

“Sustainable Waste Management: How Do We Get there?”

When: Thursday, January 9, 2020

Registration starts at 8:30am

Event is from 9am – 12:30pm

Where: Quinebaug Valley Community College

742 Upper Maple St Danielson, CT 06239

Guest Speakers Biographies

- **State Senator Mae Flexer** State Senator Mae Flexer was sworn-in to the Connecticut State Senate to represent the 29th District of Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Mansfield, Putnam, Scotland, Thompson and Windham in January 2015. From 2008 to 2014 Mae served three terms in the Connecticut House of Representatives serving the 44th Assembly District towns of Killingly and Plainfield.

In 2017, Mae was appointed by Senate President Pro Tempore Martin M. Looney to serve as Deputy President Pro Tempore and Federal Relations Liaison. This year, she was appointed Senate Chair of the legislature’s Government Administration & Elections committee and as Senate Vice-Chair of the Higher Education & Employment Advancement committee. She also serves as a member of the Appropriations, Judiciary, Education and Internship committees.

Mae has long been a champion for our environment. This year, for the fourth time, she scored a 100 on the 2019 Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV) annual Environmental Scorecard, reflecting her effectiveness in leading passage of, and voting for, pro-environment legislation affecting Connecticut. As a result of her work opposing the proposed gas power plant in Killingly and fighting against undermining of the Environmental Protection Act, Mae was also one of four state senators to be named a CTLCV “Environmental Champion.”

An alumnus of Killingly High School, Mae earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Connecticut and a degree from Quinebaug Valley Community College. Mae currently works as the inaugural executive director of Emerge Connecticut, the state affiliate of Emerge America, an organization that recruits, trains, and mentors Democratic women to run for office.

- **Kristen Brown** is a recognized national expert on solid waste reduction and recycling incentive programs, and **leads WasteZero’s strategic partnership activities**. She has three decades of experience working for manufacturers of recycled packaging in both the United States and Europe. Previously, Brown was a residential solid waste reduction consultant under contract with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where she led the American Big Cities SMART campaign and designed the EPA SMART Benefit Evaluation Tool. Previously, Brown served as Vice President of Municipal Market Development at Waste Zero, with responsibility for municipal partnerships across the U.S., focusing on Massachusetts. She has served as consultant to other state and municipal governments and in 2009, the South Carolina Governor appointed Brown to that state’s Recycling Market Development Advisory Council. A holder of two U.S. patents, Brown has authored many trade journal articles based on her research into the critical link between financial incentives and sustainable recycling behavior change. She and her products have appeared on national programs such as the Today Show, The Talk, and Good Morning America.
- **Kevin Budris is a Staff Attorney at Conservation Law Foundation**, where he works on the Zero Waste Project. Conservation Law Foundation is a member-supported nonprofit organization working to protect New England’s environment for all people. Kevin’s work focuses on advancing zero waste solutions like responsible production, waste reduction, reuse, composting,

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and recycling, while opposing landfill expansions, waste incinerators, and other polluting practices that threaten our communities and our environment. He was born and raised in Cheshire, Connecticut, and previously clerked for a federal judge in New Haven. Before joining Conservation Law Foundation, Kevin worked at the National Environmental Law Center, where he brought citizen enforcement lawsuits against companies in violation of federal environmental statutes.

- **Lori Mathieu is Connecticut’s Public Drinking Water Administrator serving as the Public Health Section Chief with the Connecticut Department of Public Health’s Drinking Water Section.** The Drinking Water Section is responsible for primacy of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and a variety of state statutes that oversee the purity and adequacy of Connecticut’s 2,550 public water systems. Lori has worked within the Department’s Drinking Water Section in a variety of units and programs. Lori currently serves as the DPH appointed representative to the Water Planning Council, served as a New England Region 1 Board member to the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, represents DPH on a variety of drinking water related Committees, and serves as the Chair of her town’s Inland Wetland Agency.
- **Pat Bisacky an Environmental Analyst 3 with the Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section Source Assessment and Protection Unit.** She is the lead staff for the SA&P Unit and the PFAS Team Lead. Pat has over ten years of experience in the regulatory and policy aspects of public drinking water supply source protection. Regulatory aspects include the review of permit applications for the sale and change in use of water company land, recreational activities on water company land and development of new sources of public drinking water supply. Policy aspects include review of state agency actions proposed in public drinking water supply source water areas and development of broad strategies for addressing contaminants of emerging concern in public drinking water supplies. She is the state representative on the Source Water Protection Committees of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators and the Ground Water Protection Council and is the Drinking Water Section champion for the CT Source Water Collaborative.
- **Maureen Nicholson is First Selectman in the Town of Pomfret.** Having served as First Selectman previously for five years. She was recently elected to serve two more years as the Chief Executive Officer. Maureen grew up in Buffalo, New York and received her BS from Cornell University and her master’s degree in landscape architecture and regional planning from the University of Pennsylvania.

Maureen worked as a Landscape Architect along the Connecticut shore, designing and installing ecologically sustainable landscapes. Protecting our environment is critical to our survival and that of generations to come. Having raised two children who grew up green and love the open spaces of the Quiet Corner, Maureen believes in preserving what we have and working to make a difference so we can pass on a cleaner, safer world.

- **Delia P. Fey, AICP, Senior Regional Planner** with the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments. With 18 years of experience in land use planning, Delia served as the Town Planner and Wetlands Enforcement Agent in Killingly followed by a position as Town Planner

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and Zoning Enforcement Officer in Woodstock. In her capacity at NECCOG, she still serves as the Town Planner for Woodstock. At NECCOG, she is working on the Long-Range Transportation Plan, various municipal projects involving writing new regulations and land use plans and is also working on the regional Environmental Depot, a responsible waste collection and sustainable demonstration site proposed for Pomfret.

Delia has a BA in Environmental Science and Policy with a concentration in Community Planning & a minor in Economics from the University of Southern Maine and a Masters in Community Planning, concentration in Urban Design and Economic Development from the University of Rhode Island.