

Business and Environmental Roundtable News



Rhode Island Signs onto Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

In the State of the State address, Governor Donald Carcieri announced that Rhode Island will sign on to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI or "ReGGle") is a cooperative effort by Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to launch a regional cap and trade system that utilizes emissions credits or allowances to limit greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

Beginning in 2009, emissions of CO₂ from power plants in the region will be capped at approximately current levels—121 million tons annually—with this cap remaining in place until 2015. The states will then reduce emissions incrementally over a four year period to achieve a 10 percent reduction by 2019. Compared to the emissions increases the region would see from the sector without the program, RGGI will result in an approximately 35 percent reduction by 2020.

Under the cap and trade program, the states will issue one allowance for each ton of CO₂ emissions allowed by the cap. Each plant will be required to have enough allowances to cover its reported emissions. The plants may buy or sell allowances, but an individual plant's emissions cannot exceed the amount of allowances it possesses. The total amount of the allowances will be equal to the emissions cap for the region.

The RGGI states have agreed that at least 25 percent of a state's allowances are to be sold and the funds dedicated to strategic energy or consumer benefit purposes, such as energy efficiency, new clean energy technologies and ratepayer rebates. A power plant also could purchase these allowances for its own use.



RGGI will limit greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

Rhode Island participated in crafting the pact, which now covers nine states. However, Governor Carcieri declined to sign it last year, citing concerns that it would raise energy prices here.

Rhode Island will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the other states and then adopt a regulation to implement the program. The regulation will mimic those in other participating states to create a seamless regional program. Pending the completion of this process, the RGGI program will take effect on January 1, 2009.

For additional information on the RGGI program, please visit: www.rggi.org.

Dem Announces Two New Appointments

Department of Environmental Management Director W. Michael Sullivan, Ph.D. announced the appointment of Larry Mouradjian as associate director for natural resources management and the appointment of Scott N. Marshall, DVM as the new full-time public health veterinarian for the State of Rhode Island.

Mouradjian has held this position in an acting capacity since December 2004, during which time he also served as chief of the Division of Parks & Recreation. As associate director, Mouradjian is responsible for the planning, administration, coordination, direction and supervision of the natural resource management functions within DEM's Bureau of Natural Resources. The Bureau - and its staff of 225 full-time and 470 seasonal employees - includes the Divisions of Parks & Recreation, Fish & Wildlife, Forest Environment, Agriculture, Law Enforcement, Criminal Investigation, Coastal Resources, and Planning and Development.

Scott N. Marshall, DVM was appointed as the new State veterinarian, who works within DEM's Division of Agriculture to help control the spread of diseases that impact the livestock industry and also diseases, such as rabies, that can spread from animals to people. The state veterinarian is also responsible for assisting animal owners, animal control officers, farmers, veterinarians, zookeepers and other individuals involved in the care or regulation of both domestic and wild animals within the state.

Dr. Marshall, has been providing veterinary care to horses and other animals for 16 years, 10 with the New England Horse Care Center in North Smithfield, and, most recently, six as owner of his own North Smithfield veterinary services company, where he treated various farm and domestic animals, primarily horses.

In his new position, Dr. Marshall joins Peter Belinsky, DVM, who has been assisting DEM in a part-time capacity.



Larry Mouradjian



Dr. Scott Marshall

DEM Reviewing Weaver's Cove Dredging Proposal

More than 150 people turned out at two public hearings in November on a request from Weaver's Cove Energy LLC of Fall River for a DEM permit and water quality certificate to dredge approximately 140,000 cubic yards of sediment from the state's portion of the existing federal navigation channel in Mount Hope Bay. The company wants to dredge the seven-mile stretch of Mt. Hope Bay to allow large Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) tankers to reach the docks of the proposed LNG gas terminal in Fall River.

Under the dredge proposal, the depth of the channel would be deepened from its original 35 feet to 37 feet. About 40,000 cubic yards of sediment would be removed from depths of up to 35 feet as maintenance dredging. The remaining 100,000 cubic yards, considered "improvement dredging," would

deepen the authorized channel by two feet. The proposal would also allow a one-foot depth margin of error because of the nature of the dredging equipment, which could add an additional 90,000 cubic yards of sediment to the total amount dredged.

