



## **EBC 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Solid Waste Management Conference**

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

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### **Conference Chairs:**

Jeff Martirano, NY/NJ/NE Solid Waste Section Manager, HDR  
Debra Darby, Client Manager, Organics Sustainability Solutions, Tetra Tech

Environmental Business Council of New England, Inc.  
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## **AGENDA**

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome:** Jackie Caceci, Chair, EBC Connecticut Chapter  
Project Manager, Tighe & Bond
- Program Introduction and Purpose**
- Jeff Martirano, Conference Co-Chair  
NY/NJ/NE Solid Waste Section Manager, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- 9:20 a.m. Leveraging the Benefits of a Regional Solid Waste Authority**
- Matt Hart, Executive Director  
Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)
- 9:40 a.m. Waste Diversion & the Self-Sufficiency Deficit**
- Joseph DeNicola, Senior Policy Advisor, Commissioner's Office  
Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
- 10:00 a.m. A Municipal Response to the Waste Crisis**
- David Aldridge, Executive Director  
Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRRA)
- 10:20 a.m. Networking Opportunity**
- 10:40 a.m. Break**
- 10:50 a.m. Waste & Recycling in the Northeast: An Overview**
- Lew Dubuque, Northeast Region Vice President  
National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA)
- 11:10 a.m. Casella's Active Role in Solid Waste and Recycling Management in Connecticut**
- Marc Morgan, Strategic Account Manager – Municipal Services  
Casella Waste Systems
- 11:30 a.m. Food Waste Diversion in Connecticut**
- Ryan Cerrato, Vice President, Product Marketing, Denali
- 11:50 p.m. Moderated Discussion**
- Moderator:** Debra Darby, Conference Co-Chair  
Client Manager, Organics Sustainability Solutions, Tetra Tech

**Panel Members:**

- David Aldridge, SCRRRA
- Joseph DeNicola, Connecticut DEEP
- Lew Dubuque, NWRA
- Marc Morgan, Casella Waste Systems
- Robyn Nichols, Principal Program Manager  
Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)
- Mark Van Weelden, Chair, EBC Solid Waste Management Committee  
MA Area Asset Manager and CT Market Area Manager, Covanta

12:30 p.m.     **Adjourn**

**CONFERENCE CHAIRS**

**Debra Darby**, Client Manager, Organics Sustainability Solutions  
Tetra Tech

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Ms. Debra C. Darby is a client manager of organics sustainability solutions with Tetra Tech, an engineering and environmental consulting firm with a focus on solid waste and organics. She has 15 years of organics experience within the solid waste industry, and she is a U.S. Composting Council Certified Composting Professional (CCP).

Drawing from her experience working with biopolymers and product end-of-life disposition plus 20 years in marketing, she has extensive background working with organics and compostable materials, and an earned reputation for driving product stewardship. She assists clients through the design and implementation of organics diversion programs and management technologies, including composting and anaerobic digestion systems.

In addition to her technical expertise, Ms. Darby also has 20 years of experience in marketing and has served as a strategic advisor in the public and private sectors. As part of Tetra Tech's solid waste solutions team, she is involved with solid waste master planning, permitting, and the operations of organics management systems.

**Jeff Martirano**, NY/NJ/NE Solid Waste Section Manager  
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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Jeff is the Solid Waste Section Manager at HDR Engineering, Inc. covering the regions of NY, NJ and New England. He has over 16 years of experience in the solid waste industry. During his career in the industry he has performed various roles on many solid waste master planning projects. He also has significant facilities experience and has worked on operational and efficiency improvement studies at existing Waste to Energy, Material Recovery and Transfer Station Facilities all over North America. In addition, he has performed technology assessments and feasibility studies related to evaluations of alternative conversion and processing technologies.

