

# Product Stewardship: Lessons from North of the Border

Federation of NY Solid Waste Associations  
Solid Waste & Recycling Conference  
May 17, 2010

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# Summary

- Overview of EPR in Canada
- Canada Wide Action Plan for EPR
- Key Issues in Current Debate
  - Fees – visible fees vs. cost internalization
  - Individual vs. Collective Responsibility
  - Level of Government Involvement/  
Regulation
  - Harmonization



# Overview

## EPR in Canada

EPR means an environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle



# Overview

## EPR in Canada

- First program: BC Paint Stewardship (1994)
- 2009 – 40 programs addressing:
  - Packaging & Printed Materials
  - Used Oil
  - Tires
  - HHW (paint, solvents, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, mercury products, batteries)
  - Electronics
  - Appliances



# A Wide Array of Hazardous and Special Waste EPR Programs in Canada



# Canada –Wide Action Plan for EPR

Prepared by Canadian Council of Ministries  
of the Environment (CCME) because:

- Diversion rate only 22%
- Little recent progress in increasing rates
- Extends “polluter pay” concept
- It’s working

<http://www.ccme.ca/ourwork/waste.html>



# Canada –Wide Action Plan for EPR

- Principles:
  - Constant with SWM Hierarchy (4 Rs)
  - Programs are flexible, transparent and engage stakeholders
  - Governments set scope, performance targets and level playing field
  - Producers design, operate and fund programs
  - Consumers participate



# Canada –Wide Action Plan for EPR

- Phase I: Provinces commit to establish the following programs within 6 years:
  - Packaging
  - Printed Materials
  - Mercury Containing Lamps
  - Other Mercury Containing Products
  - Electronics and Electrical equipment
  - Automotive Products



# Canada –Wide Action Plan for EPR

- Phase II: Provinces commit to establish the following programs within 8 years:
  - Construction Materials
  - Demolition Materials
  - Furniture
  - Textiles and Carpet
  - Appliances (including ozone depleting substances)



# Canada –Wide Action Plan for EPR

- Key Performance Indicators:
  - Kg/capita captured or recovered
  - \$/Kg captured
  - % Captured (of sales)
  - % Recovered (of sales)
  - % Collected and Diverted
  - Avoided GHG emissions



# Canada –Wide Action Plan for EPR

- Some Key Program Elements:
  - Scope & Product Definition
  - Responsibilities of producers or producer responsibility organizations (PROs)
  - Stewardship Plan & Approvals
  - Reporting and Documentation
  - Training and Education
  - Performance Measures & Targets
  - Fees
  - Auditing & Enforcement



# Canada –Wide Action Plan for EPR

- Supportive Policies and Regulations
  - Restrictions on toxic substances
  - Environmental performance agreements
  - Green procurement
  - Disposal bans and surcharges
  - Green design guidelines/sustainability criteria



# Key Issues in Canada Now

- Visible vs. Invisible/Internalized Costs
  - Government is silent (BC)
  - No visible fees (Quebec)
  - Government plays part in establishing or approving fees (Ontario)



# Key Issues in Canada Now

- Individual vs. Collective Responsibility
  - Influence on design
  - Flexibility for industry



# Key Issues in Canada Now

- Level of Government Involvement or Regulation
  - Spectrum of approaches including:
    - Government requires plan and program
    - Government creates PRO, engages in fee structure design, regulates programs



# Key Issues in Canada Now

- Harmonization: common principles, similar regulatory frameworks
  - Definitions of products and producers
  - Plans and performance measures
  - Monitoring and reporting



# Resources

- Canadian Council of Ministries of the Environment  
<http://www.ccme.ca/ourwork/waste.html>
- Environment Canada  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/gdd-mw/>
- BC Ministry of the Environment  
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/recycling/>
- Ontario Ministry of the Environment  
<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/land/wda/>

