

Town of Seymour

Sustainable Materials Management Grant

Final Report

January 7, 2024

Summary of Pilot Program

The Town of Seymour applied for and received a Sustainable Materials Management Grant (SMM) from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for up to \$121,000 to pilot principles of unit-based pricing and organics diversion on a single trash collection route. The contract (ID #2023-033) was executed on December 7, 2022. The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) entered into a separate contract with DEEP (ID #2023-180) to provide education and outreach services on behalf of Seymour during the course of the grant.

The SMM pilot officially launched on February 13, 2023. In the weeks leading up to the launch, contractor Waste Zero (WZ) distributed bags to the roughly 1,100 households on Monday's trash pickup route (Attachment A). Pilot administration experienced a setback when Seymour's SMM project manager, Rory Burke, left service several weeks later. Deidre Caruso was brought up to speed and transitioned into the project manager role after his departure.

During the grant period, NVCOG engaged in a number of outreach strategies. Before the launch, COG staff recorded a 15-minute informational video which was distributed on social media to help residents prepare for the pilot. On 2/27/23, an informational dinner was held at the Seymour Community Center where participants learned about the pilot and had an opportunity to ask questions. COG staff partnered with Waste Zero to do several door-to-door canvassing sessions once the weather got warmer. This involved walking the entire pilot area, knocking on doors, and having conversations with residents about the program. Through this effort, NVCOG and WZ were able to convince some people to try using their bags and received valuable feedback and what was/wasn't working. During one of the canvassing trips, doorhangers with a link to an online survey designed by NVCOG were distributed (Attachment B). Residents were asked to fill out the survey and provide feedback about the program; 40 responses were received. Additionally, NVCOG maintained a Facebook presence at [@NVCOGReduceTheTrash](#), with regular informational and educational postings in Seymour community groups (Attachment C). Phone calls from residents were answered throughout the entire grant period, with subject matters ranging from missed shipments to recycling questions to wondering where to get more bags.

Seymour's Phase III deliverable, which involved submitting a letter of intent to plan for permanence to DEEP, was due on 7/13/23. On 7/12/23, the Seymour submitted a letter stating that "The Town of Seymour will not be pursuing a permanent program of the DEEP Sustainable Materials Management Grant. We will honor the current program until its completion" (Attachment D). Given that this letter did not fulfill the deliverable, DEEP held a follow-up meeting with town staff to ensure they understood that the current letter would effectively conclude the pilot and would disqualify Seymour from further reimbursement. Seymour confirmed that they did not intend to resubmit the letter (Attachment E), rendering the pilot end date 7/12/23.

Appendix A Elements

Below please find a chart outlining all Appendix A deliverables and whether they have been completed.

Phase 1	
Deliverable	Completed
Pre-pilot planning	Yes (Attachment F)

Phase 2	
Deliverable	Completed
Documentation of launch	Yes (Attachment G)
Documentation of 1 meeting with partners	Yes (Meetings 2/23/23, 3/2/23, 3/9/23, etc.)
Letter of intent to plan for permanence	No

Phase 3	
Deliverable	Completed
Letter stating plan for permanence has been established	No
Summary of implementation actions	No

Phase 4	
Deliverable	Completed
Documentation of final report	Pending
All elements of Appendix A are met	No

Administration	
Deliverable	Completed

Funding released in accordance with Appendix A	No DEEP: "These funds are for rehiring WZ after the five months expired."
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Pre- and Post-Implementation Waste & Recycling Data

Waste and recycling data were tracked by WZ. Metrics included clean food capture rate, pounds of food scraps captured, and contamination rate – and should have also included waste reduction and percentage diversion (recycling + food scraps). The final, cumulative set of data for Seymour was made available 10/26/23 and reads as follows:

Pilot Program	# of Weeks of Data	Collection Type	*Clean Food Capture Rate (prior week)	Food Scraps Captured (cumulative lbs)	Contamination Rate (prior week)	Waste Reduction	Curbside Diversion (Recycling + Food Scraps) Increase
Seymour	26	Co-Collection	20.1%	17,930	13%	N/A	N/A

There were significant challenges in obtaining data for Seymour throughout the pilot. According to WZ, Seymour failed to provide baseline data from which comparisons could be made. This is the reason “waste reduction” and “diversion increase” are blank in the chart. Moreover, WZ reported that the truck drivers refused to work with WZ staff to indicate whether the green and orange bags were being used. WZ also reported that when contractors were sent out to manually check the bins as an alternative way to obtain the data, they were threatened by an individual and had to stop data collection for their safety.

The result was infrequent and incomplete data updates for Seymour.

