

Mainstreaming Product Stewardship

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Presentation Outline

- Definition, explanation of Product Stewardship
- History of Product Stewardship in Connecticut
- Update
 - Ewaste
 - Paint
- How to get started
- Framework Legislation
- Role of Government in Product Stewardship



Producer Responsibility

- Definition – “Product stewardship is a principle that directs all participants involved in the life cycle of a product to take shared responsibility for the impacts to human health and the natural environment that result from the production, use, and end-of-life management of the product. The greater the ability of a party to influence the life cycle impacts of a product, the greater the degree of that party’s responsibility.”



History of Product Stewardship in Connecticut

- 1995 – Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation program begins
- 1997 – Thermostat Recycling Corporation program begins
- 2002 – Mercury products legislation
- 2004 – Joined Product Stewardship Institute
- 2007 – Ewaste Legislation passed
- 2010 – Paint legislation proposed



Extended Producer Responsibility State Laws as of March 2010

- 17 states with one law
- 8 states with two laws
- 3 states with three laws
- 1 state with four laws
- 1 state with five laws – Maine
- 19 states with current producer responsibility legislation being considered



Producer Responsibility – Key Questions

- More and more states looking to producer responsibility to manage solid waste costs
- Strategy of Connecticut solid waste management plan
 - How do we go from strategy to implementation?
 - Is it time to consider Framework Legislation?
 - What is the role of Government?



Ewaste Update

- Regulations sent to Legislative Regulations Review Committee in early March
- April 27 – scheduled hearing at Regulations Review
- Pending committee approval:
 - Application period for recyclers begins 30 days after regulations are filed with Secretary of State
 - Registration of manufacturers
 - Final determination of market share
- September – posting of approved recyclers



Paint

- Bill for Paint Stewardship Program introduced this session (5122)
- Paint industry established a non-profit, Paint Care, to administer the program
- Would save towns money and increase paint recovery
- Key components
 - Includes latex and oil-based paints from all sources
 - Paint Care would hire a vendor to collect and process the paint
 - Plan is to utilize existing HHW infrastructure, possibly retailers
 - Financed by a surcharge on paint paid by retailers



How do we go from strategy to implementation?

- Organize
 - Connecticut Product Stewardship Council
- Identify priority wastes
 - Toxicity
 - Volume in the waste stream
 - Expensive waste to manage
- Engage industry
 - Join voices of other state and local government through Product Stewardship Institute
- Negotiate a voluntary program
- Legislation



Mattresses

- West Hartford charging residents \$45 to dispose of a mattress
- Collected 1211 mattresses in 2009 (\$55,000 projected cost)
- Mattresses are a good candidate for a producer responsibility approach
 - Approach PSI to find out if there are others interested in this issue
 - PSI works with manufacturers to begin a dialogue
 - Develop a work plan
 - Start up dialogue and plan costs \$40,000-70,000



Is it Time to consider Framework Legislation?

- **Definition:**

“**Framework EPR** is an alternative to the current piecemeal approach of laws that address individual problem products like fluorescent lamps and batteries. The framework approach establishes consistent principles, clearly defined roles for all parties, and a transparent process for adding new product types.”

Vermont Product Stewardship Council



Framework Legislation

- **Minnesota Framework Law**
 - Authorizes the state environmental agency to: “provide recommendations for establishing a comprehensive product stewardship approach for reducing environmental and health risks posed by the use or disposal of certain products”.
 - Establish criteria to evaluate products for producer responsibility
 - Establish a process for designating products for product stewardship solutions
 - Final report issued in 2009



Framework Legislation

- Maine
- Authorizes Maine DEP to submit an annual report to legislature on existing producer responsibility programs and recommendations for the addition of new products
- Allows for a public comment period on the report
- Allows DEP to submit a bill for new producer responsibility programs



Framework Legislation

- Rhode Island
 - Authorizes DEM to submit recommendations on a comprehensive producer responsibility approach
 - Initiate a process for designating products
 - Suggest a role for the legislature in the process of adding products



Government Role in Product Stewardship

- Laissez Faire
 - RBRC
 - Thermostats
- Negotiate
- Legislate (Ewaste, Paint)
 - Oversight
 - Approve plans
 - Administer
 - Set standards for success and measure
- What is the fiscal impact of administering a product stewardship program?



Laissez Faire RBRC and TRC

- RBRC – Good Infrastructure but no measure of success
- TRC – No measure of success, weak infrastructure
- With no government oversight, how do you measure success?



Thermostats

- Maine law (2006) requires mercury thermostat manufacturers to pay \$5 for each returned thermostat
- Prior to the law there was an industry sponsored return program
- Maine DEP report (2007)
 - Within six months of the start of the incentive the recovery rate doubled
 - Maine has the highest per capita recovery rate of thermostats in the nation



Maine Thermostats Collected

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006*	2007	2008	2009
Thermostats Collected	486	1186	1880	1414	1991	3285	5686	6731	7029

*Start of \$5 incentive program



Summary

- Product Stewardship initiatives :
 - Increase recycling
 - Cut municipal costs
- Industry initiated programs may not be enough
- Framework Legislation instead of piecemeal
- Limit the role of Government
 - Legislate when necessary to ensure success, accountability and to level the playing field for manufacturers
 - Government administration comes at a cost



For more information:

- Framework Legislation
- http://psiforum.us/financing_framework/index.html
- [National League of Cities Resolution endorsing product stewardship](#)
- [Connecticut Product Stewardship Council](#)
- [Maine Framework Legislation](#)

