



# WASTE MATTERS!

Issue 2 Volume 2 Aug 2018

## \$100M for Cleanup Work in North Providence

By: Filomena DaSilva

The Centredale Manor Superfund Site will be seeing better days ahead thanks to a \$100 million settlement that was reached just last month. The property crosses one-and-a-half miles of the Woonasquatucket River, and includes two ponds, a nine-acre peninsula and forested wetlands.

In December of last year, settlement negotiations began in earnest and the EPA and the State came to an agreement that will continue to repair the damage to the river. Because of this, the responsible parties, Emhart and Black & Decker, will reimburse the EPA for \$42M in past costs as well as all future costs incurred by EPA and the State of Rhode Island for technical oversight of the remediation work and long-term monitoring and maintenance of the site. The work to be done includes upgrading caps over contaminated soil in the peninsula area of the site where there are currently two high-rise apartment buildings and excavation of contaminated sediment and floodplain soil from the Woonasquatucket River as well as adjacent properties. One of the goals of this cleanup once completed, is for residents to be able to access a cleaner and more recreational-use friendly River.

The planning and logistics have already begun, and actual work will begin within the next several months. RIDEM is very excited to partner with EPA to ensure work here moves us closer to the goal of a fishable and swimmable river.

## Boat Recycling –

### Exploring Solutions and Alternatives

By: Leo Hellested

In June, DEM officials participated in a pilot project, that may one day result in Rhode Island recycling its boats versus land-filling or discarding them. The event was coordinated with the RI Marine Trade Association (RIMTA) and Geocycle, a national company committed to zero waste solutions, and was hosted at the Central Landfill by the RI Resource Recovery Corp. (RIRRC) in Johnston. The objective of the pilot project is to evaluate the economic feasibility of recycled fiberglass boats being used as a potential energy/fuel feedstock at cement kiln plants at various out of State locations. Geocycle will also be evaluating BTU values, transportation costs and other logistical issues that factor into the ultimate feasibility of potentially moving full scale.



Fiberglass boat heading for the shredder



End product to be evaluated and sampled



## How DEM and RIRRC Changed the Story of E-waste

By: Alyson Brunelli

In the world of E-waste, nothing is scarier than “Ghost Weight”. Manufacturers in the State’s E-Waste Recycling Plan must provide for collection, transportation and recycling of covered electronic products from households and schools free of charge. Those who do not have an approved manufacturer’s plan, must participate in the State program under [RIGL § 23-24.10-11](#). Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) established the State program which must then dispose of electronics from those manufacturers without alternative approved plans, in addition to “Ghost Weight” - which is that volume of electronics not accounted for due to discrepancies between the various program reporting requirements.

Before DEM and RIRRC successfully lobbied together to change the Electronic Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling Act to include much stricter reporting requirements, “Ghost Weight” was a significant and costly problem for the State run program. Since working in close collaboration with RIRRC in a lean Kaizen event, the Office of Waste Management has increased the E-waste recycling program’s efficiency by tightening some reporting requirements and adding other changes, which has significantly reduced this “Ghost Weight”. Because these changes were implemented, RIRRC is now in the black. Other modifications made to fix the system included the requirement that small companies with less than 5% share participate in the RIRRC program. The program has also increased the number of private sites from less than 10 to 35. This would not have been possible had it not been for the collaboration between DEM and RIRRC.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

DEM has filed proposed changes to the Underground Storage Tank Regulations with the Rhode Island Secretary of State’s Office to address changes in State and Federal law as well as amend and update the existing regulations. The proposed regulations, along with the public notice, can be viewed at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/documents/regulations/> under “Proposed Regulations” or by clicking [here](#).

