It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 23-18.9-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-18.9 entitled "Refuse Disposal" is hereby amended to read as follows:


As used in this chapter, the following terms shall, where the context permits, be construed as follows:

(1) "Beneficial reuse material" means a processed, nonhazardous, solid waste not already defined as recyclable material by this chapter and by regulations of the Rhode Island department of environmental management that the director has determined can be reused in an environmentally beneficial manner without creating potential threats to public health, safety, welfare, or the environment or creating potential nuisance conditions.

(2) "Beneficial use determination" (BUD) means the case-by-case process by which the director evaluates a proposal to use a specific solid waste as a beneficial reuse material for a specific purpose at a specific location within the host municipality.

(3) "Cocktailing" means the adding, combining, or mixing of hazardous waste as defined in § 23-19.1-4 with construction debris and demolition debris.

(4) "Construction and demolition (C&D) debris" means non-hazardous solid waste resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition of utilities and structures and uncontaminated solid waste resulting from land clearing. This waste includes, but is not limited
to, wood (including painted, treated, and coated wood, and wood products); land-clearing debris;
wall coverings; plaster; drywall; plumbing fixtures; non-asbestos insulation; roofing shingles and
other roof coverings; glass; plastics that are not sealed in a manner that conceals other wastes,
empty buckets ten (10) gallons or less in size and having no more than one inch of residue
remaining on the bottom; electrical wiring and components containing no hazardous liquids; and
pipe and metals that are incidental to any of the previously described waste. Solid waste that is
not C&D debris (even if resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition of
utilities, structures and roads; land clearing) includes, but is not limited to, asbestos; waste;
garbage; corrugated container board; electrical fixtures containing hazardous liquids, such as
fluorescent light ballasts or transformers; fluorescent lights; carpeting; furniture; appliances; tires;
drums; containers greater than ten (10) gallons in size; any containers having more than one inch
of residue remaining on the bottom; and fuel tanks. Specifically excluded from the definition of
construction and demolition debris solid waste (including what otherwise would be
construction and demolition debris) resulting from any processing technique, other than that
employed at a department-approved C&D debris processing facility, that renders individual waste
components unrecognizable, such as pulverizing or shredding.

(5) "Construction and demolition debris processing facility" means a solid waste
management facility that receives and processes construction and demolition debris. These
facilities must demonstrate, through records maintained at the facility and provided to the
department, that seventy-five percent (75%) of all material received by the facility is processed
and removed from the site within six (6) weeks of receipt on a continuous basis, and that in no
case stores material on site for over three (3) months; provided, however, these facilities do not
include municipal compost facilities.

(6) "Construction and demolition debris separation facility" means a facility that receives,
separates, and/or screens construction and demolition debris into its components for subsequent
resale or processing that includes, but is not limited to, grinding, shredding, crushing, or
landfilling at another location separate and apart from the location on which the separation
occurs.

(7) "Director" means the director of the department of environmental management or any
subordinate or subordinates to whom the director has delegated the powers and duties vested in
him or her by this chapter.

(8) "Expansion" means any increase in volume, size, or scope, either vertically,
horizontally, or otherwise; provided, however, that this section does not apply to the vertical
expansion of the Charlestown municipal landfill until the closure date of July 1, 2000.
(9) "Person" includes an individual, firm, partnership, association, and private or municipal corporation.

(10) "Recyclable materials" means those materials separated from solid waste for reuse. The director of the department of environmental management, through regulations, shall specify those materials that are to be included within the definition of recyclables. The materials to be included may change from time to time depending upon new technologies, economic conditions, waste stream characteristics, environmental effects, or other factors.

(11) "Segregated solid waste" means material separated from other solid waste for reuse.

(12) "Solid waste" means garbage, refuse, tree waste as defined by subsection 14 of this section, and other discarded solid materials generated by residential, institutional, commercial, industrial, and agricultural sources, but does not include solids or dissolved material in domestic sewage or sewage sludge or dredge material as defined in chapter 6.1 of title 46, nor does it include hazardous waste as defined in chapter 19.1 of this title, nor does it include used asphalt, concrete, or Portland concrete cement.

(13) "Solid waste management facility" means any plant, structure, equipment, real and personal property, except mobile equipment or incinerators with a capacity of less than one thousand pounds (1,000 lbs.) per hour, operated for the purpose of processing, treating, or disposing of solid waste but not segregated solid waste. Any solid waste management facility that stores waste materials containing gypsum on site over three (3) months must install and maintain an active gas collection system approved by the department of environment management.

