHOW**





Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Solid Waste Management Plan

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March 11, 2025



What is the EPA SWIFR?

The **Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR)** grant program is a new grant program authorized by the Save our Seas 2.0 Act and funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$275 million for Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grants to improve post-consumer materials management and infrastructure; support improvements to local post-consumer materials management and recycling programs; and assist local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1982/text>

<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-transforming-us-recycling-and-waste-management>





Foundational Federal Law

The **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)** enacted in 1976, is the principal Federal law in the U.S. governing the disposal of solid waste and hazardous waste. RCRA amended the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965 to address the increasing problems the nation faced from its growing volume of municipal and industrial waste. It set national goals for protecting human health and the natural environment from the potential hazards of waste disposal; conserving energy and natural resources; reducing the amount of waste generated through source reduction and recycling; and ensuring the management of waste in an environmentally sound manner.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/resource-conservation-and-recovery-act-rcra->



September 30, 1976

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act gives EPA authority to control hazardous waste from the 'cradle-to-grave,' including the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of harmful materials.

[Learn more about RCRA](#)



Applicable State Laws

The **Statewide Planning Program** where the state guide plan shall be comprised of functional elements or plans dealing with land use; physical development and environmental concerns; economic development; housing production; energy supply, including the development of renewable energy resources in Rhode Island, and energy access, use, and conservation; human services; climate change and resiliency; and other factors necessary to accomplish the objective of this section.

Rhode Island State Law established planning requirements for the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation and noted in section § 23-19-11. 6 that nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted as limiting the authority of the department of environmental management to prepare a statewide, comprehensive, **Solid Waste Management Plan**, including, but not limited to, any plan required by any federal law, rules, or regulations to meet federal requirements that may be conditions precedent to receiving federal assistance.

<https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE42/42-11/42-11-10.htm>

<https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE23/23-19/23-19-11.htm>





Solid Waste Management Plan – Scope

The prior plan from 2015 had a focus on end-of-life options for central landfill. **The new plan will look at solid waste in a more comprehensive and holistic way with a 20-year outlook.** In addition to dealing with solid waste disposal and recycling, the updated plan will include planning for food waste diversion, e-waste management and emerging waste streams such as solar panels and lithium-ion batteries and incorporate benchmarks and goals which reflect our state's emphasis on environmental justice and climate.

The updated plan will position the State of Rhode Island to make strides to achieve goals aligned with the goals of the EPA United States 2030 Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal, EPA U.S. National Recycling Goal, EPA National Recycling Strategy, and EPA Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution.

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/Rhode%20Island_SWIFR.pdf





Solid Waste Management Plan – Team

The **Project Management Team (PMT)** includes three key organizations collaborating with Geosyntec who are responsible for ensuring that the Plan is strategic, inclusive, and actionable while addressing the diverse needs of stakeholders across the state.

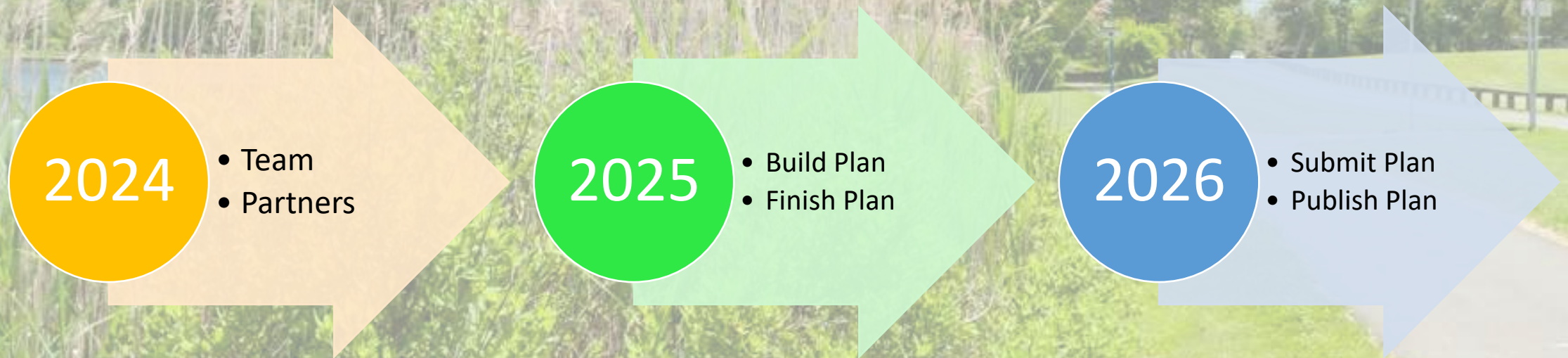
- Caitlin Greeley - RIDSP
- Meredith Brady Caitlin - RIDSP
- Jared Rhodes - RIRRC
- Mark Dennen - RIDEM
- Alyson Brunelli - RIDEM
- David McLaughlin - RIDEM