Pilot Successes

- Hundreds of households throughout Seymour were willing to give the pilot a try for the five months it was running, diverting 17,000 pounds of organic waste from landfills or incinerators.
- A 20% clean food capture rate meant that one out of every five pounds of food waste estimated to have been generated in the pilot area was put in a green bag. This is a solid start for a voluntary program.
- Resident interest in recycling increased as a result of this pilot. NVCOG received numerous phone calls and emails with recycling questions, even after the pilot had concluded.
- A number of positive quotes were received from Seymour residents, as recorded in NVCOG’s progress reports and in Attachment B.
- Seymour residents were asked to take an online survey to share their thoughts on pilot challenges and successes. We received 40 responses, which was a good way to gauge community buy-in independent of what might be on Facebook. Responses were largely positive in nature.
 - 60% of residents ranked the program either “great” or “good.” Only 13% ranked it “poor.”
 - 86% of respondents said they like the program because “it’s helping the environment.”
 - 70% liked that participation could help manage rising municipal costs.
 - 70% liked that food scraps were being used as clean energy.

Pilot Challenges

- The most common feedback we heard from the residents: the green bags are too big. Rather than a single 8 gallon bag, they would prefer two 4-gallon bags. This would allow them to take out the decomposing food scraps more often, and better control odor/flies.
- Running the pilot on only one trash route as opposed to town-wide made outreach difficult. The outreach team was hesitant to use town-wide channels for messaging (like sending home a note with students or doing code red phone calls), as it would be complicated to explain who the pilot applied to.
- As described above, the lack of data collected during this pilot almost defeated its purpose.
- The Seymour staffer who was managing the SMM grant left employment a few weeks after the start of the pilot, which caused a delay as we brought the new project manager up to speed.
- NVCOG experienced significant trouble engaging partners for outreach. One directive from DEEP was to participate in existing town events – but unlike other larger municipalities, Seymour only has a few events, and not all of them are appropriate for tabling.
 - Connecting with Seymour schools was also difficult due to timing. By the time staff was able to take focus off startup activities, there were only a few weeks left in the schoolyear.
 - COG staff organized a recycling workshop that no one attended, despite advertising via social media and working with the Town on promotion.
- Misinformation and negative chatter on Facebook hurt the pilot’s chances of success.
- The online survey revealed some negative sentiments associated with the program.
 - 50% of respondents said the bag sizes were either too big or too small for their cans.
 - 27% of respondents said that it was inconvenient to participate.
 - 13% did not trust that the program would actually work.

Metrics Applicable to Other CT Municipalities

Other Connecticut towns may be interested in the data listed in the blue chart, as an indicator of whether a similar pilot would make sense for their community. A demographic analysis can help those communities understand what similarities and difference they share with Seymour, and whether its SMM metrics may be applicable. As a reminder, only about 1,100 households were included in Seymour’s pilot area.

Metric	Seymour	Comparable Communities (Census Designated Places with stats +/- 10%)
<i>Population</i>	16,809	Stonington, Killingly, Madison, Brookfield, Plainville, Ellington, Wolcott, Suffield, Colchester, Ledyard
<i>Population density</i>	1,120	Plainfield Village, Ridgefield, Madison Center, Poquonock Bridge, North Haven, Middletown, Collinsville, Guilford Center, Saybrook Manor, Litchfield, Westbrook Center, East Brooklyn, Mystic
<i>Square mileage</i>	15.0	Deep River, Prospect, Bolton, Old Saybrook, Andover, Westbrook, Bridgeport, Cheshire, Bridgewater, Lisbon, Clinton, Naugatuck
<i>Median household income*</i>	\$96,747	Simsbury Center, North Granby, Brooklyn, Orange, Pemberwick, Cheshire Village, Groton Long Point, East Hampton, Mansfield Center, Moodus, Cannondale, Essex Village, Georgetown, Byram, Somers, Greenwich, Durham, Watertown, Shelton, Old Saybrook Center
<i>Poverty rate</i>	6.3%	Comparison unavailable

<i>Owner-occupied rate</i>	75.1%	Comparison unavailable
<i>Language other than English spoken at home</i>	14.2%	Comparison unavailable

All Seymour stats are from census.gov. Comparisons are from usa.com. *Income comparison data is from 2010-2014, so it is outdated.

Note that further investigation would need to be undertaken to determine if the comparable communities have a similar waste management system to Seymour's.

Next Steps

Seymour does not have any plans to continue the strategies piloted during the SMM grant at this time.