Those who attended the public hearings in Tiverton and Bristol were overwhelmingly opposed to the plan. Many expressed concerns about disturbing contaminated sedimentation and impacts on water quality and fish stocks. Others spoke of safety issues, including the potential hazards of the large tankers traveling through the channel even after dredging. DEM is compiling responses to the comments from the public hearings and from more than 70 written comments it received before and after the hearing. The Department hopes to issue a final decision in 3 to 6 months.

Questions regarding the Weaver's Cove dredging permit application or water quality certification should be directed to Ronald Gagnon at 222-6822 ext. 7500. Documents related to the proposed project can be reviewed at DEM Headquarters in Providence by appointment by calling 222-6822 ext. 7307.



Property overview of the proposed Weavers Cove Energy, LLC LNG gas terminal in Fall River.

Conservation Development Protects Water Quality, Habitat & Open Space

New development has often been criticized for causing environmental degradation and the loss of community character. However, it is not growth itself that is always the cause; instead it is the way most communities require growth to occur that is the real problem. The goals of preserving important resources and accommodating new growth don't have to be mutually exclusive; there is an alternative.

Conservation development is a more flexible site design process that allows communities to work collaboratively with developers to guide growth to the areas that are most suitable to support development. A key objective is to identify and permanently protect a minimum of 50% of the parcel as meaningful open space to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and working farms. Guiding growth away from these natural areas not only avoids negative impacts to the environment and community character, but also increases profit margins for homebuilders.

RIDEM's Sustainable Watersheds Office and the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's (NBNERR) Coastal Training Program have developed Conservation Development training for municipalities, developers, design professionals and others. These training workshops are delivered in partnership with the Grow Smart RI Land Use Training Collaborative and include an informational presentation as well as hands-on exercise to practice applying conservation development principles to an actual site. Participants receive a Conservation Development manual along with a binder containing many other resources.



Scott Millar, DEM Chief of Sustainable Watersheds, leads a workshop on conservation development.

The next workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 2007, from 4:30-8:00 pm at RIDEM in Providence. Detailed information is available at www.growsmartri.org. Registrations can be made with Dee Dee Lozano, Training Coordinator at Grow Smart Rhode Island, at 273-5711, ext. 6, or dlozano@growsmartri.org.

For additional information regarding Conservation Development, contact Scott Millar, Chief of RIDEM's Sustainable Watersheds Office, at 222-4700, ext. 4419, or scott.millar@dem.ri.gov.

CommunityConnectionRI Up and Running!

The Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's (NBNERR) Coastal Training Program, in partnership with the Grow Smart RI Land-Use Training Collaborative, has launched **CommunityConnectionRI**, an online community calendar that lists land-use and water resources-related conferences, workshops and other events taking place in RI and nearby MA and CT.

CommunityConnectionRI is a "one-stop shopping" source for municipal staff and elected and appointed officials, the design and development community, engineers, attorneys, non-profit organizations such as watershed councils and land trusts, and interested citizens to link directly from the calendar to detailed content and registration information about programs of interest. This resource also provides a way for the numerous organizations in RI and surrounding areas that are planning future programs around land-use and water resources topics to check for date and audience conflicts. So far there are over 30 organizations that have posted events on the calendar.

Please visit the calendar at <http://www.communityconnectionri.org>. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer West, NBNERR Coastal Training Program Coordinator, at jennifer@nbnerr.org, 401-222-4700 x 7413, or Dee Dee Lozano, Training Coordinator with Grow Smart Rhode Island, at deedee.lozano@gmail.com, 401-273-5711 x 6.

Rhode Islands List of Polluted Waters Finalized

DEM's 2006 list of impaired Rhode Island waters, officially known as the 303(d) list, has been approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency. In accordance with federal Clean Water Act requirements, DEM's Office of Water Resources has identified those waters that do not meet water quality standards. Water quality restoration studies, officially known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), must be developed for each waterbody identified as impaired by pollution. The 303(d) list establishes a priority ranking for development of these restoration studies, and, as such, serves to direct water quality monitoring and restoration efforts in Rhode Island.

DEM uses available monitoring data in assessing the water quality of the state's waters. At the time that the assessment was completed in late 2005, monitoring data were available for 42% of the state's 1,498 river miles; of these waters, 39% did not meet established water quality standards for one or more parameters and thus were considered impaired. For lakes, monitoring data were available for over 80% of the state's 20,917 acres of lakes and ponds, and of those 32% were considered impaired. The state's estuarine waters encompass roughly 156 square miles, of which close to 100% are considered assessed and 30% impaired. Commonly found impairments include bacteria, nutrients and low dissolved oxygen levels.

