RRS

Statewide Implementation Analysis for Beverage Container Plan

REDEMPTION & RECYCLING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING #1

JULY 21, 2026

Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Presentation of Work Plan
- Public Input
- Adjourn Meeting

Welcome and Opening Remarks By RIDEM

David McLaughlin
Programming Services Officer – Sustainable Management, RIDEM

Arden Amarelo
Seasonal Sustainability Intern – Sustainable Management, RIDEM

Today's meeting aligns with the Advisory Council meetings

- **June 9th :** Introductions, Background, Overview of Overall Project
- **July 14th:** Presentation of Needs Assessment and Next Steps on Analysis
- **Third meeting (to be scheduled):** Presentation of Preliminary Results

Special Joint Legislative Commission

20 Commission members met 13 times between September 2023 and March 2025

Commission outlined 3 general program options in the final report

Consideration of a Deposit Return System (DRS)

- That is "producer run" and funded system
- Includes all beverage and recyclable container types
- Recommends a 10-cent redemption value
- Includes clear and enforceable targets, with the eventual target of at least 85%
- Utilizes technology to create network of return options that are convenient and easy for consumers to use
- Does not require retailers to take back empty containers.

Consideration of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program

- Overseen by an Advisory Board
- Includes a nonprofit PRO
- Includes a five-year program plan prepared by the PRO
- Shows how end program markets will be utilized for collected material
- Includes an education and outreach program to improve recycling and composting

Consideration of a Combined Deposit Return System (DRS) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program

- Including key components of the DRS and EPR program options

Council Introductions

Representative	Council Member
County Representative: Bristol County	Chris Parella Bristol County Director of Public Works
County Representative: Kent County	Kevin McGee Town of Coventry Public Works Director
County Representative: Newport County	Will Cronin Town of Middletown Recycling Coordinator
County Representative: Providence County	Kevin Proft City of Providence Deputy Director of Sustainability
County Representative: Washington County	Rich Bourbonnais South Kingstown Public Services Director
Rhode Island Packaging or Consumer Goods Producer	Bree Dietly, President, Breezeway Consulting LLC
Rhode Island Packaging or Consumer Goods Producer	Elizabeth Donohue, Vice President of Government Affairs for Primo Brands Board, Co-chair for the Coalition for High Performance Recycling

Representative	Council Member
Material Recovery Facility Operator	Jared Rhodes Directory of Policy and Programs, Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation
Composting Organics Processing Facility	Leo Pollock Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Remix Organics
Rhode Island Reuse and Refill System Operator	Nils Weldy Executive Direct, Rhode Island Brewers Guild
Academic or Scientific Expert	Jim Murphy Assistant Director of Facilities & Ops/Sustainability & Logistics Rhode Island College
Academic or Scientific Expert	Emily M. Howe State Director in Rhode Island Clean Water Action
Academic or Scientific Expert	Jed Thorp Director of Advocacy Save The Bay

At RRS, we:

- Have 40+ years solving for circularity, materials management, and sustainable products & packaging
- Guide collaboration to tackle infrastructure and recovery challenges
- Have U.S.-based experts specializing in materials, sustainability, and life cycle management solutions
- Support brands, retailers, trade groups, manufacturers, and beyond
- Unique knowledge and experience in crafting sustainable, responsible, and impactful strategies

Project Team

Rachel Perlman
Consultant
Project Manager

Resa Dimino
Co-CEO
Project Director

Kate Maguire
Senior Consultant
Modeler & Scenario Architect

Stephanie Robinson
Consultant
Modeler

Maria Bianchetti
Analyst
Data Analyst

Alex Baertschi
Analyst
Data Analyst & Research

Bryce Hesterman
Senior Consultant
Project Advisor

Sarah Guthridge
Consultant
Project Advisor

RRS's Recent Relevant Experience

VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

- Conducted a recycling systems analysis focused on beverage container recovery
- Each model assessed financial and environmental impacts, greenhouse gas emissions, material recovery, consumer convenience, and landfill diversion.

CSMM

- Conducted a gap analysis and needs assessment presenting information on the operation, capacity, and infrastructure of New York State's current recycling system.
- Providing recommendations to address gaps and ensure the recycling systems are maximizing the capture of recyclables to advance the circular economy.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

- Helped to design and inform a practical, equitable redemption network for beverage containers
- Developed criteria for evaluating scenario equity and convenience criteria, to analyze the performance of different redemption network scenarios.

Primary Project Goal

Provide **case analysis** to best position Rhode Island **decision makers** as they consider the policy options of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and paper and a Deposit Return System (DRS). These programs would be managed by one or multiple Producer Responsibility Organization(s).

