

Western Electronic Product Stewardship Initiative Meeting Summary
Financing and Market Drivers Subgroup
October 15, 2001
Via conference call

Members in Attendance

Patricia Jatczak, WA DOE	Vicky Salazar, EPA
Scott Klag, Metro	Indigo Teiwes-Cain, Portfolio 21
Ted Reichelt, Intel	Lori Stole, Recycling Advocates
Betty Patton, Recycling Advocates	Wayne Rifer, WEPSI Staff

Summary The second meeting of the subgroup occurred on October 15 by conference call. It was expressed that in developing a DfE assessment methodology we should not reinvent the wheel, that is, we should look at other environmental assessment methodologies and build on what others have learned.

Review of summary of first meeting – It was agreed that the meeting summary was accurate and it will be posted on the web site.

Brainstorm on attributes for the DfE Assessment Scheme: The following attributes were mentioned by participants, with a couple that I have added at the end.

- The assessment standards should be simple and clear.
- The assessment standards should be harmonized globally as much as possible. If possible they should take into consideration the European electronic equipment directives.
- The assessment standards should be outcome oriented, providing as much flexibility as possible as to how to achieve the desired outcomes.
- The assessment standards should encourage and reward innovation in meeting the basic objectives of the system.
- The assessment system should protect proprietary information of the applicants regarding product design.
- The assessment standards should be developed with multi-stakeholder involvement.
- The standard development process and product evaluation system should be transparent.

There was discussion, but not resolution, regarding whether the system should be comprehensive in assessing all environmental characteristics of products, or whether that would spread us too thin and we should focus on specific environmental characteristics that apply to product end-of-life management.

Two additional standards that occurred to Wayne in writing up the meeting summary:

- The product assessment process should not be time-consuming and should not present a significant delay in getting product to market.
- The product assessment process should be low cost to the applicant.

Other assessment methodologies – Some other assessment methodologies were identified that we should investigate:

- LEED – A US Green Building Council system for rating green buildings.
- TCO – A Swedish eco-labeling system.
- ECMA – European Computer Manufacturers Association

- Blue Angel – The German eco-labeling system.

Discussion of WEPSI “Ground Rules for Communications”: (Will be posted on the WEPSI web site.)

A draft set of ground rules for communications was reviewed. It was pointed out that any documents received by public agencies, including e-mails, can be requested to be made public. We therefore cannot assure strict confidentiality of communications. The draft will be modified to reflect this.

It was asked whether the bullet about “advocacy” would preclude such things as advocating that companies join the process. “Political advocacy” is what was intended and that will be made explicit.

Notes to Other Subgroups

Design Subgroup It was felt that the work of the design group in developing a mechanisms for getting feedback to the OEMs from recyclers and others on product environmental design would tie in very well with the work that this group is doing. We should stay well coordinated.

Research/Tasks

Each member should find references for information about assessment standards that they are aware of, send them to Wayne, and he will distribute to the Subgroup.

Wayne will develop a summary page of each of the other assessment methodologies that we wish to learn from. The summary page will describe their relevant characteristics.

Group Process

Future meetings: We will meet generally on a 2-week interval. Future meetings were set for:

- Nov. 5 at 9:30am
- Nov. 19 at 9:30am
- Dec 3 at 9:30am