## **SPEAKERS & PANELISTS**

**David Aldridge**, Executive Director

Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRRA)

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Dave Aldridge is the Executive Director of SCRRRA, a regional waste authority in southeastern CT serving the waste disposal and recycling needs for 12 municipalities with a population base of 230,000. Dave has been the Executive Director of SCRRRA for over 12 years, responsible for all financial, administrative and operational functions of the Authority. Prior to his current position Mr. Aldridge spent over 25 years as a logistics industry executive responsible for both domestic and foreign transportation and distribution with expertise in process improvement and operational efficiency. He holds an Economics Degree from Gettysburg College.

In 2019 Mr. Aldridge completed the US Composting Council Operations Training course at Cornell University. He has been an Associate member of the Northeast Recycling Council, a member of the Connecticut Recycling Coalition, the CT Producer Responsibility Council as well as a participant in the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Solid Waste Action Committee. He has been a frequent speaker at municipal, civic and educational institutions on the topics of Solid Waste, Recycling and Organics Management.

**Ryan Cerrato**, Vice President of Product Marketing

Denali

Garnet Valley, PA

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Mr. Cerrato currently serves as the Vice President of Product Marketing for WeCare Denali where he oversees all of the company's Product Sales and Marketing related activities and staff. Mr. Cerrato started with Denali as Director and was responsible for the development and execution of marketing plans, sales plans, and overall business development related activities as it pertains to WeCare branded products, including WeCare Compost, WeCare Roofmix, and WeCare Engineered Soils. Mr. Cerrato currently serves as a founding board member of the NJCC and resides in Garnet Valley, PA.

**Joseph DeNicola**, Senior Policy Advisor, Commissioner's Office

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Joe DeNicola is a Senior Policy Advisor in the Commissioner's Office of DEEP, focusing on infrastructure finance. Prior to joining DEEP, Joe served as the Executive Director of SosteNica, Inc., a nonprofit organization that works with Nicaraguan smallholder farmers and their communities to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals. He has significant professional experience in financial services and general management including 25 years with GE Capital and The Prudential, primarily focused on energy and infrastructure finance. In addition, he founded and led the Candlewood Timber Group, a sustainable forestry company operating in Argentina. He is a member of the North Haven Clean Energy Task Force and previously served as Board Chair of Solar Youth in New Haven and as Treasurer of the Yale Alumni Nonprofit Alliance. Joe received his B.A. in chemistry from Yale University in 1986, his M.F. from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in 1996, and he completed a Permaculture Design Certification in 2018.

**Lew Dubuque**, Northeast Region Vice President  
National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA)  
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Lewis ("Lew") A. Dubuque is the Vice President of Chapter Management at the National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA). In this role, he has responsibility for chapters in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine.

Before joining NWRA, Lew served as the executive vice president of the New York State Builders Association (NYSBA) for 11 years. During his time at NYSBA, he advocated on behalf of the residential construction industry at the state capitol in Albany, pushing back against laws and regulations that could have had a devastating impact on affordable housing in New York.

Prior to that role, he worked in every level of state government, including the New York State Senate, the New York State Department of Labor and the Executive Chamber.

Additionally, Lew served as the deputy director of the New York State Commission on Public Authority Reform, which was established by Gov. George Pataki in 2005 to make recommendations for improving the governance, operations and disclosure of New York State's public authorities. The commission issued a report in 2006, which laid the groundwork for sweeping reform legislation that was later signed into law by New York State.

Throughout his career, Lew also worked as the research director for the New York State Election Modernization Task Force; assistant to the commissioner for the New York State Department of Labor; and research analyst for the Senate Republican Majority. All of these professional experiences have provided Lew with in-depth knowledge of New York State's legislative and budgetary and regulatory processes.

Lew, an Albany native, also serves as the chairman of the New York State Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors. He is a graduate of the University at Albany. He now resides in Castleton on Hudson with his wife Jennifer and their two daughters.

**Matt Hart**, Executive Director  
Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)  
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Matt Hart is the Executive Director of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), the largest of Connecticut's regional planning organizations serving 38 municipalities and a population of 976,248 in the greater Hartford region. The CRCOG region is well-situated between New York City and Boston, and is rich in diversity, history, and natural resources. CRCOG's team of professional staff work to promote responsible land use, sustainable transportation systems, economic vitality, and quality of life. The organization also advocates for its capital city and member towns and provides various shared services to facilitate governmental efficiency.

