

2011 -- H 5203

LC00432

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- USED COOKING OIL RECYCLING ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Kennedy, Walsh, Azzinaro, Lally, and Williams

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 18.17

4 USED COOKING OIL RECYCLING

5 **23-18.17-1. Purpose.** – The purposes of this act are:

6 (1) To establish a safe and environmentally sound waste cooking oil collection program  
7 in Rhode Island that covers all facilities that generate waste cooking oil in the state;

8 (2) To promote the development of state infrastructure for the recycling and refining of  
9 used cooking oil into environmentally friendly biodiesel;

10 (3) To develop a comprehensive strategy for waste reduction in the state with the  
11 participation of state agencies, producers, processors and consumers;

12 (4) To eliminate the dumping of waste cooking oil in landfills and down sewer drains in  
13 order to minimize sewer damage and maintenance costs and extend the capacity of landfills;

14 (5) To promote the creation of green jobs; and

15 (6) To promote the use of waste-generated alternative energies (i.e. biodiesel).

16 **23-18.17-2. Findings.** – The general assembly hereby finds and declares:

17 (1) Used cooking oil clogs septic and municipal sewer systems, leading to overflowing  
18 manholes and high maintenance fees;

19 (2) Sewer overspill causes environmental pollution and leads to disease in humans and

1 animals;

2 (3) There is a growing dependency on foreign oil;

3 (4) Global warming is becoming an increasing threat, and is primarily caused by the  
4 consumption of fossil fuels; and

5 (5) In order to address these real threats to public health and the environment, the state  
6 should begin to help minimize costs of sewer maintenance as well as prevention of sewer  
7 blockages.

8 **23-18.17-3. Definitions.** – For the purposes of this chapter:

9 (1) “Waste Cooking Oil (WCO)” means grease generated from using vegetable oil or  
10 animal fat for cooking;

11 (2) “Receptacle” means a container that holds, contains, or receives liquids (grease);

12 (3) “Waste Cooking Oil Generation” means the creation of waste cooking oil as a  
13 byproduct of cooking, etc;

14 (4) “Facilities” means locations where cooking oil is sold and/or generated with a  
15 minimum of ten (10) employees or a yearly revenue of one million dollars (\$1,000,000);

16 (5) “Collectors” means licensed transporters of waste cooking oil in the State of Rhode  
17 Island;

18 (6) “Collection System” means a system for the collection, transportation, and recycling  
19 of waste cooking oil;

20 (7) “Refining” means the conversion of waste cooking oil to biofuels;

21 (8) “Refiners” means licensed companies and facilities that are able to carry out the act of  
22 refining; and

23 (9) “Alternative Energies” means energy sources that are not petroleum-based and are  
24 more environmentally-friendly than petroleum-based fuels (i.e. wind, solar, hydroelectric,  
25 biofuels).

26 **23-18.17-4. Environmentally sound recycling.** – The department of environmental  
27 management shall by regulation, establish environmental and public health standards for the  
28 collection, treatment, and recycling of waste cooking oil for any facility that sells commercial  
29 cooking oil. These standards shall:

30 (1) Require that receptacles be placed at each facility for the collection of grease  
31 generated by consumers;

32 (2) Require that affected facilities shall maintain their respective receptacles;

33 (3) Require collectors to go to each facility on a set schedule to collect grease for  
34 transport to WCO refineries;

- 1           (4) Require that refiners refine the collected WCO into biodiesel; and  
2           (5) Prohibit pouring waste cooking oil down the drain to prevent sewer clogs.  
3           **23-18.17-5. Disposal ban.** – After the effective date of this act, no facility shall dispose  
4 of waste cooking oil in a manner other than by recycling.  
5           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2012.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- USED COOKING OIL RECYCLING ACT

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1           This act would establish procedures and requirements for the recycling of used or waste  
2 cooking oil and would authorize the department of environmental management to promulgate  
3 regulations with respect thereto.

4           This act would take effect on January 1, 2012.

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