Attachments

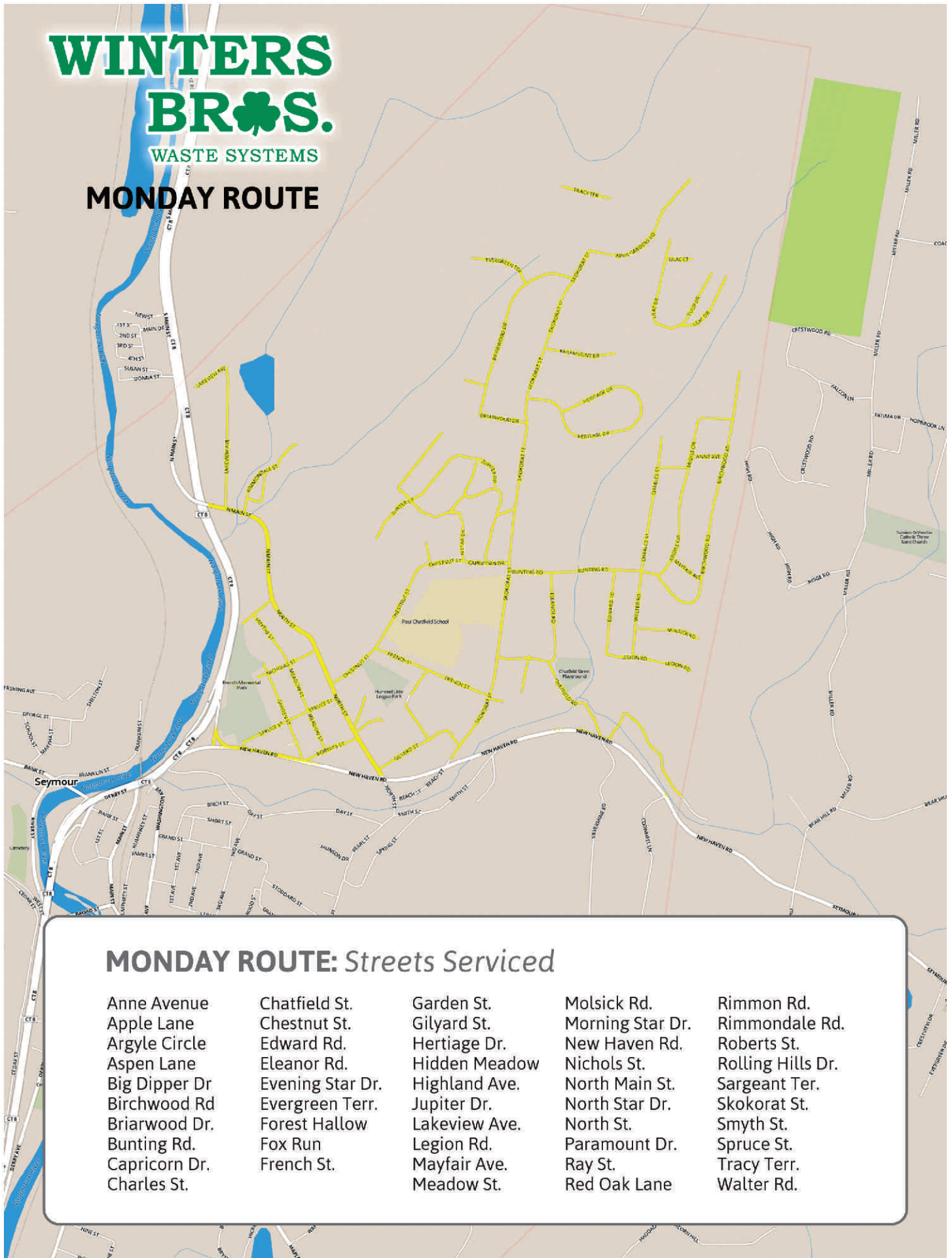
- Attachment A: Map of Pilot Area
- Attachment B: Results of Seymour Online Survey
- Attachment C: Selected Posts from NVCOG's @NVCOGReduceTheTrash Facebook Account
- Attachment D: Seymour Letter to DEEP 7.12.23
- Attachment E: DEEP Email to Seymour 8.11.23
- Attachment F: Pre-Pilot Explainer Video:
<https://www.facebook.com/100089313011490/videos/1108291973196603>
- Attachment G: Seymour SMM Flyer dated 2/13/23

*Report Prepared by Christine O'Neill
Environmental Planner II, NVCOG
coneill@nvcoqct.gov | 203-489-0351*

WINTERS BR[♣]S.

WASTE SYSTEMS

MONDAY ROUTE



MONDAY ROUTE: Streets Served

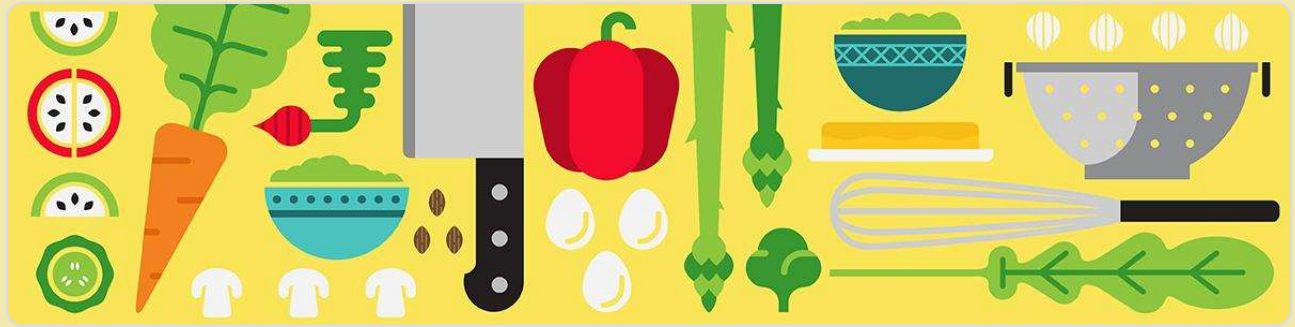
Anne Avenue
Apple Lane
Argyle Circle
Aspen Lane
Big Dipper Dr
Birchwood Rd
Briarwood Dr.
Bunting Rd.
Capricorn Dr.
Charles St.

