What Would EPR for Packaging Look Like in CT?

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
Hartford, CT

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Jamie Rhodes, Esq.
UPSTREAM, Program Director
Status of EPR in Rhode Island
Yesterday’s Waste Management System

Product

- BigBoxMart
- Producer

Waste

- Recycling
- Disposal

Images from the Story of Stuff with Annie Leonard from www.storyofstuff.com

- No incentive for manufacturers to design better products.
- Government and ratepayers pay for recycling/disposal.

Jamie Rhodes

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Real Change Starts at the Source
Tomorrow’s Waste Management System?

Product

Waste

Producers want lower costs:
- Recycled materials used in new products.
- Recycling drives less toxic and easier to recycle product design.

Producer

Stewardship Organization

Big Box Mart

Jamie Rhodes
PLASTICS PRODUCTION INCREASED TWENTY-FOLD OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS

NOTE: Production from virgin petroleum-based feedstock only (does not include bio-based, greenhouse gas-based, or recycled feedstock).
What Can We Accomplish?
Where It Can All Go Wrong

• Interaction with large brands
• Administrative burdens
• Manufacturer-variable pricing

• Food service packaging requirements
  o Keep costs low for restaurants and retailers
  o Reduce environmental impacts
  o Meet marketing needs
Cities and Towns Have the Most to Gain...  
...and lose.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Existing System</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Impact of EPR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Providence</td>
<td>177,994</td>
<td>Contractor; Curbside</td>
<td>$2.198 million</td>
<td>Likely a hand-off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warwick</td>
<td>82,672</td>
<td>Curbside; City Employee</td>
<td>$1.161 million</td>
<td>Likely a reimbursement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newport</td>
<td>24,027</td>
<td>Curbside – contractor &amp; Transfer station</td>
<td>$570,000</td>
<td>Could be either. Transfer station expansion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Crafting a Program for Local Business

• How can it lower collection costs?

• Allow access to existing programs.

• Level the playing field through enforcement.

• Create a financial incentive for waste reduction.
Impact on Packaging Suppliers

- Pressure will exist to change products to offer clients.
- Pay models do not change -> brand owners pay EPR fees.
- Cost change should be analogous to market fluctuation.
- Increases supply of recycled content in system.
Benefits of EPR models for Residents
(but will they know...or care?)

• Saves taxpayers’ money
• Improves service
• Expands collection area to more residents
• More types of material can be collected
• Creates jobs
• Reduces waste
Thank you!

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