

**Western Electronic Product Stewardship Initiative  
Policy and Regulatory System Subgroup: Meeting 4 Summary  
November 5, 2001, 12:30 - 2**

**Members in Attendance:**

Lori Stole, WEPSI staff  
Shirli Axelrod, City of Seattle  
Betty Patton, WEPSI staff  
Bill Bree, OR DEQ  
Heather Bowman, EIA  
Doug Smith, Sony  
Jim Sheire, Philips Electronics

**Meeting Summary:**

Review of Previous Meeting Summary:

Doug Smith had some comments on the last meeting's summary.

- Scrap circuit boards are viewed as scrap metal, thus not considered a product. They are regulated as a commodity and not as a waste. There is circuit board info on the EPA site.
- CRTs can be considered a commodity if they can be reused without going through a reclaim process (wet chemical processing). Today glass to glass and primary lead smelters can meet the commodity definition.
- This led to a discussion about how the economics (processing plus transportation costs) truly compare for the NW, between shipping items to East Coast processors vs. shipping to Asian markets. See "shipping" below.
- There is only one primary lead smelter in the US now, in Doe Run, Missouri. Manufacturers support including copper smelters (copper and lead are mined together), and secondary lead smelters. US EPA will be taking comments on copper smelting before the CRT Rule is published.
- California has been collecting CRTs and evaluating what to do with them. It's likely that they're stockpiled at landfills now. Doug doesn't think their new regulations are bad.

Speakers for 12/12 presentation:

- Charles Cockeran, from Ca. DTSC was suggested. He gave a presentation for EIA, which Heather will forward to us. It was felt he could broaden our perspective. He could address California's emergency regulations, their effect, and where the situation stands now.
- Kevin McCarthy from Waste Management was suggested previously. The group today agreed that he would tend to narrow the perspective. WM is not in the Northwest, they only collect, package and ship, and there was hesitation to invite a single processor.
- Someone who can speak on policies/regulations for trade and economic development.
- Mark Small from Sony was suggested, with a potential focus on what types of regulation would be desirable for manufacturers. Sony has a glass plant and recycles plastic.
- Heather Bowman was suggested for giving an overview of the European regulatory picture.
- It was agreed that if someone could shed quality insight into overseas recycling questions, it would be very useful. One person suggested the Basel Action Network. (This topic will be a focus for the recycling subgroup presentation.)
- Part of the 12/12 presentation should include an update on status of our region's policies and regulations. This could be presented as a handout rather than using speaker time for it.

We then focused our discussion on 2 more of our selected topic areas.

Regulatory Barriers to Reuse/Recycling:

- Hazardous Waste designation was identified as a possible policy barrier.
- Siting of recycling facilities is a matter of economics and materials handling. Processing facilities for recycled materials are located near the markets for their finished products. Markets for CRT glass are around Pennsylvania and Ohio. Circuit board waste is often processed next to mines, where the scrap metal produced can be used. There are probably not any regulatory barriers causing recyclers not to locate in the NW.
- Are there economic development policies that would support development of the recycling infrastructure?
- Barriers to reusing surplus equipment: WA and OR both have state laws that allow donation to schools, but these are not fully utilized because purging sensitive data can destroy the hard drive, and software licensing costs are high. (The recycling subgroup will be looking at some of these software issues).
- Regulatory incentive: We could explore regulation of management options. If the e-waste can't go to the landfill, then it can go to a recycler at some cost, which is an incentive to reuse.  
(Note that this is similar to an issue raised at the last meeting as a focus for this group under the topic "Regulations on hazardous materials in electronics." Using Massachusetts and Florida as examples, look at the elements of a forward-looking regulatory structure, which promotes active recycling. View CRTs as a commodity, rather than just banning them from landfills.)

Environmentally Sound Recycling and the Regulatory picture

There were only a couple minutes left to discuss this topic.

- OR has no environmental standard related to computer recycling. This wouldn't have to be a regulation, but it helps government if the recyclers can meet a set of standards. Perhaps this would be a certification process.
- It was suggested we could look at what the IAER certification process involves.

The shipping question:

- In the West we are very dependent on transportation costs, since recycling markets are all in the East or overseas.
- It was suggested that recyclers don't share much about their choice of domestic or overseas markets and the financial deals they work out for transportation, because this is viewed as proprietary. Is it really cheaper to ship to Asia from the West? What about the railway across Canada to eastern markets?
- In comparing, one has to consider how much the material has to be processed up front before shipping. To ship east some degree of processing is usually required first. Often whole units are sent to Asia.
- Recycling economics is a sum of processing and transportation costs.
- Glass processors are in the eastern US.
- Lead and copper smelters for scrap metals are in the eastern US.

The point was made that manufacturers have their own scrap to deal with and therefore do communicate with recyclers, or recycle internally.

**Notes to Other Subgroups:**

Recycling: Note our discussion about shipping costs and overseas markets for recycling/reuse.

**Research/Tasks**

- Lori will review the list of suggested speakers and work with the other subgroup facilitators to determine what might be most beneficial.

**Next meeting:**

November 19, 12:30 west coast time. Call in number is 206-553-4602.