

State of Rhode Island

Used Cooking Oil Recycling Act

Purpose. – The purposes of this act are:

- (1) to establish a safe and environmentally sound waste cooking oil collection program in Rhode Island that covers all facilities that generate waste cooking oil in the state;
- (2) to promote the development of state infrastructure for the recycling and refining of used cooking oil into environmentally friendly biodiesel;
- (3) to develop a comprehensive strategy for waste reduction in the state with the participation of state agencies, producers, processors and consumers;
- (4) to eliminate the dumping of waste cooking oil in landfills and down sewer drains in order to minimize sewer damage and maintenance costs and extend the capacity of landfills
- (5) to promote the creation of green jobs
- (6) to promote the use of waste-generated alternative energies (i.e. biodiesel)

Findings.

- (1) Used cooking oil clogs septic and municipal sewer systems, leading to overflowing manholes and high maintenance fees;
- (2) Sewer overflow causes environmental pollution and leads to disease in humans and animals;
- (3) There is a growing dependency on foreign oil
- (4) Global warming is becoming an increasing threat, and is primarily caused by the consumption of fossil fuels
- (5) In order to address these real threats to public health and the environment, the state should begin to help minimize costs of sewer maintenance as well as prevention of sewer blockages

Definitions. -- For the purpose of this chapter:

- (1) “Waste Cooking Oil (WCO)” is grease generated from using vegetable oil or animal fat for cooking
- (2) “Receptacle” is a container that holds, contains, or receives liquids (grease)
- (3) “Waste Cooking Oil Generation” is the creation of waste cooking oil as a byproduct of cooking, etc.
- (4) “Facilities” are locations where cooking oil is sold and/or generated with a minimum of 10 employees or a yearly revenue of \$1 million
- (5) “Collectors” are licensed transporters of waste cooking oil in the State of Rhode Island
- (6) “Collection system” is a system for the collection, transportation, and recycling of waste cooking oil
- (7) “Refining” is the conversion of waste cooking oil to biofuels
- (8) “Refiners” are licensed companies and facilities that are able to carry out the act of refining.
- (9) “Alternative energies” are energy sources that are not petroleum-based and are more environmentally-friendly than petroleum-based fuels (i.e. wind, solar, hydroelectric, biofuels, etc...)

Environmentally sound recycling. - - The department should, by regulation, require environmental and public health standards for the collection, treatment, and recycling of waste cooking oil for any facility that sells commercial cooking oil

These standards shall:

- (1) Require that receptacles be placed at each facility for the collection of grease generated by consumers
- (2) Require that affected facilities shall maintain their respective receptacles
- (3) Require collectors to go to each facility on a set schedule to collect grease for transport to WCO refineries
- (4) Require that refiners refine the collected WCO into biodiesel
- (5) Prohibit pouring of waste cooking oil down the drain to prevent sewer clogs

Disposal ban. –

- (1) After January 1st, 2012, no facility shall dispose of any of waste cooking oil in a manner other than by recycling.