Chatfield St.
Chestnut St.
Edward Rd.
Eleanor Rd.
Evening Star Dr.
Evergreen Terr.
Forest Hallow
Fox Run
French St.

Garden St.
Gilyard St.
Heritage Dr.
Hidden Meadow
Highland Ave.
Jupiter Dr.
Lakeview Ave.
Legion Rd.
Mayfair Ave.
Meadow St.

Molsick Rd.
Morning Star Dr.
New Haven Rd.
Nichols St.
North Main St.
North Star Dr.
North St.
Paramount Dr.
Ray St.
Red Oak Lane

Rimmon Rd.
Rimmondale Rd.
Roberts St.
Rolling Hills Dr.
Sargeant Ter.
Skororat St.
Smyth St.
Spruce St.
Tracy Terr.
Walter Rd.



Seymour Survey

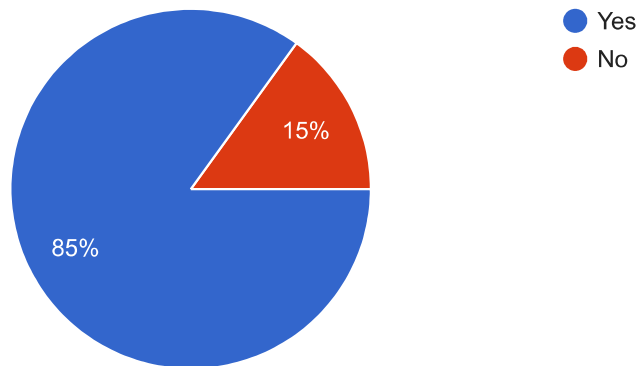
40 responses

[Publish analytics](#)

Are you participating in the Trash Reduction Pilot?

 Copy

40 responses



If "no," why are you not participating?

5 responses

I can't even get a trash can with a lid

It became too much of a hassle for our family. Having a 1 yr old, 9 yr old, 13 and 15 yr old. The older 3 have ADHD as do I. Trying to stay on top of them putting things in the proper bag was too much. 2 bags of trash per week for a family of 6 is impossible as well. Plus our kitchen is too small for 3 bins. The bags are also weak on top where the strings are. They constantly broke. Not having the option to purchase our choice of bags is also inconvenient (sales, price options, coupons, etc).

Small house nowhere to store trash and food containers.

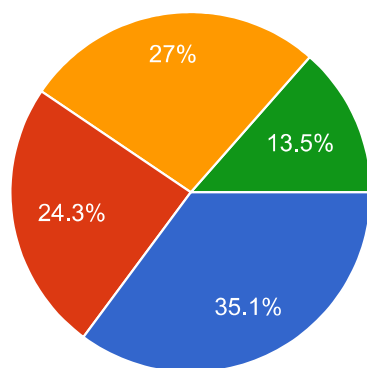
Not doing it.

The food scrap bags are way too big and would not fit compost bins on the retail market (most are 4L size). I wasn't going to rearrange my whole kitchen for this. If bags provided were standard food waste caddy size I would have definitely participated.

If "yes," what is your general opinion of the program?

 Copy

37 responses



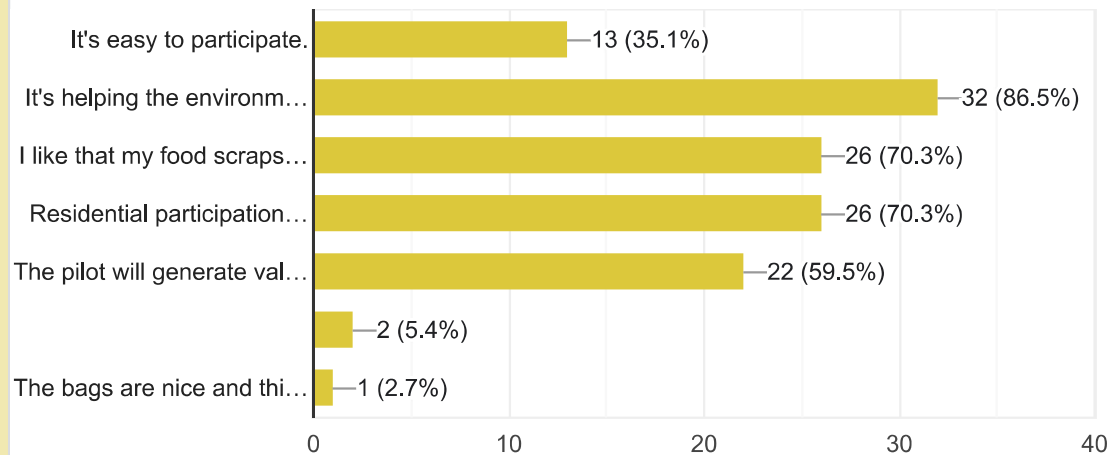
- Great! I enjoy participating.
- Good. I have no issue participating.
- Fair. I have to make an extra effort, but I'm doing it.
- Poor. I dislike the program.