(14)(a) "Tree waste" means all parts of a tree, including stumps, branches, and logs that shall be considered solid waste for purposes of this chapter unless the tree waste meets the following criteria:

(1) The tree waste remains on the property where it was generated; or

(2) The tree waste remains in the possession of the person who generated it and is stored above the ground surface, on property that the same person controls, for purposes of recycling and reuse; or

(3) The tree waste, whether generated on or off-site, is being actively managed as a usable wood product such as landscape mulch, wood chips, firewood, or mulch.

(b) The application of the criteria set forth in this section shall not be deemed to abrogate, diminish, or impair the enforcement of the requirements established pursuant to chapter 28.1 of this title or the authority of the state and/or a city or town to protect the public health, safety, or welfare from a public nuisance resulting from the storage and handling of tree waste.

(15) "Organic waste material" means the organic material portion of the solid waste
stream, including, but not limited to, food scraps, food processing residue, and soiled or unrecyclable paper that has been separated from nonorganic material.

(16) "Composting facility" means land, appurtenances, structures, or equipment where organic materials originating from another process or location that have been separated at the point or source of generation from nonorganic material are recovered using a process of accelerated biological decomposition of organic material under controlled aerobic conditions.

(17) "Anaerobic digestion facility" means a facility employing a closed vessel to perform a closed process of accelerated biodegradation of organic materials and/or organic solid wastes into biogas and digestate, using microorganisms under controlled conditions in the absence of oxygen.

(18) "Other authorized recycling method" means:
(i) Recycling organic waste material on site or treating organic waste material via on-site organic treatment equipment permitted pursuant to the general laws or federal law; or
(ii) Diverting organic waste material for agricultural use, including consumption by animals.

(19) "Covered entity" means each commercial food wholesaler or distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket, resort or conference center, banquet hall, restaurant, religious institution, military installation, prison, corporation, hospital or other medical care institution, and casino.

(20) "Covered educational institution" means a higher educational or research institution.

(21) "Covered educational facility" means a building or group of two (2) or more interconnected buildings owned or used by a covered educational institution at which organic waste materials are generated.

(22) "Gasification" means a process through which recoverable feedstocks are heated and converted into a fuel-gas mixture in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere, and the mixture is converted to crude oil, diesel, gasoline, home heating oil or other fuels, chemicals, waxes, lubricants, chemical feedstocks, diesel and gasoline blendstocks, or other raw materials or intermediate or final products that are returned to the economic mainstream in the form of raw materials, products, or fuels. Gasification shall not be deemed resource recovery, treatment, utilization, conversion, waste processing, reconstituting, recycling, waste management, incineration, or disposal.

(23) "Gasification facility" means a facility that receives, separates, stores, and converts post-use polymers and recoverable feedstocks using gasification. A gasification facility shall not be deemed a solid waste management facility, a waste processing facility, or an incinerator.
(24) "Post-use polymer" means a plastic polymer to which all of the following apply:

(i) It is derived from any industrial, commercial, agricultural, or domestic activities;

(ii) Its use or intended use is to manufacture crude oil, fuels, feedstocks, blendstocks, raw materials, or other intermediate products or final products using pyrolysis or gasification; and

(iii) It may contain incidental contaminants or impurities, such as paper labels or metal rings.

(25) "Pyrolysis" means a process through which post-use polymers are heated in the absence of oxygen until melted and thermally decomposed, and are then cooled, condensed, and converted to crude oil, diesel, gasoline, home heating oil or other fuels, chemicals, waxes, lubricants, chemical feedstocks, diesel and gasoline blendstocks, or other raw materials or intermediate or final products that are returned to the economic mainstream in the form of raw materials, products, or fuels. Pyrolysis shall not be deemed resource recovery, treatment, utilization, conversion, waste processing, reconstituting, recycling, waste management, incineration, or disposal.

(26) "Pyrolysis facility" means a facility that receives, separates, stores, and converts post-use polymers using pyrolysis. A pyrolysis facility shall not be deemed a solid waste management facility, a waste processing facility, or an incinerator.

(27) "Recoverable feedstock" means one or more of the following materials, derived from recoverable waste, that has been processed in order that it may be used as feedstock in a gasification facility:

(i) Post-use polymers; or

(ii) Materials for which the United States Environmental Protection Agency has made a nonwaste determination under 40 C.F.R. 241.3(c) or has otherwise determined are not solid waste. Provided, however, recoverable feedstock does not include unprocessed municipal solid waste.

SECTION 2. Section 23-19-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-19 entitled "Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation" is hereby amended to read as follows:


The following words and phrases have the meanings ascribed to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Bonds and notes" means bonds, including without limitation refunding bonds, notes, including without limitation renewal notes and bond anticipation notes, and other obligations or evidences of indebtedness of the corporation issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and the resolutions of the corporation.
(2) "Central landfill" means the central landfill located in Johnston.

