Managing Waste to Managing Resources

Producer Responsibility - A New Model for the Future
Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin
Product Stewardship Committee

• AROW promotes the principles of Product Stewardship to shift how products are managed in Wisconsin's communities at the end of their useful lives from local government (i.e. taxpayers) to producers.

• By working together, producers, consumers and government can achieve sustainable solutions to responsible resource management and environmental protection.

• Committee Co-Chairs:

  Karen Fiedler
  (262) 896-8014
  kfiedler@waukeshacounty.gov

  Jennifer Havens
  (715) 386-4675
  jenniferha@co.saint-croix.wi.us

www.arow-online.org
Change in Waste

Grey area includes coal ash
Waste in the US

- Manufactured products and packaging now 75% of waste (US EPA)
- With successful recycling, amount landfilled stable since 1990
  170 million tons/year

[Graph showing waste management from 1960 to 2007]

US EPA
Who Pays?

High cost to local government (taxpayers) to collect and dispose of waste

- Over $1.5 million/year to operate household hazardous waste programs in WI

- Waukesha County communities pay over $11 million/year to collect and dispose of trash.

- Five local governments spent $192,000 to collect 500 tons of electronics in 2008- before WI electronics recycling law passed.
Government Handles Waste - Old Model

Producers/
Distributors/
Retailers

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Taxpayers

Slide courtesy of Product Policy Institute
Producer Responsibility - New Model

Slide courtesy of Product Policy Institute, modified.
Extended Producer Responsibility

- Mandatory

- Requires product producer to be responsible for post-consumer management of products and packaging.
  - Shifts financial and management responsibility upstream to the producer and away from the public sector, with government oversight
  - Provides incentives to producers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of products and packaging
Producer Responsibility in WI

Electronics are now managed through the e-Cycle Wisconsin program (WI Act 50 passed in Oct. 2009)

- Much greater amounts of materials recycled
- 31 million pounds collected in the first full year of the program
- More convenient locations for residents - both public & private
- More jobs/increased business
- Valuable materials recovered for remanufacture
Effect of WI Electronics Recycling Law on Waukesha County Electronics Recycling Collection

*June 2010 began expanded e-waste collection under E-cycle WI program. Collected computers only until then. Added 5 collection sites in 2011.
Pharmaceutical Disposal
Proposed State Legislation

Pennsylvania
June 2012

Source: Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. (2011)
Federal Legislation

- **Pharmaceutical Stewardship Act (HR 2939)**
  - Introduced by Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (D-NY)
  - EPR; draws on convenience standards, other elements from WA legislation
  - Statement of need/attention; not a reason to slow actions at local, state level
Local EPR Ordinances for Pharmaceuticals

- Alameda County (CA) ordinance – passed July 2012

- San Francisco (CA) introduced but not passed; now pilot program funded by industry
Gaining Momentum

Many Stakeholders makes communication and coordination a challenge:

- Healthcare Providers
- Insurance Companies
- Pharmacists/pharmacies
- Law enforcement
- Drug abuse prevention groups
- Wastewater Treatment and Water Utilities
- Agricultural industry
- Environmental groups
- Pharmaceutical industry