



**National
Waste & Recycling
AssociationSM**

Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

**TASK FORCE TO STUDY METHODS FOR
REDUCING CONSUMER PACKAGING THAT
GENERATES SOLID WASTE**

SEPTEMBER 13 2017

WHAT I'LL COVER: EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY



- What is it?
- What are its goals?
- How does it work?
- What will be its impact on Connecticut?

WHAT IS EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY?



- “a mandatory type of product stewardship that includes, at a minimum, the requirement that the producer’s responsibility for its product extends to post-consumer management of that product and its packaging”

GOALS:



- Shift financial responsibility to producers
- Minimize costs through economies of scale, product design and other market forces
- Provide incentives to producers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of their products

STUDY AREAS



IMPACT ON

- 60% diversion
- Municipal budgets
- Connecticut economy
- Existing businesses and industries
- Product/packaging design including the promotion of recyclability and the reduction of toxicity

INDIVIDUAL OR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY?



- Individual responsibility
- Collective responsibility (product stewardship organization)
- Packaging is collective

MYTH VERSUS REALITY



- Industry working together
- OR
- Companies writing a check which is simply the cost of doing business

PACKAGING & PRINTED PAPER



- “Simple in concept, complex in execution”
(PPI)



BRITISH COLUMBIA



- One producer responsibility organization
- Any voice for fee payers?
- “Small” businesses exempt from fees

ONE BIG ORGANIZATION



- Efficiency and economies of scale achieved by one organization
- BC Ministry of the Environment rejected application for competing group
- Too big to fail
- Why not do the same for solid waste?
- Or banks, or grocery stores?

WHAT DOES A STEWARD DO?



90-page manual

- Who is eligible
- What products are covered
- How to figure out the fee
- How to keep that figure accurate

BUSINESS COST



- What is the cost of figuring out the per package data and filling out the report?
- \$80 million CN paid by British Columbia consumers (plus taxes not going down)
- What will be the cost to Connecticut businesses and taxpayers?

GROWING CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMY



Will all of these extra expenses for businesses and consumers help to build Connecticut's economy?

GOALS: INTERNALIZE COSTS



- Just a pass through cost the consumer doesn't know about



FULL OR “REASONABLE” COST?



- Myth: full cost
- Reality: “reasonable” cost



MUNICIPAL BUDGET IMPACT



- None for subscription
- Some for tax
- But how much and who pays?

LOCAL CONTROL



- Producer group wants control
- Home rule tradition



NOTHING IS FREE



- Connecticut businesses will pay
- Connecticut consumers will pay

GOALS: GREEN DESIGN



- No evidence green design for packaging
- Toxics: Mercury banned from auto switches and thermostats
- Packaging: Toxics in packaging law

PACKAGING PLATEAU



- 2000: 75.9 million tons of packaging
- 2014: 76.7 million tons of packaging
- Total increase: 840,000 tons
- 2000: 539 pounds per person
- 2014: 481 pounds per person
- Per person decrease: 58 pounds

60% DIVERSION: CONNECTICUT



- Only 15.2 percent of disposed materials are “recoverable”.
- How much is consumer packaging?

SHARPS



- Sharps a serious problem for industry workers
- We would support a solution that involves all parties and
- Does not pose a threat to participants

CONCLUSION:



- Packaging is a particularly complicated area
- Behavior change is crucial
- Extended producer responsibility does not change packages or individual recycling behavior
- Extended producer responsibility creates a monopoly that controls collection and processing of traditional recyclables

CONCLUSION



- No improvement in quality of recyclables
- No improvement of enforcement by lagging cities
- No lower per household or per ton costs
- Increased costs for consumers and taxpayers
- Connecticut's existing economical and effective collection and processing recycling infrastructure will be harmed



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