(3) "Corporation" means the Rhode Island resource recovery corporation created and established pursuant to this chapter.

(4) "Landfill revenues" means the surplus, if any, of all tipping fees and other revenues received at the central landfill over the annual costs of the landfill, and a pro-rata share of the corporation's administrative expenses.

(5) "Municipal solid waste" means that solid waste generated by the residents of a municipality in the course of their daily living, the disposal of which the governing body of that municipality has undertaken in the discharge of its duties to protect the health of the municipality. Municipal solid waste does not include solid waste generated by residents of a municipality in the course of their employment or that generated by any manufacturing or commercial enterprise.

(6) "Municipal solid waste disposal arrangements" means those arrangements entered into by a municipality which provide for the final disposal of wastes in a manner approved by the department of health, the department of environmental management, and the corporation; provided, however, that the disposal of wastes in transfer stations or facilities for interim storage shall not constitute final disposal of the wastes.

(7) "Municipality" means any town or city within the state.

(8) "Person" means any individual, firm, institution, partnership, association or corporation, public, or private, organized or existing under the laws of the state or other states including federal corporations, but excluding municipalities.

(9) "Project" means the design, acquisition, ownership, operation, construction, rehabilitation, improvement, development, sale, lease, or other disposition of, or the provision of financing for, any solid waste management facility or the industrial and/or business parks in the town of Johnston authorized by § 23-19-9(a)(7) and the highway access authorized by § 23-19-10.3.

(10) "Recyclable materials" means those materials separated from solid waste for reuse. The director of the department of environmental management through regulations shall specify those materials that are to be included within the definition of recyclables. The materials to be included may change from time to time depending upon new technologies, economic conditions, characteristics of the waste stream, environmental effects, or other factors.

(11) "Recycling" means the reuse of recovered resources in manufacturing, agriculture, power production, or other processes.

(12) "Resource recovery" means the processing of solid wastes in such a way as to produce materials or energy that may be used in manufacturing, agriculture, and other processes.
(13) "Resource recovery system" means the corporation's integrated system of resource recovery consisting of a series of waste processing facilities designed to process a minimum of seventy percent (70%) of the municipal and commercial solid waste streams by employing an on-site waste separation technology for the purpose of recycling and/or reusing a minimum of seventy percent (70%) of the solid waste stream, and minimal use of landfills for the purpose of providing temporary backup or bypass landfill capacity and residue disposal from waste processing facilities and any other related facilities and services.

(14) "Resource recovery system costs" means all operating costs of the system; debt service and other financing costs related to the resource recovery system; the costs of recycling grants-in-aid and similar obligations of the corporation; allocations for extraordinary and unexpected costs; and a pro-rata share of the corporation's administrative expenses.

(15) "Resource recovery system revenues" means all amounts received by the corporation as municipal tipping fees, non-municipal tipping fees, energy revenues, revenues from the sale of recyclable materials, and all other revenues received with respect to the resource recovery system, but shall not include any landfill revenues and any amounts received as a state subsidy.

(16) "Revenues" means monies or income received by the corporation in whatever form, including but not limited to fees, charges, lease payments, interest payments on investments, payments due and owing on account of an instrument, contract, or agreement between the corporation, any municipality, or person, gifts, grants, or any other monies or payments to which the corporation is entitled under the provisions of this chapter or any other law, or of any agreement, contract, or indenture.

(17) "Segregated solid waste" means material which has been separated from the waste stream at the generation source for the purpose of recovering and recycling the materials.

(18) "Solid waste" means garbage, refuse, sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility and other discarded materials, including solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material generated by residential, institutional, commercial, industrial, and agricultural sources but does not include solids or dissolved materials in domestic sewage.

(19) "Solid waste management facility" means any plant, structure, equipment, and other property, real, personal, or mixed, or the modification or replacement of any of the foregoing, for the receipt, storage, treatment, utilization, processing, transporting, or final disposition of or recovery of resources from solid waste other than segregated solid waste, or any facility which disposes of solid waste by reconstituting, converting, or otherwise recycling it into material which is not waste; or any property or system to be used in whole or in part for any of the previously
mentioned purposes, whether or not another purpose is also served by it; or any other property or
system incidental to, or which has to do with, or the end purpose of which, is any of the
foregoing; or any combination of two (2) or more of the foregoing.

