



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management

REVITALIZATION



Environmental Protection Supporting Livable Communities, and a Sustainable Future!

RHODE

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BROWNFIELD to BEAUTY - Another Program Success Story!

By: Leo Hellested



Ribbon cutting on historic Conant Thread Mill site in Pawtucket. See full story on page 4.

LRSMM Participates in Groundbreaking at Meeting Street School



First steps taken in a much needed addition at the School. See full story on page 5.



RIDEM ENCOURAGES SOLAR INSTALLATION ON CLOSED LANDFILLS



The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management (LRSMM) encourages post-closure use of landfills provided that the use will not compromise the environmental protection afforded by the landfill cap and closure.

Although capped and closed landfills may not be appropriate sites for residential or commercial development, they are nonetheless not useless and may, of course, be more suitable for the installation of a photovoltaic (PV) solar array, which generate renewable energy and may provide income for landfill owners.

Closed and capped landfills have the capability to provide land serviceable for PV solar arrays. Given that capped landfills are mostly unhindered by surrounding trees or buildings, they provide optimal solar exposure. Around the country, municipalities, utilities, and landfill owners have found that solar can be the ideal fit for capped landfills. This reuse can effectively provide new economic generation, decrease the reliance on fossil fuels, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Recent guidance on solar on landfills has been published on RIDEM's website and describes LRSMM's requirements and the process for approving these activities. LRSMM revised the Solid Waste Regulation No. 2 (250-RICR-140-05-2) in January of 2021. In an effort to provide a streamlined process for approving solar on landfills, the guidance provides expectations and clarifications relative to Section 2.1.9 (J) - Installation of Solar Panels on Landfills, and guidance documentation for siting solar PV facilities on municipal Solid Waste (MSW) landfills. The new guidance does not address all information, factors, or considerations that may be relevant in every particular situation, but does provide a summary of the regulations as well as the permitting process and design considerations when choosing solar. For example, the regulations make reference to the following requirements:

Applicants proposing solar panels on the capped footprint of filled areas shall either:

(1) Obtain a Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction Activity (Construction General Permit) from the Office of Water Resources, or

(2) Comply with pre-approved construction mitigation standards established by the Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management.

For installation of solar array systems on landfills, applications must be filed directly with the DEM Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management, Landfill Closure Program. Projects go through an expedited review process per Solid Waste Regulation No 2 (250-RICR-140-05-2.1.9(J) - Installation of Solar Panels on Landfills). Visit RIDEM's Office of LRSMM's main page for more information [here](#) Or contact [Mark Dennen](#).

LRSMM'S MARK DENNEN to LEAD STAFF BIKE TOUR of the NORTHEASTERN CORNER OF THE STATE



Mark Dennen, from the Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management, will lead an educational bike tour on the bike path Friday, October 13th from the Kelly House in Lincoln to Central Falls, highlighting work at several sites along the way. These locations are comprised of the JM Mills superfund site, the restoration of the Lonsdale Marshland with Natural Resource Damage Claims, and brownfields success stories at several recreational fields in Central Falls including the site of a former coal mine collapse in Cumberland.



The Captain Wilbur Kelly House located on 1075 Lower River Road in Lincoln



A couple of the restored sites participants will experience as they ride through Central Falls

PCB WASTE GOING to NH



Wastes with PCB (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) concentrations > 50 mg/kg are classified as R007 Hazardous Wastes in Rhode Island and as such, must be transported on a hazardous waste manifest. This created a problem for PCB contaminated soil going to landfills in New Hampshire. Although their permit may allow such wastes, their procedures may not allow them to sign hazardous waste manifests. After much consideration on the issue, RIDEM has decided to consider variances on a case by case basis on this issue. Anyone with an interest or questions on this topic should contact Mark Dennen at mark.dennen@dem.ri.gov.

BEAUTY...

Cont'd from front pg.



Photos courtesy of Leo Hellested

After years of persevering, Shri Studio held a large final ground breaking ceremony this past August 28th at its brownfield redevelopment of 390 Pine Street in Pawtucket, with several hundred supporters & dignitaries in attendance. Overcoming the challenges and delays posed by the 2-year global pandemic, historic environmental contamination, fundraising, and surviving the epic mill fire in 2020 that destroyed 1 million square feet of several adjacent mill buildings, this brownfield project has fulfilled its dream! The project, located on the blighted, historic Conant Thread Mill site on the Pawtucket/Central Falls line, is among the first to advance in the TOD (transit-oriented-district), within 500 feet of the new MBTA commuter rail stop. Alongside other major projects soon to follow, the area promises to transform into a vibrant residential/commercial transportation hub serving Providence and the greater Boston areas.

