

Container Recovery Program Summary

I. Process Description

*EPA and NWPSC are convening two meetings to identify product stewardship approaches to vastly expand beverage container recovery in Washington State. The first meeting will occur before the national stakeholder meeting (being organized by Sara Hartwell at EPA headquarters in DC) and the second meeting will follow the DC conference.

II. Goals of the Process

Washington State Meeting 1:

- Establish a dialogue regarding beverage container recovery with a product stewardship focus in order to effectively understand the Washington State issues and opportunities to vastly expand beverage container recovery.
- Identify product stewardship partnerships opportunities for implementing solutions.

National Beverage Container Meeting:

- September 2006 in Washington, DC
- National discussion on goals, programs and direction.

Washington State Meeting 2

- Reexamine and evaluate status in light of the national discussions
- Decide on a future strategy/process to address beverage container recovery including goals, principles for implementation and commitments from relevant stakeholders on participation.

III. List of the product stewardship principals for the discussion

*All of the product stewardship principals will be incorporated into the discussion however the following tenets of product stewardship are particularly relevant to these meetings:

1) **Responsibility:** The amalgam of groups that will be in attendance at the meeting includes government, industry, retail and consumers. Consequently, these stakeholders constitute the groups responsible for reducing product impacts and these meetings will allow a discussion of how to minimize a product's life-cycle impacts.

2) **Internalize Costs:** Through addressing solutions and methods to increase beverage container recycling the dialogue of the meeting will inherently revolve around how to minimize product lifecycle costs, notably the management of products at their end-of-life.

3) **Roles and Relationships:** Industry, government officials and consumer interests will be represented at these stakeholder meetings and will provide direction and leadership in order to realize *all* of the product stewardship principles.

IV. Facilitator at the stakeholder meetings

*Jennifer McNeil – Organizational Effectiveness Consultant with EPA

V. Structure of the Meetings

*Two stakeholder meetings will be held; one in September prior to the national meeting in Washington D.C. and one following the D.C. meeting, then reevaluation of the process. The official structure of these meetings will be determined at the August 3rd design (agenda-setting) meeting which will involve NWPSC, EPA Region 10, WA State Beverage Association, WA State Recycling Association, WA State Refuse & Recycling, Association, WA State Retail Association and WCRC.

VI. List of Stakeholders

*EPA Region 10 (Sara Hartwell may also be in attendance from EPA headquarters in DC), NWPSC, WA State Beverage Association, WA State Recycling Association, WA State Refuse and Recycling Association, WA State Retail Association, Washington Citizens for Resource Conservation, APR, Department of Ecology, Glass Packaging Institute, NAPCOR, Strategic Materials, Inc. (glass recyclers), WA Beer & Wine Association, WA Food Industry, WashPIRG, Washington Environmental Council.

VII. How decisions will be made (consensus-based process?)

*The decision making process will be decided upon at the August 3rd design meeting by the small group of stakeholders invited to attend which includes NWPSC as mentioned above. Inevitably we will have one preferred method of decision making (frequently consensus based), coupled with a contingency plan (super majority rules).

VIII. Level of Council involvement and the result if there are no product stewardship outcomes

*The Council commits to participating in the two Washington State meetings described above. The Council will have two representatives at the stakeholder meetings: David Stitzhal will represent the NWPSC and Bill Smith will represent local governments. All parties will have the opportunity to re-evaluate their participation at the end of the two meetings and make a determination if they want to participate in any future dialogues or pilots. If during the actual stakeholder meetings it becomes clear that product stewardship is seriously considered as one of the approaches to be piloted or examined in more detail, the Council will stay involved in the process. However, if the council determines that product stewardship is not seriously considered option or is not one of the methods to be piloted, the Council will withdraw its support of the process and will ask to have its name removed from any public materials from that point forward.