Geosyntec
consultants



Solid Waste Management Plan – Timeline





Excess Food Capture and Waste Diversion - RISRP

- **Funds: \$35,000**
- RI DEM & RIRSP together since 2020.
- Captured nearly 28 tons of excess food.
- Diverted nearly 260 tons from landfill.
- By end of year in 48 schools
- 70% of waste/school diverted from landfill
- Training more facilitators and custodial staff

www.rirecyclingclub.org





CET

\$80,000 Funds to Increase Food Waste Diversion: Technical Assistance to Operators, Look at Permitting and Regulations

For RI DEM:

- Review Regulations:
- Send out mass email to 4000 restaurants
- Report on improving Compost Markets

For current and future compost operators:

3 Opportunities for Technical assistance:

- Applying compost registration and ramp-up through August 2026 (medium and Large)

For permitted facilities

- Streamline operation
- Increase markets for product





University of RI Bioplastic Taskforce

- **Funds \$41,597**
- **Objective:**
 - Convene Taskforce –
 - Bioplastics are emerging contaminant stream at MRF.
- **What are Bioplastics?**
 - Compostable Bioplastics?
 - Biodegradable Bioplastics?
- How will this work be used moving forward?



Identify Barriers and Opportunities to Recycling in Disadvantaged Communities

Request for Proposals: \$25,711

Work to be done:

- increase food diversion,
- and reduce food waste,
- increase recycling rate
- and decrease contamination in recycling streams

Must submit proposal for boots on ground community activation & outreach in Pawtucket, Central Falls and/or Cranston.





Public Engagement – Public Workshop

RI Solid Waste Management Plan Public Workshop

Join us to learn about Rhode Island's Solid Waste Management Plan and provide your input! This workshop will be an opportunity to engage directly with the project team, discuss challenges such as keeping waste out of the landfill, lack of landfill space, and sharing your priorities for the future.

When: March 26th, 5-7 PM EST

Where: William Hall Library Auditorium,
1825 Broad St, Cranston, RI 02905

Scan the QR code below for more info on the Rhode Island Solid Waste Management Plan!



To register for the Workshop, please click on or Scan the QR Code below:





Public Engagement – Virtual Meeting

April 3, 2025, from 12pm to 2pm

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-WzqplhWQ1q8eFhjbE6ETA



What matters most to you?

- Commercial Recycling
- Stop illegal dumping
- Eliminate PFAS in sewage sludge
- EPR Packaging
- EPR Sharps/Pharmaceuticals
- Bottle Bill
- Clear Liquids within Paint Recycling
- Expanding E-waste Program for Solar Panels, Lithium Batteries
- Local Compost Operators
- Preparation for Disaster Debris Management
- Performance Standards for C&D
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Scrap Metal
- Extending life of Landfill vs. Rail
- Tipping fees that incentivize less waste
- Pay as you Throw



Solid Waste Management Plan Input Welcome!

Direct Link:

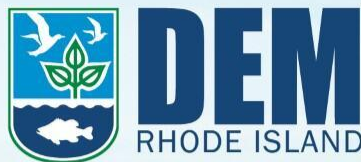
<https://planning.ri.commentinput.com/?id=CpjpgTfuQK>

Via Main Page:

<https://planning.ri.gov/planning-areas/land-use-and-natural-resources/solid-waste> (Comments & Feedback)

QR Code to Direct Link:





Thank you!

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