What do you like about the program? Check all that apply.



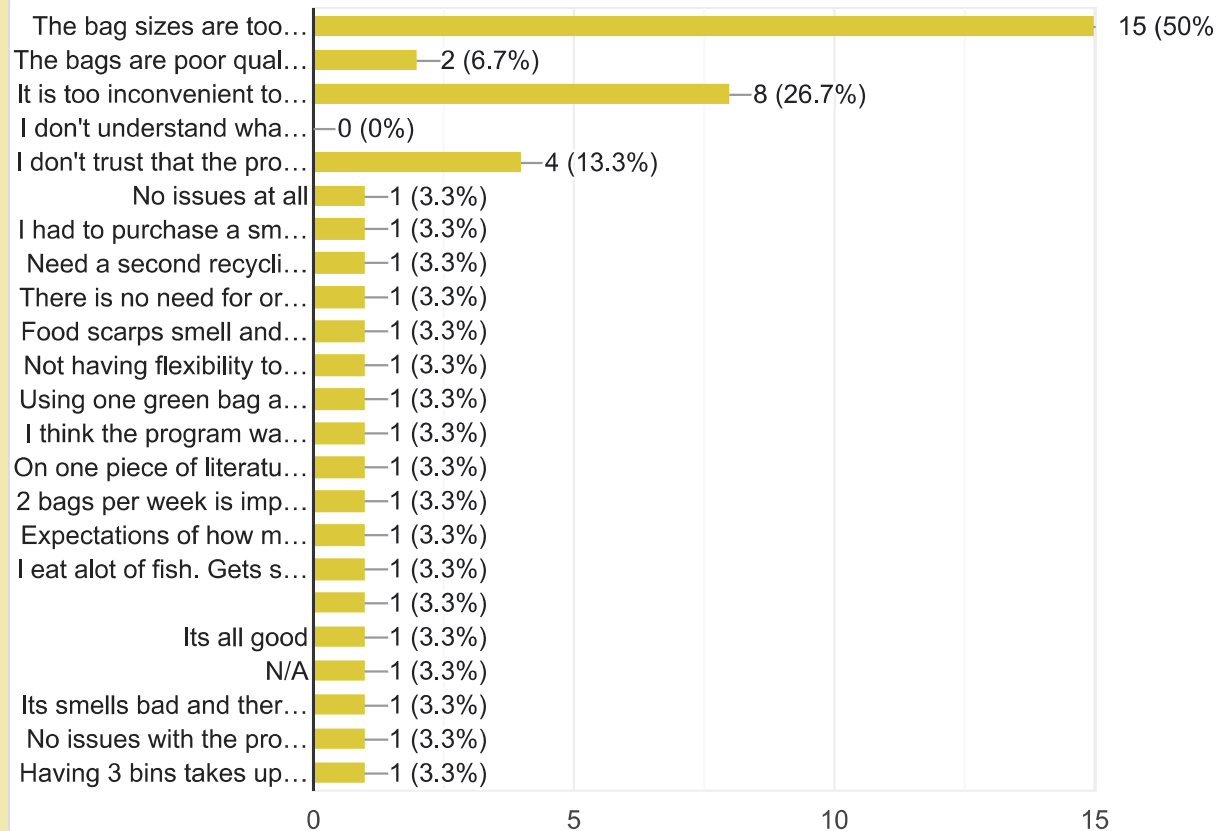
37 responses



What don't you like about the program?



30 responses



Please share any other questions or comments below. Thank you!

18 responses

This is fantastic! I worked for a company that uses food waste in a digester to create energy for a warehouse. Our goal should be working towards sustainability and reducing waste

It sounds like the extra effort is paying off

Would I contact public works or the waste pickup company to request a second recycling can? That's the hardest thing - the recycling can is full by mid-week. The trash can is less than half full. :)

There is no need for orange bags. If the bag is not green then clearly it is general refuse. It should be that simple.

The green bag is not wide enough, and must be stretched to fit. Also, we must be innovative, and figure out how to keep the food waste from stinking up the house.

We are using the program but to adapt purchased small biodegradable bags to use for food scraps. Starting the week with provided green bag and replacing after two days with aftermarket bag. Continuing to replace every two days until week resets. We have been taking the additional bag and dumping it in the provided green bag prior to pickup.

My thought is if this is going to catch on at a large scale it needs to be made easy. Right now handling the food scraps to prevent smells and bugs is not easy. Town also did not provide advice or solutions to this issue.

Reaching into the trash to grab the green bag to add more too is also not fun considering I end up doing it while dressed up and on the way to work.

Great program, poor direction to make it easy for proper execution.

We would be very interested in more granular information about how the waste is being processed (where it goes and how it is handled)

It might only apply to our small household, but when I was searching for a bin for the food scraps, I couldn't find anything larger than about 3L, so the green food scraps bags are twice the size of any bin I could find. You could probably get two smaller bags out of each of the current green bags that are made and save some more money.

