

MINUTES

Connecticut Product Stewardship Council

Regional Water Authority Building

New Haven

Wednesday, December 14, 9:00am – 11:00am

Attendance: Tom Metzner, DEEP; Sherill Baldwin, CT DEEP; Cyndi Pecca, Woodbridge; Sheila Baummer, Naugatuck; Marge Warner, Woodbury; Cheryl Reedy, HRRRA; Jen Iannucci, HRRRA; Brian Bartram, LHCEO/NWCCOG; Edward Reagan, SSRRA; Laura Panciera, Branford; Lori Vitagliano, HazWaste Central; Kim O'Rourke, Middletown; Mark Bobman, Tunxis Recycling; Winston Averill, SCRRA; Roger Guzowski, CRRA; Pam Roach, Hamden; Janice Ehle/Meyer, CRERPA, Marilyn Cruz-Aponte, Hartford; Amy Velasquez; Mike Zembruski, Fairfield; Resa Dimino, WeRecycle; Josh Stoffel, Connecticut College;

1. DEEP Update

- a. Product Stewardship Institute membership - Tom Metzner urged the group to consider joining PSI as a full member. PSI was responsible for the paint stewardship dialogue that led to our recent legislation. PSI has also helped CT get the mattress dialogue to a critical point.
- b. Formation of Product Management Alliance – Tom Metzner reported that certain industries, including mattresses, electronics, carpet, and pharmaceuticals, have formed an alliance which opposes government mandates for producer responsibility. They indicate they support voluntary, market driven programs. This is a sign that industries will be organizing against EPR legislation.
- c. Change in definition of product stewardship – The Product Stewardship Institute, the Product Policy Institute and the California Product Stewardship Council have been discussing changes in the definition of product stewardship. Under the new definitions, product stewardship would encompass all phases of the product life cycle including manufacturing, use, and disposal. It would look at sustainability issues at all phases. Extended Producer Responsibility would focus exclusively on end of life management issues.

2. Paint update

- a. The council discussed progress and upcoming events related to the paint stewardship law. The paint stewardship working group met with Paint Care in October. The focus of that meeting was to introduce the program to the household hazardous waste vendors who will be affected by the program. Paint Care described how the program will work with special cubic yard containers to be provided to accept and store the paint. Paint Care indicated they would be flexible and would work individually with programs. The [minutes](#) from that meeting are posted on the department's website.

- b. The next meeting for the Paint Stewardship program will be on January 25th in Hartford. That meeting will focus on retailers who sell paint. Paint Care will introduce the program including their requirement to assess the fee used to administer the program. There will also be an effort to encourage the retailers to serve as collection points. Paint Care will be sending out the invitation to a list of retailers previously developed. The Connecticut Retail Merchants Association has also been invited. The council discussed ways to increase attendance and decided to use the invitation letter to do some individual outreach visits to the stores. After the meeting, council members can follow up with the stores to see if they have any questions and to provide more information about participating as a collection site. The Department would develop a second handout for the follow up site visits.

3. Mattress update

- a. The City of Hartford, CRRA and the department have been working with the Product Stewardship Institute to institute an extended producer responsibility program for mattresses. Marilyn Cruz-Aponte gave an update on the initiative. After a couple of face-to-face meetings and several phone calls, model EPR legislation has been drafted. The legislation is set to be introduced in the 2012 session. The legislation is strongly supported by the Mayor of Hartford. The trade association representing the mattress manufacturers has opposed the legislation. Council members discussed a strategy for gaining support for the legislation based on the success of the paint legislation. One strategy discussed was to identify potential supporters of the legislation and asking them to pass a resolution favoring the concept of EPR for mattresses or to submit testimony at a public hearing. A key strategy for the paint bill was to have municipalities contact their elected representatives and ask them to support the bill. The council itself passed a motion to support the mattress EPR legislation.