The public comment period for the proposed regulations is from **August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 – September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. RI DEM will be presenting a brief summary of these changes and holding a question and answer session on **Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 9:00 - 10:00 AM** in Room 300 at DEM headquarters, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI. The public hearing will take place immediately following this in the same location at **10:00 AM**. Public comments may be made in person at this time. Those wishing to provide written public comments may do so by submitting them to DEM via U.S. Mail or email at the addresses provided in the public notice. These comments must be received prior to 4:00 PM EST on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

## MEET OWM’S NEW TBA COORDINATOR!

By Kelly Owens



The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management’s Office of Waste Management would like to introduce our new coordinator for Targeted Brownfield Assessments (TBA), Rachel T. Simpson. Rachel was hired as an Environmental Scientist in the Office’s Site Remediation/Brownfield Section in September of 2017. She quickly learned the Remediation Regulations and began ushering the new and sometimes stagnant sites rapidly through the remediation process. Rachel goes above and beyond on everything that she does. She has already put the TBA program back on the right track to complete Phase I’s, Phase II’s and Remedial Action Work Plans.

Rachel graduated from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 2015 where she received a Bachelor of Science in Marine Safety and Environmental Protection. She’s held many internships, some being an Environmental Safety and Regulatory Intern, At-Sea Fisheries Biologist, Urban Environmental Scientist, a Diadromous Fisheries Technician, and a Marine Science Instructor before finding a home at DEM. All of these positions made her very well-equipped for taking and analyzing environmental field data. Leo Hellested, Chief of the Office of Waste Management, says “Rachel is a real go getter, focused on environmental results more than process. So we’re really excited to have her as our new point person for this program – and we’re expecting accelerated progress on many sites.” Rachel is a perfect fit to administer the TBA program and is currently assisting the Federal Facilities program with risk assessment.

Contact Rachel Simpson in the Office of Waste Management for questions about the Targeted Brownfield Assessment program by email at [rachel.simpson@dem.ri.gov](mailto:rachel.simpson@dem.ri.gov) or phone at (401) 222-2797.



# WARWICK IS GOING SOLAR

By: Filomena DaSilva

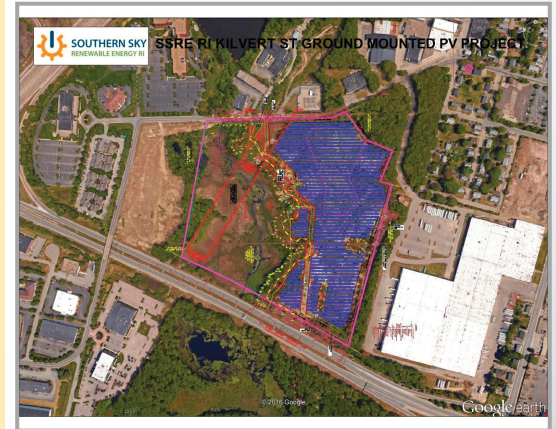
Approval for 2 solar parks have been in the works since the Fall of 2016. Southern Sky Renewable Energy RI, the company who proposed the idea to the City of Warwick, says the parks will have a positive financial impact on the city. They are projected to generate about \$200K in electrical cost savings at the current electric rate and Southern Sky, although exempt from taxes, has offered to pay the city \$35,000 annually, which would be about what the properties would generate in taxes.

With just under 50-acres, both sites, to be located next to the Airport Connector off of Kilvert Street and near the Apponaug underpass off of West Shore Road, will consist of more than 18,000 solar panels estimated to produce about 9.7 million kilowatts of electricity annually. “That’s about 1300 homes per year”, estimates Ralph Palumbo, the Managing Director for Southern Sky and a resident in the City of Warwick. The projected lifespan of a solar park is about 25 years, yet Palumbo believes with proper maintenance and technological upgrades, they could last 30 to 35 years. The cost of these two parks is estimated to be between \$12-\$14 million.

A remedial action plan under the Brownfields program was implemented on the Kilvert Street site that involved removing contaminated soil left by waste dumped on the property from the manufacturing processes used by Leviton years ago. Prior to the solar park proposal, this location had very little use due to it being a brownfield site. Director of the Warwick Planning Department, William DePasquale said solar parks could be a “two-way sword” as there are challenges to locate a spot, yet the benefits of no traffic and energy sustainability are enormous. According to the Cranston Herald, the parks have a targeted completion date of December 2018.



Above: Stanchions, used to support solar panels, line the site of the Kilvert Street solar park.



Aerial view of Kilvert Street Solar Park  
Both photos courtesy of Warwick Beacon.