Altogether, it took some adjustments, but I am glad we are participating in this program and I hope it continues to work for both the town and the environment's betterment!

Some guidance is needed in handling some types of food waste (i.e., chicken or turkey bones) that become rancid before a trash pickup day. The use of multiple green bags is not an



effective solution.

This program does not work for families.

I love that we're doing it, but please make the bags available for easy purchase. They should be cheaper than "regular" bags at the store.

More information about what can be recycled and what can go in the food scrap bag would be helpful

I feel like I am creating more plastic waste disposing of a "composting bag" each week. I do not believe it is truly reducing waste by much. I would rather see the investment made into keeping the incinerator plants. We should not have these plants close. Better to invest in long term enhancements now and keep the plants open for long term then avoid the cost of funding these plants and have disposal rates increase from year to year without any control .

Appreciate the effort, think it's a good program. I basically think most people in Seymour are genuinely reactionary, resistant to change, and broadly not well suited to self government. I don't think they're persuadable, and I'm hopeful this program will be forced on them irrespective of their wants.

Smaller food bags for our family.

The bag size for food scraps is way too big. It's wasteful because it has to be changed so often because it smells and I'm scared of bugs/maggots. Also, I had to invest in a garbage bin for food scraps which I wish was offset by the town. It's pretty inconvenient to store the food scraps and have a bin that has to come in and out all the time. The food scrap part is challenging. The orange trash bag part is easy.

Great program, we have always separated our food waste from our garbage and the bags make it easier

Small food waste bags and perhaps some kind of receptacle giveaway would help boost participation.

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Google Forms







NVCOG Reduce the Trash

Published by Christine O'Neill · March 29



Hi Seymour residents! 🙌 Whether or not you're participating in the Trash Reduction Pilot, there's no time like the present to learn about recycling! ♻️ Join us May 1st at 6:30pm and learn how to do your part to help the community & the planet. 🌍

Town of Seymour, Seymour CT Conservation Commission, Seymour CT Community, Valley Independent Sentinel



NVCOG Reduce the Trash

Published by Christine O'Neill · February 27



We can't wait to see you tonight, Seymour!
[Office of the First Selectwoman of Seymour, CT](#)

SEYMOUR RECYCLING WORKSHOP

SEYMOUR COMMUNITY CENTER
MONDAY, MAY 1ST AT 6:30 PM

LEARN WHAT GOES IN THE BLUE BIN, PLAY RECYCLING TRIVIA, AND EXPLORE THE EXCITING WORLD OF TRASH!

FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY CT DEEP

Seymour Trash Reduction Pilot Community Champions Dinner

If your trash is picked up on **Monday**, join us to talk about Seymour's new trash reduction program!

Free pizza!

Share your feedback

Q&A

Free food scrap collection bins*

Monday, February 27th @ 6 p.m.
Seymour Community Center, Rm 115

Please RSVP to sperry@nvcoget.gov

Funding provided by the Sustainable Materials Management Grants Program administered by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)
*Limited supply of bins. Available on a first come, first served basis.

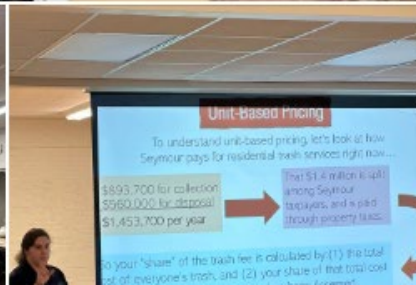


NVCOG Reduce the Trash

Published by Christine O'Neill · February 28 ·

What a great night chatting with Seymour residents about the Trash Reduction Pilot! Thanks to the [Office of the First Selectwoman of Seymour, CT](#) for stopping by!

If you couldn't join us but are on Monday's trash collection route and would like a free food collection bin (while supply lasts), they will be available at Town Hall. Be sure to give a call before you head over to ensure they are still available.



Unit-Based Pricing

To understand unit-based pricing, let's look at how Seymour pays for residential trash services right now...

\$893,700 for collection	→	That \$1.4 million is split among Seymour taxpayers, and is paid through property taxes.
\$960,000 for disposal		
\$1,453,700 per year		

Your "share" of the trash fee is calculated by (1) the total cost of everyone's trash, and (2) your share of that total cost.



NVCOG Reduce the Trash

Published by Christine O'Neill · March 16 ·



Hi Seymour Trash Reduction Pilot participants! 🙌 On Monday, March 20th, you may see some flyers stuck to your carts. 📄 These are friendly reminders about how the Trash Reduction Pilot works and tips to maximize its success. ♻️ We call these "curbside coaching" and they are not any form of enforcement, just a reminder. Thank you! ❤️



NVCOG Reduce the Trash

Published by Christine O'Neill · April 18 ·



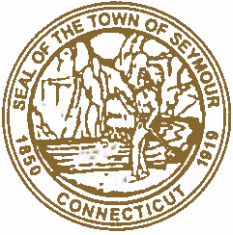
Hello to Seymour Trash Reduction Pilot participants (Monday's trash collection route)! 🙌

Now that the program has been underway for a couple of months, we are looking to get input directly from residents in the pilot area. Members of our waste reduction team will be knocking on doors in the Skokorat neighborhood on the following dates, to ask questions and gather feedback:

- 🏠 Tuesday, 4/25 from 3-7 pm
- 🏠 Wednesday, 4/26 from 3-7 pm
- 🏠 Thursday, 4/27 from 10am- 2pm

Taking a few minutes to answer our questions will help us identify what's working with the program, what isn't, and the most effective way to Reduce the Trash in the beautiful community of Seymour! ♻️

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at ReduceTheTrash@nvcogct.gov.