Prior to the property purchase, the previous owners, Tallman Enterprises applied for and received two Brownfield grants from the Land Revitalization Office @ DEM. The first was in 2017 for \$46,960 for environmental site assessment work; the second was a DEM award for an additional \$250,000 in 2018 for remediation and redevelopment. Additional financial support followed, from the municipalities, state, and a host of other very supportive foundations coupled with a multitude of volunteer hours. Those cumulative efforts have allowed this multi-million-dollar brownfield re-development to proceed. "DEM is proud of its investments early on in project" said Leo Hellested, Administrator for the Office; "... Comparatively small amounts of "seed" money help address environmental concerns and stigma and allows investors to get comfortable. Ultimately huge investments and dividends get returned to the community, city, and state in the end, and this project is clearly evidence of what is possible."

RIDEM's Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management (LRSMM) Site Remediation Division participated in a ceremonial groundbreaking for Meeting Street School's Center for Early Childhood Development in late Spring of this year. The new almost 30,000 square foot building will add space and specifically help expand their early childhood program. John Kelly, the school's president and CEO, notes that people underestimate how much time the school is with these children and their families. "They don't realize our work starts well before school. We're in birthing hospitals, we're with mom and dad from the beginning, all the way up to the time their kids are ready for school. Investing in children of all abilities early in life has a positive ripple effect in society", he says. The building is expected to be completed by late summer 2024. LRSMM also attended the celebration of What Cheer Flower Farm's onsite building and the EPA Cleanup Grant Award ceremony.



Above: What Cheer Farm. Photos courtesy of Rachel Simpson



The Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management is currently hiring

....two entry-level engineers. Click [here](#) to apply or go directly to apply.ri.gov to view open positions.

Staff Corner

Teamwork makes the dream work!

Trevor Moulton is a 2022 graduate from Assumption University with a degree in Environmental Science. Previously, he worked as an Environmental Lab Technician, primarily involved with aquatic toxicity testing for clients like wastewater treatment facilities. In his free time he loves to play baseball, sleep, and shop. Trevor is super excited to join the Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management team working with a variety of groups including the DOD, Superfund, NPL, Brownfields, and Fuds Divisions!



Brandon Sevigny started work with LRSMM in July of this year. He's spent the last two years working as a lab tech and analyst for the Semi Volatiles departments of New England Testing Laboratory, followed by Eurofins Scientific. He graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Science from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2019. In his free time, Brandon enjoys reading, making music, and golfing. He is excited to be with the department in the UST Division and working with the state as a whole.

Katerina Pena joined the Office of LRSMM, UST Division, in late July as an Environmental Analyst, through NEIWPCC, a regional commission. Katerina is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Public Administration through URI's accelerated online program, where she is also studying to get certificates in GIS and Geospatial Technologies. She is a graduate of RIC, where she majored in Environmental Science. In her free time, Katerina loves hiking with her two rescue dogs, Poppy and Wheatly, playing the flute, camping, and going to the beach.



Bethany Mong graduated from Brown University in 2007 with a BA in Biology. She grew up in the petroleum industry, working at her family's retail home heating oil company, Charles L. Booth Inc., located in North Kingstown. By 2008, she transitioned to environmental consulting, working primarily in waste site cleanup operations in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Bethany is excited to utilize her background to provide support to the UST/LUST division. When not at work, Bethany spends her free time raising livestock, hiking, and with her husband and children.



Photo taken by Mark Dennen



Rarely seen Black Crowned Night Heron in a canal across from the JM Mills Landfill at the Peterson Puritan Superfund Site. In remediating hazardous waste sites, it is important not just to protect human health but the unique ecology that often surrounds waste sites.



OSCAR the Q&A Mascot

By: Michelle Jong

This Week's Message:

SAFELY DISCARDING THE OLD "WAVE" LICENSE PLATES



Our beloved Rhode Island's iconic "wave" license plate's time has come to an end with us after long 25 years, and now the brand-new "ocean" license plates are being distributed through out the state. Although the new design seems almost identical to our previous design, the new design has five waves instead of one, symbolizing the five different counties in Rhode Island. Neat!

However, many people are bringing the old "wave" license plate back to the Division of Motor Vehicles, which is what they don't want you to do anymore <https://dor.ri.gov/press-releases/division-motor-vehicles-begins-plate-reissuance-initiative>. Instead, they are encouraging the public that they bend or cut up the old plate and recycle. Generally, we shouldn't toss our old license plate due to potential identity theft. The smartest thing to do to protect ourselves is to take the old plates to a local aluminum(or scrap metal) recycling center. More info about where to recycle can be found in <https://atoz.rirrc.org/items/license-plates>. Please make sure you do your best to destroy (bending, scratching, cutting in half) the plate as much as possible before disposing them!

Let's be safe and kind to the environment!

To submit questions for our future editions of **REVITALIZATION RHODE** click [here](#).