To address waters that are unassessed, DEM has begun implementing new monitoring strategies that over time will reduce the gap in available data. For rivers and streams, of which a majority are currently unassessed, DEM is using a rotating basin approach wherein different watersheds are monitored each year with a goal of covering the whole state within a five-year period. This approach was first applied in the Wood River watershed and the resulting data contributed to a 4% reduction in unassessed rivers and streams between 2004 and 2006. Full implementation of the rotating basin approach and other needed monitoring program enhancements will require additional investment.

In total, DEM has identified 162 waterbodies as impaired on the state's 2006 303(d) list. To date, water quality restoration studies have been completed for 40 waterbodies. DEM is currently working on TMDLs addressing impairments on over 28 additional waterbodies, including the Woonasquatucket River, Mashapaug Pond, Sands Pond (Block Island), Almy Pond, Belleville Pond, Brickyard Pond, Gorton Pond, North Easton Pond, Roger Williams Park Pond, Sand Pond (Warwick), Spectacle Pond, Upper Dam Pond, Warwick Pond, Blackstone River, Scott Pond, Valley Falls Pond, Pawcatuck River (estuarine portion only) and Little Narragansett Bay, Pt. Judith Pond, Old Mill Creek and Buckeye Brook, and Mt Hope Bay and the Kickemuit River estuary.

In the draft 303(d) list made available for public comment in May 2006, DEM had proposed de-listing eight waterbody segments impaired by dissolved cadmium. Upon discussion with EPA, however, DEM determined that these waterbody impairments should remain on the list. The affected waterbody segments include portions or all of Abbott Run Brook (North and South), Clear River, Maskerchugg River, Ashaway River, Chipuxet River, Canonchet Brook, and Keach River.

The final 303(d) list is available on-line at DEM's website or by calling Carol MacAndrew of the Office of Water Resources at 222-3961 ext. 7220.

Summer Jobs Available at DEM

Applications for the 2007 seasonal employment & minority internship programs with the Department of Environmental Management are now available. Various positions for the summer season are available throughout Rhode Island for residents 16 years of age and older. Work on weekends and holidays is required of most summer positions.

Information about DEM and all summer positions, as well as a downloadable application form is available on DEM's website. Applicants can also visit or call DEM's Office of Human Resources at 235 Promenade Street, Room 350, Providence, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., or call 222-2775, ext. 4609. The number for DEM's telecommunication device for speech and hearing impaired callers is 222-4462.

Restoring Water Quality in the Woonasquatucket

DEM presented findings and recommended strategies for restoring water quality in the Woonasquatucket River at public meeting on January 4th. DEM's Office of Water Resources completed the water quality restoration study, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), to address bacteria and dissolved metals impairments in the Woonasquatucket River. TMDLs, mandated by the federal Clean Water Act, establish the maximum pollutant load that a waterbody can absorb and still meet water quality standards.

The study found that most of the Woonasquatucket consistently fails to meet water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria and that various sections of the river exceed applicable water quality criteria for protection of aquatic life because of dissolved metals. The bacteria were traced to tributaries, stormwater outfalls, and both dry and wet weather combined sewage overflow (CSO) discharges. The dissolved metals, such as copper, lead, and zinc was traced to identified sources, including Smithfield wastewater treatment facility, stormwater runoff, and CSOs



Implementation activities will focus on stormwater and CSO management. Specifically, the study recommends reducing both the volume of stormwater that flows into the river as well as the bacteria and dissolved metals concentrations in that stormwater. Some activities are already being addressed in other plans and permitting processes, such as Narragansett Bay Commission's CSO Abatement Plan and the Smithfield Waste Water Treatment Facility's revised RI Pollution Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) permit.

Once the TMDL is approved by EPA, the City of Providence and the Towns of Johnston, North Providence, and Smithfield, and the RI Department of Transportation will be required to amend their RIPDES Phase II Stormwater Management Project Plans (SWMPP) to include best management practices (BMP's) for six minimum measures and other additional controls that are or will be implemented to address the pollutants of concern and water quality targets set forth in the TMDL.