Annmarie Drugonis

First Selectwoman

Office Of The First Selectwoman
Town of Seymour
1 First Street
Seymour, Connecticut 06483

July 12, 2023

Re: Seymour SMM Grant (Grant ID# 2023-033)

To whom it may concern:

At this time, the Town of Seymour will not be pursuing a permanent program for the implementation of the DEEP Sustainable Materials Management Grant (SMM). We will honor the current program until its completion.

If this program is funded in the future, we will consider applying again and implementing it in the Town of Seymour. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

Sincerely,

Annmarie Drugonis,
First Selectwoman
Town of Seymour

Christine O'Neill

From: Hahn, Chelsey <Chelsey.Hahn@ct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 4:26 PM
To: Christine O'Neill; Thomas Dougherty
Cc: Weymouth, Jennifer; Granstrand, Luciana; Tory McBrien; Kristen Brown
Subject: Fw: Seymour SMM Pilot Program Wrap-Up Information
Attachments: SMM Pilot Program Calendar -Seymour.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Chelsey Hahn, MPH (*she/her/hers*)

Environmental Analyst 2
Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division
Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
P: 860.424-3239 | E: Chelsey.Hahn@ct.gov



Connecticut
**Department of Energy &
Environmental Protection**

www.ct.gov/deep www.RecycleCT.com

*Conserving, improving and protecting our natural resources and environment;
Ensuring a clean, affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy supply.*

From: Granstrand, Luciana <Luciana.Granstrand@ct.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 3:38 PM
To: fgabianelli@seymourct.org <fgabianelli@seymourct.org>; Deidre Caruso <dcaruso@seymourct.org>
Cc: Nelson, Chris <Chris.Nelson@ct.gov>; Weymouth, Jennifer <Jennifer.Weymouth@ct.gov>; Hahn, Chelsey <Chelsey.Hahn@ct.gov>
Subject: Seymour SMM Pilot Program Wrap-Up Information

Good Afternoon Seymour Team,

Thank you for your work on Seymour's SMM Grant pilot program. The SMM Grant Program supports the development of food scrap collection and unit-based pricing pilot programs in Connecticut to assess the feasibility of source separation of food scraps from waste as a potential long-term materials management practice. Important data was collected for Seymour and the State of CT, and DEEP looks forward to working with Seymour on future waste reduction strategies.

Frank, the Sustainable Materials Management team appreciates that you met with us yesterday, Thursday 8/10/23, and confirmed that Seymour has decided to not resubmit the letter previously submitted to DEEP on 07/12/23. That letter indicated that Seymour would not develop a plan for permanence. As explained to Dee Caruso and you in a meeting on Thursday 7/27/23, and followed by email on Friday 7/28/23, that notice effectively terminated Seymour's pilot program at the end of Phase 2, which was 7/13/2023.

As you wrap up your pilot, the Waste Zero team will provide you with the data analysis for your Final Report*, which is due by January 7, 2024. We strongly advise that Seymour submits this deliverable prior to this date. Be sure to submit all materials to the DEEP.RecyclingProgram@ct.gov inbox. We will also send along some data graphics the town or NVCOG can use to celebrate what the pilot accomplished.

We have also reattached your program calendar so you can check that all contractual deliverables that are due to us, including any requests for reimbursement have been completed. Requests for reimbursement must be submitted on letterhead with Seymour's Grant ID# 2023-033 noted, with a list of what you would like to be reimbursed for, a summary of the activities thus far, and an itemized list of expenses (table format is helpful) for the reimbursement. You must also include copies of all invoices and checks issued for payments.

Please also take stock of remaining grant items, bags, collection bins, etc., as DEEP may request to have remaining items returned for use in other pilot towns.

We encourage you to inform residents that the pilot has concluded and thank them for their willingness to participate. The following is suggested language for communication with your residents:

Seymour Residents – Congratulations on a job well done! The CT DEEP funded Food Scrap Collection pilot program has concluded. We gathered important data for the City and the State of CT and are looking toward additional waste reduction strategies moving forward. If you are interested in continuing to separate your food scraps, there are private waste haulers that you can contract with. Please see the list of businesses that collect and haul food scraps on [CT DEEP's Composting and Organics Recycling webpage](#). Thank you for your participation!

Thank you, again, for your participation in the SMM Grant pilot program for Seymour, we look forward to working together again in the future.