Process

1. **Needs Assessment**
2. **Five Program Plans**
3. **Cost Benefit Analysis**
4. **Report of Findings and Recommendations**

Needs Assessment

How recycling currently happens in RI

State Waste Characterization Desktop Study

Recycling Access and Collection Methods

Recycling Operational Costs

Recycling Infrastructure Analysis and End Markets Analysis

Review of Reuse and Refill Systems

Evaluation of Current Litter Rates

5 Program Plans

The Program Plans that will be analyzed

"As Is" Program

Proposed Legislation (H6207 and S0996)

EPR Stand Alone

DRS Stand Alone

RRS Suggestion (to be decided after Needs Assessment)

Program Plan Components

What will be considered in each plan

- Summary of Key Elements
- SWOT Analysis
- System Needs
- Timetable and Implementation Schedule
- Impact Analysis
- Cost Benefit Analysis

Cost Benefit Analysis

Translation of each program's elements and evaluation metrics into dollars and measurable environmental and social benefits

Investments and Improvements Required and Associated Costs

Who Pays Program Costs

Potential Synergies with Programs in Neighboring States

Economic Impacts

GHG and Landfill Lifespan Analysis

Social and Environmental Impacts

Final Report

Will provide new insight and synthesized recommendations for a path forward

Executive Summary

Background and Objectives

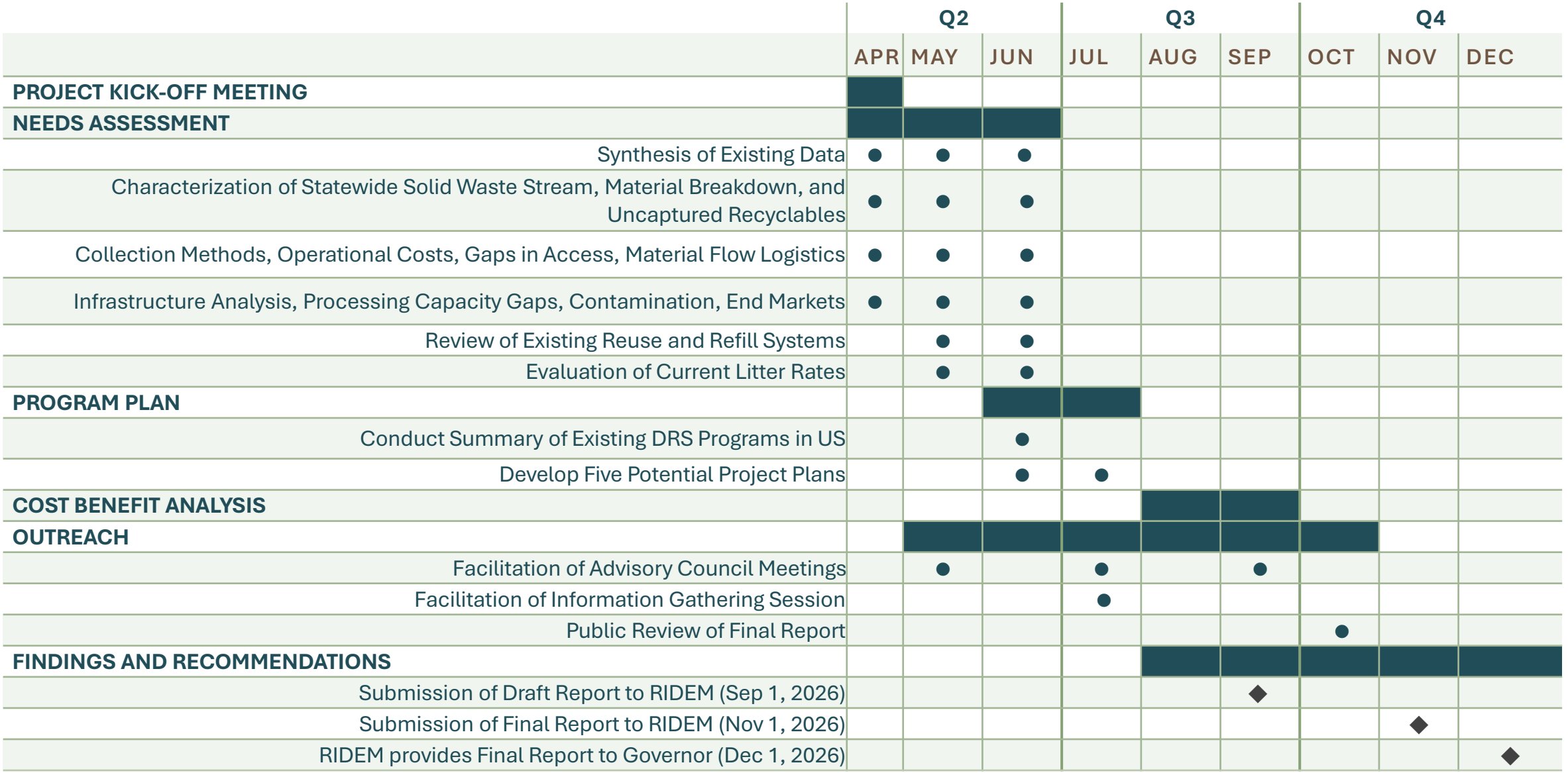
Methodology and Study Design

Modeling Results

Key Findings

Recommended Paths Forward

Brief Update on Learnings to date on Needs Assessment

- Review, inventory, and organization of data
- Development of material list to be used in desktop waste characterization and elsewhere
- Determination of time frame for forecasting analyses
- Collection of New England / Northeast regional data to supplement RI data

Project Timeline