The TMDL specifically requires that watershed communities and RIDOT establish a schedule for the design and construction of structural BMPs to reduce the loads of pollutants of concern to the Woonasquatucket at identified stormwater outfalls. It also calls for the assessment of all remaining discharges not identified in the TMDL but contributing to the impairments addressed by the TMDL - ultimately leading to the design and construction of BMPs on a prioritized basis.

At the public meeting, several individuals expressed concern about the river's dioxin, PCB and mercury impairments. DEM staff explained that these contaminants were beyond the scope of the TMDL and would be addressed separately via other control actions. Concern was also expressed about the large number of auto salvage yards in the watershed – which DEM staff explained was the focus of an ongoing Environmental Results Program.

The public comment period for the draft Woonasquatucket River TMDL closed on February 5th and DEM is preparing responses to comments received, both at the public meeting and in writing, and will revise the TMDL document as appropriate. Barring any unforeseen delays, RIDEM expects to submit the final TMDL for EPA approval in the next month or so.

Copies of the TMDL are available on DEM's website or by contacting Brian Zalewsky at DEM at 222-4700 ext. 7145 or by e-mail at brian.zalewsky@dem.gov.ri. Information about the RIPDES Phase II Stormwater Program including a description of the six minimum measures is also available on DEM's website.

Public Hearing Scheduled On Proposed Wetlands Regulations

The Department of Environmental Management will hold a public hearing on the proposed revisions will be held on Friday, March 2 at 1 p.m. The hearing will be held from in Room 300 at [DEM Headquarters](#), 235 Promenade Street in Providence.

The proposed regulations were developed in conjunction with the DEM Wetlands Task Force, whose members commented on various early drafts. Many of the revisions are in response to recommendations put forth by the Task Force, which was formed to assist the Department in developing improvements to the wetlands program and regulations.

The proposed revisions improve the clarity and organization of the regulations, and include provisions and procedures aimed at streamlining applications and processing. They introduce a new, simplified application procedure to help homeowners determine whether a permit is required for a new activity or project proposed on their property. The proposed regulations also provide new permit exemptions for certain restoration-related and safety-related projects and activities, and make two revisions to the DEM-Coastal Resources Management Council freshwater wetland jurisdictional boundary in Providence and Cranston. While striving to be revenue neutral, fee changes are proposed that will simplify fee calculation by eliminating additives and introducing flat fees.

The 87-page draft regulations can be found on DEM's website, www.dem.ri.gov, by clicking on "Wetlands Rules Meeting" under "What's Happening" on the homepage. They are also available from DEM's Office of Water Resources at DEM Headquarters. Written comments can be sent to Carolyn

Murphy at DEM's Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 until 4 p.m. on March 2.



Russ Chateneauf of DEM walks participants through proposed changes to the wetlands regulations at a workshop held on February 13 at DEM.Headquarters.

Update - Environmental Equity in the Clean Up & Reuse of Contaminated Properties in Rhode Island

Since the fall of 2006, DEM has been convening a stakeholder workgroup to provide direction in the development of new or improved DEM policies, procedures, regulations, and, potentially, legislative initiatives to meet the Department's legal and policy goals on environmental equity during the investigation, remediation and redevelopment of contaminated sites. The stakeholder meetings are being facilitated by Mr. Robert Leaver of *New Commons* (Providence, RI).

Representatives from Brown University, US EPA, RI Legal Services, RI Department of Health, RI Realtors Association, Fuss & O'Neill, Trust for Public Land and various community representatives have been actively participating in the stakeholder process.



Thames Street Landing, Bristol, before (top) and after.

Issues being addressed by the stakeholders include: 1) methods for insuring proper notice to abutting property owners and tenants; 2) processes and procedures for the public to petition DEM to assert jurisdiction over contaminated sites when DEM has information to suspect a possibility of release or contamination; 3) issues to consider and methods and standards to employ to ensure fair and consistent consideration of environmental equity issues when reviewing clean-up plans for contaminated sites; 4) development and implementation of a community involvement process during the investigation and remediation of contaminated sites; and 5) establishment of paper and/or electronic document repositories in impacted communities.

The stakeholder workgroup is expected to last until late spring 2007. DEM plans on soliciting feedback on the stakeholder's recommendations from the public, developers, and municipalities during a series of open meetings in April/May before the conclusion of the process.