(20) "Statewide resource recovery system development plan" means that plan which will
specify the location, size, and type of solid waste management facilities that may be required to
develop an integrated statewide resource recovery system for the effective management of solid
waste in Rhode Island. It will also specify a proposed schedule by which the component facilities
will be phased into the statewide system, and it will provide for the administrative and financial
requirements for implementing the plan.

(21) "Waste management" means actions taken to effectuate the receipt, storage,
transportation, and processing for resource recovery and recycling, or for the ultimate disposal, of
solid waste.

(22) "Waste processing facility" means a solid waste facility employing recycling based
technology employing an on-site waste separation technology designed to process both nonsource
separated and source separated solid waste for the purpose of recycling, and/or composting,
and/or reusing a minimum of seventy percent (70%) of the municipal and commercial solid waste
streams.

(23) "Gasification" means a process through which recoverable feedstocks are heated and
converted into a fuel-gas mixture in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere, and the mixture is converted
to crude oil, diesel, gasoline, home heating oil or other fuels, chemicals, waxes, lubricants,
chemical feedstocks, diesel and gasoline blendstocks, or other raw materials or intermediate or
final products that are returned to the economic mainstream in the form of raw materials,
products, or fuels. Gasification shall not be deemed resource recovery, treatment, utilization,
conversion, solid waste processing, reconstituting, recycling, solid waste management,
incineration, or disposal.

(24) "Gasification facility" means a facility that receives, separates, stores, and converts
post-use polymers and recoverable feedstocks using gasification. A gasification facility shall not
be deemed a solid waste management facility, a waste processing facility, or an incinerator.

(25) "Post-use polymer" means a plastic polymer to which all of the following apply:

(i) It is derived from any industrial, commercial, agricultural, or domestic activities;

(ii) Its use or intended use is to manufacture crude oil, fuels, feedstocks, blendstocks,
raw materials, or other intermediate products or final products using pyrolysis or gasification; and

(iii) It may contain incidental contaminants or impurities, such as paper labels or metal
rings.
(26) "Pyrolysis" means a process through which post-use polymers are heated in the absence of oxygen until melted and thermally decomposed, and are then cooled, condensed, and converted to crude oil, diesel, gasoline, home heating oil or other fuels, chemicals, waxes, lubricants, chemical feedstocks, diesel and gasoline blendstocks, or other raw materials or intermediate or final products that are returned to the economic mainstream in the form of raw materials, products, or fuels. Pyrolysis shall not be deemed resource recovery, treatment, utilization, conversion, waste processing, reconstituting, recycling, waste management, incineration, or disposal.

(27) "Pyrolysis facility" means a facility that receives, separates, stores, and converts post-use polymers using pyrolysis. A pyrolysis facility shall not be deemed a solid waste management facility, a waste processing facility, or an incinerator.

(28) "Recoverable feedstock" means one or more of the following materials, derived from recoverable waste, that has been processed in order that it may be used as feedstock in a gasification facility:

(i) Post-use polymers; or

(ii) Materials for which the United States Environmental Protection Agency has made a nonwaste determination under 40 C.F.R. 241.3(c) or has otherwise determined are not solid waste. Provided, however, recoverable feedstock does not include unprocessed municipal solid waste.

SECTION 3. Section 23-18.9-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-18.9 entitled "Refuse Disposal" is hereby amended to read as follows:


(a)(1) No person shall operate any solid waste management facility or construction and demolition (C&D) debris processing facility or expand an existing facility unless a license is obtained from the director except as authorized by this section. The director shall have full power to make all rules and regulations establishing standards to be met for the issuance of the licenses with those standards affording great weight to the detrimental impact that the placement of such a facility shall have on its surrounding communities.

(2) The director shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the uses and content of materials accepted and generated by a construction and demolition debris processing facility. Any costs associated with testing these materials by the facility or by the department to verify the results of the facility's tests shall be borne by the facility. Each facility shall be required to establish a fund with the department to cover the cost of these tests.

(b) Any person who desires to construct a solid waste management facility or install any
equipment in a solid waste management facility must first submit to the director for approval
plans and specifications and other related data required by the director.

(c) No construction and demolition debris processing facility shall be issued a license or
be able to operate unless it has:

(1) Received a letter of compliance from the host municipality that all applicable zoning
requirements and local ordinances of the host municipality have been complied with;

(2) Submitted a fire protection plan that has been approved by the local fire chief, or his
or her designee, in which the facility is located; and

(3) For the purposes of this subsection, the letter of compliance from the host
municipality shall issue from either:

(i) The town or city manager with town or city council approval in a municipality with a
managerial form of government; or

(ii) The elected mayor with town or city council approval in a municipality with a non-
managerial from of government.

