

RECYCLING 2020 COMMITTEE

Meeting 6 Agenda: Wednesday, September 4, 4:00 p.m.

Members: L. Klosowski, J. Copanas, J. Lyons, B. Page, T. Geiss, J. Driscoll, J. Thomas, B. DeMore

- 1) Update: Discussion with Waste Management/Recycle America re: 2020 MRF processing costs.**

Discussion of Long Term Options:

2) Legislative Solutions

- a. Establish or support a municipal coalition to lobby state officials to:
 - i. Implement expanded bottle bill to remove more glass from curbside recycling
 - ii. Provide a funding mechanism to support recycling costs
 - iii. Support Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to shift material recovery and processing costs to manufacturers and improve upstream design. Develop a comprehensive, statewide stewardship policy approach that helps achieve a funded, robust, and harmonized curbside recycling system throughout NY State.
 - iv. To promote material demand, establish recycled-content legislation that requires that certain products be made with a certain amount of recycled material.
- b. See also:
 - i. Attached excerpt from April 16, 2019 2020 Committee mtg,
 - ii. State of Maine EPR outline for product packaging EPR. Several other states, including Washington and Connecticut, are also exploring product packaging EPR.

3) Development of Agency owned MRF, possibly in collaboration with other planning units

- a. The County Legislature and County Executive enact legislation that flow controls curbside recyclables to a municipal owned facility.
- b. See also excerpt from Resource Recycling Solutions (RRS) report to OCRRA Board, dated January 29, 2019.

4) Promote Local Recycling Markets Action Option

- a. OCRRA collaborates with state economic development, county, manufacturing, and business leaders to promote more resilience in local use of sorted recyclable commodities, such as paper, cardboard, metal, plastic etc. Low grade mixed paper represents the biggest market challenge as it represents over 40% of the mass weight of curbside residential recyclables and there are limited domestic markets.
- b. Development of regional glass processing facility in collaboration with nearby planning units
- c. Alternative options for glass recovery

5) Other . . .

Excerpted from April 16, 2019 2020 Committee Meeting . . .

4.0 Legislative Approaches

Many states, including New York, have begun passing legislation requiring manufacturers to take responsibility for the end-of-life management of their unwanted products and product packaging, relieving local municipalities from the responsibility of recovery and proper disposal/recycling, including the associated costs. There are over 110 such “Extended Producer Responsibility” (EPR) laws in the US. New York State’s EPR laws include the following:

- 1) Rechargeable Batteries
- 2) Electronics
- 3) Mercury Thermostats
- 4) Pharmaceuticals (passed in 2018; anticipated to go into effect in 2020)
- 5) Paint; passed in 2019 session and awaiting the Governor’s signature

Bottle redemption laws are also a form of EPR, which is also known as “Product Stewardship.” Currently, there are several other EPR laws proposed in NY State for the following materials:

- a. Primary Batteries
A04105 (Englebright);, same as S02610 (Metzger): -- Referred to Environmental Conservation
- c. Solar Panels
S00942 (O’Mara): -- Referred to Environmental Conservation
- d. Carpet
S02327 (Kavanagh): -- Referred to Environmental Conservation

In essence, under an EPR approach, material recovery is managed by product manufacturers; program costs are paid through the purchase of the product, not through a taxing structure.

According to Scott Cassell, Chief Executive Officer of the Product Stewardship Institute, “The Collapse of recycling markets following China’s policy to restrict imports of recyclable materials has made it clear that communities are unfairly burdened by an inefficient and costly waste management system.” In the wake of the devastating financial impact caused by China’s National Sword campaign, several states, including Connecticut, Maine, Indiana, Washington and Vermont, are now evaluating an EPR approach for all packaging and printed paper (PPP).