Additional information on the process, including meeting dates, agendas and minutes, can be found at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/envequity/index.htm> . For further information, please contact Elizabeth Stone at elizabeth.stone@dem.ri.gov or 222-4700 (x2422).

2006 Brownfields Legislation Update

In 2006, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed three major changes to the Rhode Island Brownfield statute, also known as the "Industrial Property Remediation and Reuse Act, that:

- Requires public participation and comment before remediation work begins if the site is to be used as a school, day care facility or public recreation facility.
- Allows a responsible party to defer site clean up for up to three years to investigate the site for the presences of hazardous materials, provided they meet specific criteria.

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- Replaces Settlement Agreements and Covenants Not To Sue (SACNTS) with Remedial Agreements in an effort to streamline the process.

The Department is finalizing the new remedial agreement process and dealing with some policy and legal issues relative to the new legislation. The Department expect to issue the draft Remedial Decision Letter and draft Remedial Agreement sometime in the spring and will seek public input at that time. For more information about the changes, contact Leo Hellested at 222-2797, leo.hellested@dem.ri.gov, Kelly Owens at 222-2797, Kelly.owens@dem.ri.gov or John Langlois at 222-6607, john.langlois@dem.ri.gov.

Hunters and Fishermen for the Hungry Program Needs Support

The Department of Environmental Management has issued a reminder to the hunting and fishing communities that the *Hunters and Fishermen for the Hungry* program, which has been highly successful in a number of states including Rhode Island, needs their continued support. Through the program, anglers and hunters can donate their surplus fish and game — such as venison, Canada goose, and fish — properly processed, packaged, and refrigerated, to a number of local food kitchens to help Rhode Islanders in need. As hunting seasons for deer and geese are well underway, hunters who have harvested an abundance of game have an avenue to assist those less fortunate.

“High quality protein is in high demand, yet food kitchens receive very few donations of meat and fish,” says Michael Lapisky, Acting Chief of DEM’s Division of Fish and Wildlife. “This program provides a means for the state’s hunters and anglers to help their neighbors.”

All donations must be legally harvested, and properly processed, packaged and labeled. Donations of frozen game are preferable. Hunters may utilize the suggested game donation label on page 20 of the *2006-07 Rhode Island Hunting and Trapping Abstract*.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife maintains a [list](#) of locations where fish and game may be donated, and has also prepared a booklet with guidelines on handling game and fish for donation, as well as a collection of game and fish recipes for the food kitchens. All of this information is available on DEM’s website or by calling the Division at 789-0281.

MARINE FISHERIES

Legislation Would Ban Purse Seining of Menhaden in Narragansett Bay

Two bills pending in the General Assembly would ban purse seining of Atlantic menhaden in Narragansett Bay. Menhaden, known locally as pogies, are important ecologically - they provide an essential link between primary production and higher organisms by consuming plankton and providing forage (food) for such species as striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish. Atlantic menhaden range up and down the entire East Coast and support a significant commercial fishery. The overwhelming majority of the menhaden harvest comes from estuaries and nearshore coastal waters, often within a mile of shore.

Reduction fishing, which involves the taking and reduction of menhaden into fish meal and fish-oil-based products, occurs in various places along the East Coast; however that mode of operation is prohibited in Rhode Island. A fish trap and purse seine fishery for menhaden does occur annually in Narragansett Bay, primarily supplying bait to fishermen.

Purse seining of menhaden has generated strong feelings among several interest groups, including recreational and commercial fishermen, and environmental organizations. Many recreational fishermen and environmentalists feel that purse seining can lead to overharvesting of menhaden, and they are therefore pushing for the proposed legislative ban. Many commercial fishermen, especially lobstermen, are concerned that a ban on purse seining will reduce the amount of bait available to them. While the best available science indicates that overfishing on menhaden is not occurring on a coastwide basis, there are differing opinions among the several interest groups on how that assessment relates to the segment of the menhaden population that migrates into and out of Narragansett Bay.



