

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTICUT, 3RD EDITION

Instructor's Guide

Chapter 14

Class Discussion

1. What services does your community's public works department provide?
2. Who collects your trash and garbage at home? Is there recycling in your community and how is it accomplished?
3. Does your school recycle? What happens to the recyclables?
4. When you flush the toilet at home or school where does the waste go?
5. The water in your school is safe to drink. Who provides the water? How do we know it is safe to drink? Where does the water come from?
6. How does your town name its roads?
7. How many miles of roads does your community have? What type of surface treatment do the roads have? How many bridges are there in your town?

Class Assignments

1. Break the class down into different groups to undertake research on: roads, bridges and highways; trash; sewage system; water system; have each group select a spokesperson, and have them deliver a report to the class on their findings.
2. Pick a season of the year and have the class discuss what functions of the public works department are seasonal, non seasonal, routine, or unusual.
3. Have the class inventory what equipment a public works may have to have to do its job, and then have the public works director or a member of the senior departmental staff come to class to discuss the equipment inventory as well as the functioning of the department.

Field Trips and Other Ideas

- Frequently Public Works Departments will, if asked, provide tours of their facilities, including offices, garages, water and sewage treatment plants.
- Local or regional trash plants will also provide tours. The Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority actually has a trash museum in East Hartford, Connecticut.
- Speakers are always interesting. The local director of public works, the sewage or water treatment plant superintendent or the equipment maintenance superintendent all have stories to tell. Ask them to evaluate the condition of the roads and bridges.