Matt is an accomplished manager and leader with broad experience in regional and local government. He values open government, innovation, and teamwork, and has a passion for leadership and public service. Matt has long championed regional solutions to improve service delivery and to promote equity

and sustainability. His current policy priorities at CRCOG include infrastructure funding, climate mitigation and adaptation, housing, transportation safety, and multi-modal transit.

Previously, Matt served as the Town Manager in West Hartford, Connecticut, where he helped lead the community through the COVID-19 pandemic. Matt also assisted the Town Council with supporting the town's business community, improving customer and constituent service, and implementing sound fiscal strategies designed to address budgetary and operational needs.

Prior to West Hartford, Matt served as Town Manager in Mansfield, Connecticut, where he played a critical role in developing *Storrs Center*, a mixed-use, *New Urbanism* project located adjacent to the University of Connecticut's main campus. In addition, Matt has experience working in the private sector and is a veteran of the US Army and US Army National Guard.

Matt is currently an adjunct faculty member with the University of Connecticut's School of Public Policy, which has recognized him for his contributions to the field of public administration and the school. He is an active member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO).

Matt earned his *Juris Doctor* (JD) and Master's in Public Affairs (MPA) from the University of Connecticut, and his bachelor's degree in political science from the State University of New York at Potsdam.

**Marc Morgan**, Strategic Account Manager – Municipal Services

Casella Waste Systems

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Marc Morgan has nearly 3 decades of experience managing solid waste and recycling throughout the northeast. He is the Strategic Account Manager for Municipal Services for Casella in Connecticut. In this role, he works directly with municipal partners to manage waste efficiently and identify diversion opportunities to increase recycling. Before Casella, Marc was the Assistant Commissioner of Solid Waste Operations for Westchester County NY where projects focused on safety and operational improvements.

Prior to working in NY, he managed a landfill in NH for 22 towns. He set up one of the first municipal food waste composting facilities in NH diverting waste from area institutions, businesses and curbside collected food waste. While in NH, he represented public disposal sites on a legislative study committee investigating disposal capacity needs in NH. Marc taught a class at Dartmouth College, "Beyond the Curb; Demystifying Recycling and Waste Management".

Over the years, he has managed a small electronic recycling non-profit in Vermont, oversaw waste/recycling programs for NH's largest medical facility, and ran his own consulting company. Now, living in eastern Connecticut with his wife Julie, they enjoy spending time in the outdoors exploring the many trails and rivers the state has to offer.

**Robyn Nichols**, Principal Program Manager

Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)

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Robyn Nichols is excited to join CRCOG as a Principal Program Manager for Municipal Services. Working directly with Pauline Yoder, Robyn will be responsible for a wide breadth of projects including EDMS, permitting, solid waste, Long Term Recovery, ARPA Funding, curbside textile collection and food waste, CCSWA and website/IT programs. As a business law attorney and certified grant writer with a background in nonprofit agencies and procurement, Robyn's experience will be valuable to CRCOG's strategic mission, vision and delivery of services to its members and community.

Robyn enjoys time with family, friends, traveling, cooking, gardening, Cubs baseball games and volunteering with a variety of nonprofit organizations, especially animal rescues.

**Mark Van Weelden**, MA Area Asset Manager and CT Market Area Manager

Covanta

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Mark is the Area Asset Manager for MA and CT for the Covanta assets and also serves as the Market Area Manager for the CT market in his dual role. Covanta is the largest energy from waste company in the US with over 30 US facilities and 4 facilities operating or under development in the EU. Mark has over 30 years of waste experience from growing up around the family waste hauling business, owning his own waste hauling company to extensive leadership positions with Republic Services, Interstate Waste and Advanced Disposal prior to Covanta. For the last 8 years, he has held several leadership roles within Covanta including oversight of IN and NY markets. He is an honorably discharge Navy Veteran who served in the US Naval Mobile Construction Battalion -133, holds an ABA and numerous certificates in leadership, sales force, health and safety training.