Connecticut’s Consumer Electronics Legislation

Producer Responsibility in Practice

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

February 26, 2008
E-waste in the SWMP

- Producer responsibility
- Increase recycling
- Decrease toxicity of the waste stream
E-waste Law

- Approved recyclers collect covered electronic devices from municipalities
- Approved recyclers sort the devices by manufacturer
- Approved recyclers bill the manufacturers a set price per pound based on the weight of devices that come in with their brand name on it plus a portion of the “orphan share”.
Drafting Regulations

• Formed an advisory committee of stakeholders
  – Manufacturers
  – Recyclers
  – Municipalities
  – Maine DEP
  – NGOs
Regulations need to address:

- Process for approving recyclers
- Table of allowable costs
- Standards for recyclers
- Developing a list of covered electronic recyclers
- Any other changes
  - Municipal requirement to provide convenient and accessible
Process for approving recyclers

• Submit application including:
  – Proposed fees for recycling and diverting specific brands
  – Demonstration of technical capability and capacity
  – Plan for separating brands
  – Compliance history
## Table of allowable costs

- Transportation from collection point to recycling facility
- Recycling fees including dismantling
- Rental of storage containers
- Costs for conducting a one day collection
Standards for approved recyclers

• Follow EPA “Guidelines for Materials Management”
  – Responsible export
  – Environmental Health and Safety Plans
  – Priority to reuse and refurbishment

• Data security
• Adequate insurance, closure plan
• Reuse, refurbishment and recycle
List of covered electronic devices

• Proposing to add printers
  – Specifically mentioned in statute
  – Highest volume of ewaste after existing devices
  – Small number of additional manufacturers

• Develop criteria for adding devices
  – Toxicity
  – Volume
  – Cost

• We need to develop a fair way of allocating administrative fees and orphan share responsibility for additional products
Municipal Plans

- Municipalities required to provide “convenient and accessible collection”
- Develop municipal guidance
- Have municipalities submit a plan indicating how they plan to meet their requirement
- Allow for a regional approach similar to HHW or recycling
- Encourage each town to identify a publicly owned site such as a transfer station
Timetable

- Adopt regs by October 1, 2008
- Review and approve recyclers by December 1, 2008
- Provide a list of approved recyclers to municipalities by Jan 1, 2009
- Municipalities provide convenient and accessible collection by Jan 1, 2009
Challenges

• Ensure that all manufacturers are properly registered and fees paid
• Addressing the manufacturers concerns about limiting the number of covered electronics recyclers
• Tight timetable for implementation
• Reviewing and approving municipal plans
More challenges

- Separate funding for computers (return share) and televisions (market share)
- Agreements between recyclers and manufacturers to create economies of scale
- Increase in the number of manufacturers requesting their branded items be diverted to their own approved facilities
- Complicated nature of the definition of a manufacturer – brand owner or actual manufacturer?
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