(4) If, after thirty (30) days of receipt of a written request to the city or town by the
applicant for a license requesting a letter of compliance, the letter of compliance is not issued
because the host municipality finds that the requirements of the applicable zoning requirements or
other ordinances have not been met, a letter of non-compliance must be issued setting forth the
particular requirements that have not been met. If, after a license is issued, the host community
finds that all applicable zoning or other applicable ordinances are no longer complied with, they
are authorized to issue a non-compliance letter.

(5) Upon issuance of a letter of non-compliance, the applicant for a license shall have all
rights of appeal under the provisions of chapter 24 of title 45 as to zoning issues and any other
rights to appeal that may be applicable as to the determination of non-compliance with other
ordinances.

(i) In the case of an application or renewal of an existing license for an increase in the
acceptance and processing of the amount of (C&D) debris per day, the letter of non-compliance
shall stay the issuance of the license allowing the increase until the appeal process provided for
herein is final.

(ii) In the case of an application or renewal of an existing license that does not request an
increase in the acceptance and/or processing of the amount of (C&D) debris per day where the
applicant for renewal has timely filed an appeal as contained herein, the letter of non-compliance
shall not be used as grounds for denial of the approval of the renewable license; however, if, upon
final determination by a zoning board or court of competent jurisdiction upon appeal, it is found
that the facility is in non-compliance, the license shall be revoked by the director.

(d) The local fire chief, or his or her designee, is authorized to conduct random, unannounced inspections of facilities licensed under this section to ensure continued compliance with the approved fire protection plan. If any facility at the time of inspection is found not to be in compliance with the approved plan, that facility shall immediately cease operation until the time that it corrects any deficiency and the local fire chief, or his or her designee, finds the facility is in compliance with the approved fire protection plan.

(e) Any facility that is found to be in violation of the fire protection plan under this section on three (3) separate inspections, within any three-year (3) time period, shall have its license to operate under this section revoked.

(f) A municipality that desires to evaluate available technologies, equipment, or methodologies for managing solid waste may request approval from the director to perform a limited demonstration pilot project prior to submission of an application for a license. Demonstration projects shall not exceed fifty (50) tons per day maximum capacity. The municipality must first submit to the director, for approval, plans and specifications, including fire protection plans and other related data as required by the director. The municipality shall also give public notice of the request and allow a thirty-day (30) period for the director to receive public comment on the proposed project. After the close of the public comment period, the director is authorized to approve or deny the request. Approval for a demonstration pilot project shall be granted for a period not exceeding six (6) months.

(g) Any facility that is licensed or registered by the department under this chapter as of July 1, 2006, that accepts greater than three (3) cubic yards of tree waste as defined by § 23-18.9-7(14), shall be considered an existing tree waste management facility. Existing tree waste management facilities shall notify the department and the local fire chief of the existence and scope of their tree waste management activities in writing no later than August 30, 2006, and shall incorporate tree waste management activities in a revised operating plan as part of the next renewal of their license or registration.

(h) Any construction and demolition (C&D) debris processing facility under this section that is within a one thousand feet (1,000') radius of a residential zone district shall conduct all operations covered under the license inside the confines of an enclosed, permanent building.

(i) Granting of a license, license renewal, or permission for an equipment addition under this section shall in no way affect the applicant's responsibility to comply with all zoning and other local ordinances, nor the applicant's responsibility to obtain any local permits, except as specifically provided by Rhode Island General Law. When multiple uses are in place on a site
with a licensed solid waste facility, the terms and conditions of the license are only applicable to
the activities and operations subject to the license and not the other uses of the property.

(j) Pyrolysis or gasification facilities that use post-use polymers or recoverable feedstocks
are not required to obtain a solid waste management facility license for the portions of their
operations that process post-use polymers or recoverable feedstocks or to hold post-use polymers
or recoverable feedstocks at the pyrolysis or gasification facility prior to processing to ensure
production is not interrupted.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC001468/SUB A
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
AN ACT
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - REFUSE DISPOSAL - EXEMPTING POST-USE POLYMERS, GASIFICATION PROCESSES AND RECOVERABLE FEED STOCKS

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1 This act would exempt recoverable plastics from the materials classified as solid waste
2 and provide for the converting of recoverable plastics to plastic and chemical feedstocks, crude
3 oil, lower carbon transportation fuels or other valuable raw materials.
4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC001468/SUB A
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AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - REFUSE DISPOSAL - EXEMPTING POST-USE POLYMERS, GASIFICATION PROCESSES AND RECOVERABLE FEED STOCKS

LC001468/SUB A

Presented by

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