Best,
The CT DEEP SMM Grant Team
Jennifer Weymouth
Chelsey Hahn
Luciana Granstrand
Chris Nelson

* From Seymour's executed SMM grant contract:

"Final Report: Within 30 days of the expiration date of this Contract, the Contractor shall submit to the Bureau of Materials Management Compliance Assurance / Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division, a Final Report including documentation, satisfactory to the Commissioner, demonstrating that all the elements of Appendix A have been met including, but not limited to, pre- and post-implementation waste and recycling data and analysis, summary of pilot successes and challenges, other metrics to demonstrate applicability to CT municipalities, and report on next steps the Contractor will take to make the program permanent."

Luciana Granstrand

Environmental Analyst
Sustainable Materials Management
Waste Engineering & Enforcement Division
Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127
p: 860.424.3277 | Luciana.Granstrand@ct.gov



*Conserving, improving, and protecting our natural resources and environment;
Ensuring a clean, affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy supply.*

     | portal.ct.gov/DEEP


See the video here: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1108291973196603>

Press **Esc** to exit full screen

Christine O'Neill (NVCOG)

We'll get you up to speed in just 15 minutes.

1. Why "reduce trash"?
2. How does the pilot work?
3. FAQs
4. Resources
5. Contact



0:34 / 13:47

TOWN OF SEYMOUR: TRASH REDUCTION PILOT PROGRAM

Starts February 13



A NOTE FROM THE FIRST SELECTWOMAN

Connecticut's trash is piling up, and we are quickly running out of residential landfill space. **Disposal costs are rising** as communities must ship waste out of state.

Seymour has been awarded a grant from the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) to run a **9-month-long** Trash Reduction Pilot Program.

We have to do something to address the waste crisis and get ahead of rising costs, so I am asking you all to participate in this **FREE** pilot program.

Your participation and feedback will help us decide if we want to make it permanent. Thank you for giving it a try.

**-FIRST SELECTWOMAN
DRUGONIS**



**SEYMOUR HAS A SUSTAINABLE,
COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO
CONNECTICUT'S WASTE CRISIS...
AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!**



**PUT BOTH BAGS IN
YOUR TRASH CART ON
YOUR REGULAR
COLLECTION DAY.**

**USE THE COLOR-CODED
TRASH & FOOD SCRAP BAGS
DELIVERED TO YOU.**

Green Bags for Food Scraps.
Orange Bags for Trash.
Keep Recycling.

**YOUR FOOD SCRAPS
WILL BE SEPARATED OUT
AND TURNED INTO
CLEAN ENERGY AT AN
INDUSTRIAL COMPOSTER.**



ReduceTheTrash@nvcogct.gov
(203) 489-0368

ReduceTheTrashCT.com/Seymour
SeymourCT.org/Garbage/Recycling

**LEARN MORE:
<<< SCAN TO DOWNLOAD
THE MOBILE APP**

HOW-TO: Trash Reduction Pilot Program

Starts February 13



TOWN OF SEYMOUR



Q: WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

A 9-month supply of free bags: **78 Orange Trash Bags** & **37 Green Food Scraps Bags!** As you reduce your trash, this should be enough bags. Local stores will sell them, too.



Q: WHAT GOES IN THE GREEN BAG?

Food Scraps: Fruits & vegetables, meats & seafood (including bones), eggs & eggshells, leftovers & spoiled food, coffee grounds & tea bags, pastas, bread, grains, & napkins.
Please do NOT include plastic bags, pet waste or litter, sanitary items, or metal.



Q: WHAT GOES IN THE ORANGE BAG?

Trash! Anything that doesn't go in the Green Food Scraps Bag and can't be recycled.



Q: WHERE DO I PUT MY BAGS?

In the **same** trash can, on the **same** pick-up day. They will be sorted later. (It's OK if the Green Food Scraps Bag **isn't** completely full each week!)



Q: WHY CAN'T I USE MY NORMAL TRASH BAGS?

We are asking you to **use ONLY the special heavy-duty Orange Trash Bags**. Bags will be collected together, and the color-coding allows for **sorting**. We are also building the habit of using special town trash bags that help "measure" each household's trash.



Q: DO I STILL RECYCLE?

YES! Continue to recycle your paper, plastic (no bags!), cans, and bottles. Go to RecycleCT.com with questions.



Q: DO I NEED TO PUT ANOTHER GARBAGE CAN IN MY KITCHEN?

Do what works best for your household! You could get (or repurpose) a small container with a lid to hold the Green Food Scraps Bag, or you could keep the Green Bag loosely tied in your trash cart and empty food scraps into it during the week. **You can also request a countertop compost bin from the Town (contact info below).**

Q: IS THIS ACTUALLY GOING TO WORK?

- Turning all of our food waste into **clean energy** makes a huge difference. The program also introduces the idea of moving the cost to dispose of trash **OUT** of your taxes and **INTO** the bags. **The less trash you make, the less you would pay.** With these tools, you **can** reduce your trash and save money.
- You may be trying this for the first time, but cities all over the U.S. (and the world!) have **successfully** piloted similar trash reduction programs. **Seymour will succeed with your participation!**