

## Waste Prevention Full Steering Committee Minutes December 11, 2007

### Attendees:

Erich Kruger, ReNew Materials and Salvage; Chris Beling, EPA Region I; Ray Mckenzie, VT Chamber of Commerce; Peter Crawford, VT SBDC; Tracy Tsugawa, VOCAL; Renny Perry, City Manager of Vergennes, Karen Horn, Vermont League of Cities and Towns; Claire Innes, CSWD; Donna Barlow Casey, CVSWMD; Jessica Edgarly, Toxics Action Center; Cathy Jamieson, DEC Solid Waste Program Manager, Paul Comey, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters; Todd Lyons, DEW Construction, Bill Hochstin, Dartmouth College, Michele Montpetit, ENPRO, John Hurd, GUVSWD; Tom Abiatti, VT Food Bank

**Facilitator:** Jeff Edelstein

### DEC Support Staff:

Dave DiDomenico, Jeff Fehrs, Carolyn Grodinsky, Buzz Surwilo, Julie Hackbarth, Vicky Viens

**Next Steering Committee Meeting is on Thursday, January 24  
9-1 (VTC in Randolph)**

### Next Steps and Tasks for Subcommittees:

Subcommittees to review their draft recommendations and build on their current Action Steps to:

1. Include **more specificity** for Action Steps and the **criteria used to prioritize.**
2. Review Action Steps for options to add more "Teeth" (such as require, mandate, ban...)
3. Add **specific measures of success** for each Action Step (such as tons diverted, facility start ups, school programs offered, EPP programs started)
4. **Summary Table: Fill in any holes** (if appropriate)
5. **List specific partners** for each Action Step
6. **Identify funding amounts and staffing needs** for each action step, **potential funding sources, and any program implications** (ie landfill ban impact on haulers)

DEC Team to set up a conference call all of the subcommittee chairs to review steps needed to revise their work plans and a timeline for next steps.

### Timeline:

Now	DEC Team to send out email asking other steering committee members not at the meeting to weigh in on subcommittee reports by Friday December 21
December 21	Steering committee comments due
December 28	Subcommittees to revise report and send back to DEC Steering Team
January 4	revised DRAFT report completed by DEC Team
January 7	Recyclable Products subcommittee meeting
January 10	E-waste subcommittee meeting
January 16	HHW subcommittee meeting
Early January	SWD managers meeting - can get initial take on cost of recommended programs and can ask managers what other funding sources they might recommend for the Steering Committee to evaluate
Mid-January	Funding Committee meeting -- Group to further refine recommendations for funding sources for Action Steps proposed. (invite a SWD, economic development staff or representative from the Sustainable Jobs Fund, and Representative Phil Scott, C&D subcommittee member)
January 24	Full Steering Committee meeting in Randolph
Late January	Draft report with revisions based on subcommittees
February 15	Report completed and ready for SW legislatively-appointed committee

## META GOALS

There was consensus to include the following as overarching goals for waste prevention:

- Apply Product stewardship<sup>1</sup> principles

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<sup>1</sup> EPA Product Stewardship website <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/reduce/epr/about/index.htm>

Product stewardship is a product-centered approach to environmental protection. Also known as extended product responsibility (EPR), product stewardship calls on those in the product life cycle—manufacturers, retailers, users, and disposers—to share responsibility for reducing the environmental impacts of products.

Product stewardship is a different "take" on the manufacturer-centered extended *producer* responsibility laws we often hear about abroad. Product stewardship recognizes that product manufacturers can and must take on new responsibilities to reduce the environmental footprint of their products. Without serious producer commitment, we as a country cannot make significant progress toward improved resource conservation and a sustainable economy. However, real change cannot always be achieved by producers acting alone: retailers, consumers, and the existing waste management infrastructure may have to pitch in for the most workable and cost-effective solution. The solutions and the actors will vary from one product system to another.

- Create and enhance partnerships
- State government leads by example in its policies and practices
- Protect the environment
- Evaluate, protect, and stimulate local economic development
- Conserve natural resources
- Create sustainable systems for waste diversion
- Acknowledge the connections between climate change and waste prevention, reuse/diversion/recycling, disposal, and redistribution
- Shift focus of programs and goals from diversion and recycling to “upcycling” in order to ensure the highest and best use of resources, and foster regenerative food systems.
- Utilize ecological and lifecycle accounting to place value on social and ecological externalities (unaccounted for costs or impacts) and services of present management and production systems in order to better understand the costs and benefits associated with various approaches to managing waste.

#### Updates:

- Donna of CVSWMD recommended an excellent website for members to view [www.storyofstuff.org](http://www.storyofstuff.org)
- Erich - ReNew attended VT American Institute of Architects annual meeting. Its focus is currently on sustainability
- Chris - EPA - MA Environmental Business Council is hosting a C&D summit January 25  
[http://www.ebcne.org/index.php?id=77&no\\_cache=1&tx\\_ciceventscalendar\\_pi1%5bcaldatets%5d=1199163600&tx\\_ciceventscalendar\\_pi1%5bdaylits%5d=1201237200&tx\\_ciceventscalendar\\_pi1%5bsinuid%5d=272&cHash=9870eef0f4](http://www.ebcne.org/index.php?id=77&no_cache=1&tx_ciceventscalendar_pi1%5bcaldatets%5d=1199163600&tx_ciceventscalendar_pi1%5bdaylits%5d=1201237200&tx_ciceventscalendar_pi1%5bsinuid%5d=272&cHash=9870eef0f4)