Atlantic Menhaden. Photo courtesy of South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Over the next few weeks, in anticipation of a hearing on the legislative proposal, DEM along with other marine fisheries experts will be carefully evaluating the issues raised by the proposal and developing a position. The full text of the bills can be found on the General Assembly website at:

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText07/HouseText07/H5165.pdf>

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText07/SenateText07/S0312.pdf>

Changes On Tap To Marine Fisheries Management Regulations

More than 30 people attended a public hearing on proposed changes to marine fisheries management regulations on Thursday, January 25 at the University of Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay Campus. Major changes include:

- Lobster control plan** - shifts the application deadline from December 31, 2006 to February 1, 2007; changes the process for medical/military hardship qualifications to be an administrative one, rather than a formal appeal; and, adds a provision for detecting and smoothing outliers in the reported landings and pot deployment data – i.e., reliance upon “maximum *sustained* number of traps fished.” Hearing participants requested clarification of the definition of “maximum sustained.”
- Spiny dogfish state management plan** - to mirror Massachusetts possession limits and maintains the two seasonal periods that had been in place in RI.
- Scup winter 2 sub period starting possession limits** - to mirror the possession limit as set by NMFS for the winter 2 scup fishery.
- Horseshoe crab management plan** - brings them in line with the new licensing statute. The regulations currently allow multi-purpose license holders to harvest horseshoe crabs. The new statute allows additional license types to legally harvest horseshoe crabs.

DEM is reviewing comments from the public hearing and from the Marine Fisheries Council and hopes to finalize the regulations soon. More information about the regulations is available on DEM's website or by calling (401) 423-1920.

DEM Replaces Two Dairy Silos at Dame Farm

As part of its efforts to preserve historical family farms for the future, DEM is in the final stages of replacing the two dairy silos at Dame Farm in Johnston.

Dame Farm, owned by DEM, is a working vegetable farm that has operated as a family farm since 1786 and continues to be operated by the Dame family that purchased it from the Steere Family in 1890. The farm buildings and their relationship to the natural landscape reflect in size, style, and location the numerous successful dairy farms that were found throughout Rhode Island in earlier times. The farm building architecture and barnyard represents an intact example of the family farm that has been steadily disappearing from New England over the last 50 years.

The Dame Family Farm buildings, on Brown Avenue in Johnston, have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and restored to the period in which they were built. The farm is a living museum, open to the public and dedicated to the preservation of the rural way of life. Additional information about the farm can be found online at <http://www.riparks.com/damefarm.htm>.



Auto Salvage Yard Certification

DEM's Auto Salvage Yards Certification Program will offer Rhode Island's eighty-five (85) auto salvage facilities the opportunity to self-certify that they are complying with the environmental protection requirements that apply to their business. The program was conceived as an Environmental Results Program (ERP) to reduce environmental health risks in Rhode Island's auto salvage yard facilities by improving regulatory efficiency and industry compliance. An ERP is an alternative to traditional permitting that requires self-audits with accompanying self-certification to validate compliance with environmental requirements. RIDEM has previously implemented ERP's for Auto Body Repair Facilities, Underground Storage Tanks (Stage I and Stage II), Exterior Lead Paint Removal, and Dental Amalgam.

DEM received a State Innovations Grant from US EPA in 2004 to design and implement the auto salvage yard certification program. The program will consist of three major parts:

- Certification of auto salvage yard facilities
- Statistically-based performance measurement
- On-site compliance, pollution prevention and technical assistance, supplemented by training work shops as needed

Work began in January, 2005 with the preparation of an easy-to-understand draft Certification Workbook and Certification Checklist Package and with random baseline audits of facilities. Project partners with DEM include the University of Rhode Island Center for Pollution Prevention and Environmental Health, the Narragansett Bay



The ERP program will help auto salvage yards to self certify that they are in compliance.

Commission and EPA New England. A stakeholder group, consisting of these groups as well as six representatives from the auto salvage industry and the RI League of Cities & Towns, met on January 25, 2007 and will continue to meet to review draft documents and discuss implementation of the program.

Implementation is scheduled for spring 2007. Auto salvage yard operators will then have five months to perform the self-certification audit, complete the checklist and submit it to DEM. DEM will conduct random audits of participating facilities as well as non-participating facilities after certifications are received. As part of the program, two one-half day workshops have already been conducted for auto salvage yard operators, and future workshops will be held to address their training needs.