## MY RCRA INFO

RIDEM has adopted EPA’s Industry (database) Applications to allow hazardous waste handlers (generators, transporters and facilities) to update their site status using MyRCRAid, to use e-manifests and produce biennial reports online. Handlers can sign up for access to EPA’s Industry Applications at: <https://rcrainfo.epa.gov/rcrainfoprod/action/secured/login> or <https://cdx.epa.gov/cdx/login>. Users who have signed up on the federal central data exchange for other programs (e.g. air, water) can use the same id and password. Questions about MYRCRAINFO can be directed to [Sean Carney](mailto:Sean.Carney@dem.ri.gov) at sean.carney@dem.ri.gov.

## WASTE SCRAMBLER

Unscramble these words. Hint: All words are found in this publication.

1. storeaengr \_\_\_\_\_
2. alowtstki \_\_\_\_\_
3. semfitans \_\_\_\_\_
4. plancue krow \_\_\_\_\_
5. oieentlrcc atwes \_\_\_\_\_
6. nnntalmeerovi metgemnana \_\_\_\_\_

Answers on last page



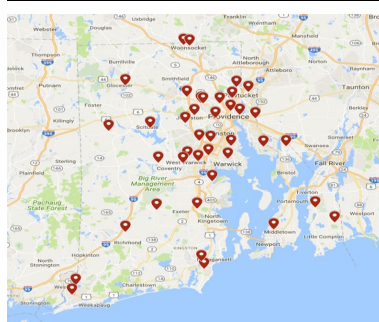
**PUBLICATION INFO:** If you have comments about the content or suggestions for stories, please email us at [dem.wastematters@dem.ri.gov](mailto:dem.wastematters@dem.ri.gov)



PLEASE   RECYCLE

By: Torianna Kirby and Matthew Sprague

**E**lectronic waste, known colloquially as E-waste, is a growing problem all over the world. On average the Rhode Island E-waste program alone collects approximately 6 million pounds per year. There are currently forty E-waste collection locations across the State of Rhode Island. To verify data and volume, we visited all of these locations as part of the OWM E-Waste Revitalization Project. We interviewed attendants at each site and gathered basic information such as hours of operation, what they collect, who is allowed to use the facility, and more. This information was then used to create a map of all the E-waste collection sites throughout the State of Rhode Island in order to make them more accessible to the community. The map is designed to help raise awareness about the proper ways to recycle electronics and keep this waste out of our landfills and off our streets. Visit the link below to view the interactive map. <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/wastemanagement/facilities/e-waste-households.php>



Pictured to the left are Matthew Sprague and Torianna Kirby, OWM's Interns for the Summer. Their hard work included showcasing all eligible E-Waste sites and associated information on an interactive map in a way that is easier for the community to access.

Thank you

Matt and Tori!

## PHARMACEUTICAL RULE

By: Mark Dennen

In October 2018, EPA is expected to public a final Rule for Management Standards for Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals. Previous versions were published in 2008 and 2015. As the manufacturer oriented framework of RCRA often forced some drug stores and retailers to register as Large Quantity Generators due to small amounts of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals (esp. nicotine gum and patches). The new framework is expected to allow for more flexibility to use mechanisms such as reverse distribution. The Department expects to work on adoption of the rule soon after it is published.

More information can be found at: <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=201804&RIN=2050-AG39>. Contact Yan Li at [yan.li@dem.ri.gov](mailto:yan.li@dem.ri.gov) for more information.

**Word Scrambler Answers:** generators, kilowatts, manifests, cleanup work, electronic waste, environmental management

## E-MANIFEST IS HERE!

By: Alyson Brunelli

The National E-Manifest Rule has gone into effect as of June 30, 2018. This rule contains a federal pre-emption that means it takes effect in all states (including RI) even if those states have not adopted the rule. The most important provisions of the rule are:

1. Generators and destination facilities are not required to send manifests to the State.
2. Destination facilities are required to send manifest data, manifests or manifest images to USEPA.
3. Generators, transporters and destination facilities may track manifests in EPA's system without mailing or retaining paper copies provided they are all registered in EPA's system.
4. Destination facilities pay a fee for each manifest used, the fee varies based on method of submission (fully paper manifests are the most expensive).

More information about e-manifests can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/e-manifest>. For questions about E-manifests, click [here](#) to contact Alyson Brunelli.