#### Subcommittee Report updates

##### EWaste:

Note: The e-Waste Subcommittee recommendations are still draft at this time as they have yet to be reviewed and approved by the Subcommittee members

*The e-waste Subcommittee met on Tuesday December 4, 2007 to discuss and evaluate recommendations. The recommendations that are currently being evaluated are:*

1. *Require use of environmentally preferable purchasing standards or criteria such as the EPEAT standards.*

2. *Develop data on e-waste generation and recycling.*
3. *Develop regulations and environmental standards for e-waste recycling.*
4. *Expand public education about e-waste.*
5. *Expand and strengthen existing infrastructure for collection of e-waste, and develop a database of consolidated web resources*
6. *Develop businesses and markets for e-waste recycling and recycled materials.*
7. *Convene/continue work, including appropriate research and assessment, to explore the development of:*
  - a. *state policies and regulations consistent with the principals of product stewardship - that is "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"*
  - b. *comprehensive e-waste legislation*
  - c. *funding mechanism for the collection, recycling, and disposal of e-waste shared by producers, retailers, and consumers*
  - d. *legislative e-waste mandates related to the environmental and health impacts (i.e. bans on disposal [incineration and/or landfill], bans on use of prison labor, bans on exporting e-waste)*

*The Subcommittee discussed the true lifecycle cost analysis of electronics, and although it feels this analysis and information is important, it is choosing not to recommend it.*

*The Subcommittee identified a number of significant upstream issues of concern (in raw materials extraction, production, and distribution). The group may consider additional recommendations based on these issues.*

#### **Household Hazardous Waste:**

The Subcommittee met on November 30. The 16 people attending included state and local government, NGOs, and waste management industry representatives.

- An overview of HHW programs in Vermont and other regions of the country was presented.

- The Subcommittee identified and evaluated measures of HHW program success both existing and potentially new measures. This list will be used to assist in evaluating and prioritizing strategies and action steps.
- The Subcommittee then identified the obstacles/challenges to HHW management, including challenges that applied to HHW in general, and challenges to specific waste streams such as paints and oils.
- The next meeting of the HHW Subcommittee is scheduled for December 13 to develop and prioritize action steps.

### **Funding Committee:**

The Committee reviewed the full list of funding options developed at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee meeting. Options and issues fall into the following categories:

- New, stand-alone money (such as for infrastructure development)
- Change existing funding sources, such as increasing the solid waste tax (for ongoing programs)
- Funding should be looked at as part of an overarching framework, which could include incentives, cap and trade, tighter PAYT, product stewardship, etc.
- Staff and people (to manage, coordinate, and facilitate the various WP activities)

### **Next steps -**

- DEC Planning Team to follow up with Bill Hochstein about NH tax credits/NH Dept Economic Development model (James Robb, NH DED)

### **General Report**

Concern was expressed about whether and how this report would be used. Cathy Jamieson clarified that the report from this process will be a stakeholders' report, not an ANR report. The report could be used by the legislative solid waste working group, the new ANR Center for Climate Change and Waste Reduction, the state solid waste plan, the state SW District managers, and other organizations.

- Goal is to reach consensus for Action Steps included in the report
- Table needs to include definitions and listings of what's included in topics (Recyclable products = fibers, containers, packaging...)
- Need a Big Picture/meta overarching goals
- Need to include partnerships as a meta goal

- Need to include education as meta-goal (inc. working with national and regional organizations)
- Table should include recommendations for all categories for each subcommittee (i.e., leave no “holes” in table)
- State government should be a leader “walk the talk” - mandates in state purchasing and must follow guidelines

*Committee Members each had a chance to add what Action Steps they would like to see added/removed/revised for each subcommittee report*

Recyclable Products (list includes ideas from full steering committee; priorities identified by recyclables subcommittee members are shown in bold)

- **Mandate that public institutions and larger events provide for recycling**
- Add enforcement piece to ban on recyclables going into landfills
- Add statewide ban on landfills
- Charge a packaging tax or fee
- Expand the deposit program to include other recyclable materials (i.e. all PET and HPDE). Expansion funds generated go to Waste Prevention activities (not general funds), Capture Escheats
- **Increase deposit and expand reach of the bottle bill (can go under incentives)**
- Support infrastructure for collection and processing, more regionalized MRFs
- Mandate a MRF in each District
- **Mandate PAYT (Pay as You Throw) above market value**
- **Mandate that all VT haulers offer recycling to their customers**
- Increase grants and loans for anyone with an EMS (Environmental Management System)
- Make packaging takeback stronger than just “encourage”

C&D (proposed by subcommittee members)

- Infrastructure - include UBM (used building materials) and collection points
- Include public education
- Put teeth into outreach with generators, architects, and builders
- Develop regional markets for UBM for both mixed and segregated materials
- Promote materials exchanges
- Standards - Add state projects to Act 250
- Show that tipping fees are lower for segregated materials
- Add enforce to the landfill bans and include who enforces and how

- Identify which products to mandate for product stewardship and build on existing product stewardship programs

**Organics (proposed by subcommittee members)**

- Infrastructure - Establish funding source for facilities including drop-off options (curbside, self-haul, and backyard composting)
- Public education - Advertise opportunities.
- Statewide campaign for food rescue - Good Samaritan Laws
- Resolve regulatory and permitting issues
- Increase PAYT