Northeast Regional Electronics Management Project

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The Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference

Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable

August 26, 2005
Genesis of the Project

- **Summer 2004**: CSG/ERC Energy & Environment Committee suggests taking coordinated, regional action to address problem of e-waste.

- **Fall 2004**: CSG/ERC approaches Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) with offer of collaboration.

- **February 2005**: Project gets underway.
Project Outline

- **February – March 2005**: Disseminated fact sheets for legislators:
  - Legislative overview
  - Point-counterpoint: ME vs. MN OEA study
  - State agency perspective
  - Stakeholders’ perspectives

- **April 2005**: First regional stakeholder dialogue, New York, NY
  - Legislators and staff from 10 Northeastern states & Quebec
  - 60+ stakeholders
Project Outline (cont’d)

- **May – July 2005**: Development of draft model legislation.
- **July 15, 2005**: First draft of model legislation released to public.
- **July 25, 2005**: Second regional stakeholder dialogue, Montville, CT
- **October 2005**: Final draft expected for public release.
- **2006 Legislative Session**: Objective -- Coordinated electronics legislation filed throughout the Northeastern states.
Project Participants

- Active participants include legislators and staff from:
  - Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Quebec and the U.S. Virgin Islands
Why the need for a regional model when problem is national in scope?

- Currently no active national effort.
- States moving ahead with their own legislation.
- Concern about a patchwork quilt of laws/regulations across U.S.
- Potential model for other states/regions to follow on e-waste.
- Potential for methodology to serve as a model for other products/issues.
U.S. State E-Waste Laws

- Maryland: Producer responsibility law, via manufacturer take-back or fee paid by manufacturers, 2005.
Facts about Maine*

• 33,215 square miles
• Mostly rural state (3,500 miles of coastline, 6,000 lakes and ponds, 17 million acres forest)
• 1,275,000 people
• Largest city, Portland, population 64,249
• Annual generation of TVs and computer monitors discarded from households expected to be fewer than 100,000 units.

*Prepared by Carole Cifrino, ME DEP
Maine’s Shared Responsibility Law*

- **Jan. 1, 2006**: All televisions and computer monitors discarded by households must be recycled.
- **Shared responsibility for collection and recycling of household computer and television models.**
- **Model involves state and local government, consolidators, recyclers and manufacturers.**

*Prepared by Carole Cifrino, ME DEP*
Maine’s Collection and Recycling Model*

**Waste Flow**

Town “collects” and transports to consolidator. Town decides how to collect and transport; can continue with existing systems.

**Who pays?**

Manufacturers responsible for costs from this point on.

**Consolidation facility:**
- Count by manufacturer and report annually to DEP (no sort required);
- Ship to recycler that meets environmental standards; and
- Bill the manufacturers

Alternatively, manufacturer can take responsibility for their units and/or share from consolidators.

*Prepared by Carole Cifrino, ME DEP*
Bills Introduced in the Northeast

- **CT:** Several initial proposals
- **MA:** H. 3238
- **NJ:** A. 3057
- **NY:** A. 3200/A. 3202
- **PA:** Likely ARF bill soon
- **RI:** H. 5783
- **VT:** H. 212
Key Issues

- Scope of products
- Financing mechanism
- How should orphan products be handled?
- What responsibility should retailers hold?
- Should Environmentally Sound Management Standards be required?
Key Issues (cont’d)

- Should the legislation include a disposal ban?
- Should the legislation include a phase-out of certain toxic constituents?
- Minimal burden on local government
- Use of existing infrastructure
- Local job creation
- Consumer education
Next Steps

- Utilizing stakeholder input from the July 25 meeting, continue to revise draft legislation with the intention of releasing a consensus document by October.
For More Information

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