Participation in the program will be voluntary, but facility operators will be strongly encouraged to participate. It should be noted that all facilities in the State of Rhode Island must comply with all applicable environmental regulations, whether or not they self-certify. Benefits of participation will include reduced inspection priority, better preparation for random inspections and listing as a certified auto salvage yard by DEM. Participants will also receive free technical assistance from DEM's Office of Technical & Customer Assistance (OTCA) and the University of Rhode Island Center for Pollution Prevention & Environmental Health to comply with environmental regulations and implement best management practices.

Re-certification of facilities will take place every three (3) years. For more information about the Auto Salvage ERP, please call or email Tom Armstrong at 222-6800, extension 4412 or Thomas.Armstrong@dem.ri.gov.

Join 2007 Earth Day Festivities

The 37th anniversary of Earth Day is April 22, 2007. Earth Day Rhode Island and DEM have teamed up with a number of organizations to once again celebrate with activities throughout the month of April. Here are some of our activities and how you can help.

Sponsor Earth Day. *Help spread the message of environmental awareness!* Earth Day RI offers a variety of sponsorships opportunities. Sponsorship includes name recognition in education and outreach efforts, appreciation awards and website advertising.

Earth Day Family Festival & Conservation Week

- Show off the work of your organization!

Earth Day Family Festival – Saturday, April 21 – 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Opportunity to promote your organization's programs through displays and hands-on exhibits. RIPTA will provide free buses from Kennedy Plaza to the Mall.



The 2007 Earth Day Family Festival will be held on Saturday, April 21 at Warwick Mall from 10 am - 5 pm.

Community Cleanups - *Take action – Organize a clean up or encourage your members to participate!* More than 100 clean ups will take place throughout the State during the month of April. Earth Day RI provides cleanup bags and gloves to organizations that organize cleanups.

Environmental Education - *Get the word out!* Mark Gould Memorial Scholarship Fund - A \$1,500.00 scholarship will be awarded in honor of Professor Mark Gould to a student from Rhode Island pursuing environmental studies and/or environmental science at an institution of higher learning. Science and Engineering Fair (RISEF) Award - Two \$250 awards will be presented at the Annual Science and Engineering Fair to high school students whose projects have a theme of environmental conservation, education and awareness and supports the mission of Earth Day Rhode Island.

Earth Day Environmentalist of the Year - *Nominate someone!* Earth Day Rhode Island is seeking nominations to recognize individuals, groups and corporations for significant contributions to Earth Day in Rhode Island. Nomination forms can be found on www.EarthDayRI.org.

Earth Day Calendar of Events – *Submit your Earth Day events and activities!* EDRI will post a calendar on its website. If you have a listing, please submit it. For more information, call Melinda Hopkins at 222-3434, ext. 4426 or visit www.EarthDayRI.org.

Upcoming Events/Meetings

February 28-March 1

New England Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show, Sturbridge, MA. For information go to www.harvestnewengland.org.

March 1

Water for Rhode Island — Today & Tomorrow, 5 – 9 p.m. Save The Bay Center, Fields Point, Providence. For more information visit www.environmentcouncilri.org/news.htm

March 7

Conservation Development Workshop, 4:30-8:30 PM, DEM Headquarters, 235 Promenade St., Room 300, Contact Dee Dee Lozano at 401.273.5711 ext. 6 or dlozano@growsmartri.org to register or visit GrowSmartRI website www.growsmartri.org/training.

March 13

Earth Day RI meeting, 5:30 PM, DEM Headquarters, 235 Promenade St., Room 320. Contact Jef Fornaro at 401.949-2187 for more information.

April 16-20

Conservation Week at Roger Williams Park Zoo, 11 am – 4 pm. For more information call 401-785-3510.

April 21

Earth Day Family Festival, FREE 10 am - 6 pm, Warwick Mall, Warwick RI. Entertainment and educational demonstration/exhibits. For more information, email Melinda Hopkins at melinda.hopkins@dem.ri.gov or visit www.EarthDayRI.org.

April 21

Earth Day: Celebration, 10 am - 4 pm, ASRI Education Center, Bristol, RI. For more information contact Rob at 245.7500 x13 or email rbanks@asri.org

April 22

Party for the Planet: Earth Day at Roger Williams Park Zoo Activities are free with regular zoo admission. For more information call 401-785-3510

June 9

The 6th Annual RI Sustainable Living Festival & Clean Energy Expo, 9 am to 9 pm, Apeiron Institute for Environmental Living, Coventry, Rhode Island, www.livingfest.org