

Let's Talk Trash: WEBSITE NOTES

10/14/09

Concord Academy
Concord MA

Lynne Pledger: ZERO WASTE AND EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)

Recommended Actions:

To help establish Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Massachusetts, your city or town can:

1. Pass an EPR Resolution
2. Support the formation of a Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council. To get started, contact Lynne Pledger at Clean Water Action lpledger@cleanwater.org

To learn more and support Zero Waste and EPR efforts:

- Lynne Pledger at Clean Water Action lpledger@cleanwater.org
- <http://www.sierraclubmass.org/issues/conservation/zw/zero1.html>
- zerowaste@sierraclubmass.org
- www.productpolicy.org

Brooke Nash, MassDEP: REUSE

Question: To the general public, reuse seems most associated with town-sponsored swap events, drop-offs for local charities and taking used clothing to Salvation Army or Goodwill—all laudable efforts. Is there more to reuse as a significant factor in waste management?

Recommended Actions:

1. Advocate for a Pay-As-You-Throw program in your community, in which residents pay by the bag for trash disposal.
2. PAYT has been proven, in dozens of Massachusetts municipalities, to reduce waste by 25-40% and to increase recycling by 15-20%.
3. Establish a comprehensive recycling and reuse program at your workplace.
4. Purchase recycled content products over non-recycled, even if they're more expensive!
5. Watch "The Story of Stuff" by visiting <http://www.storyofstuff.com/> and tell a neighbor, friend or relative about it too!

To learn more and support Reuse:

- **Building Materials Resource Center** <http://www.bostonbmrc.org/bostonbmrc/index.html>
BMRC picks up gently used and surplus building materials (windows, doors, kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanities, light fixtures, etc) and offers them at very low prices to low- and moderate-income customers at their Roxbury resource center.
- **Cradles to Crayons** <http://boston.cradlestocrayons.org/>
C2C provides homeless and in-need children with clothing, shoes, school supplies and more.
- **World Computer Exchange** <http://www.worldcomputerexchange.org/>
Through education partnerships in 67 countries, WCE provides working computers and hands-on computer training to teachers, students and project partners.
- **Mass Material Trader** <http://www.massmaterialtrader.com/>
New FREE online materials reuse network that assists Massachusetts businesses/organizations in finding, selling, trading or giving away used or surplus materials that would otherwise be disposed of.

Ann Dorfman, Recycling and Resource Management Consultant: RECYCLING

Question: While many MA towns have recycling programs, programs vary in terms of collection and disposal options, and there is a wide range of recycling rates from town to town. There is also relatively little access to recycling in businesses and public areas, implying that recycling belongs to the residential sector and sending an inconsistent message about its importance and value. Why is there so much variation in recycling programs

and rates in different communities and what can be done to maximize recycling in all communities? What are the barriers to recycling in the commercial sector and what can we do to help move things forward?

Recommended Actions:

1. Businesses need to know that customers and employees expect them to provide recycling access. Many restaurants and bars throw bottles and cans in the trash. Before you let a waitperson take away your beverage container ask if it will be recycled, and take it home with you if it will not.
2. When you are in business setting such as a bank or sports club and have paper or a container to dispose of, ask “where is your recycling bin?” and let them know you plan to take it home with you to recycle if they don’t have one.
3. In your place of work let your employer know that recycling is important to you and that you feel uncomfortable not having a recycling option for materials that are recyclable.
4. Many communities’ annual censuses provide a place for comments. Let your community know you expect recycling in your parks and retail districts.

To learn more and support Recycling efforts:

- www.concordma.org/recycle
- www.massrecycle.org
- www.concordconserves.org
- www.earth911.org

Amy Perlmutter, Perlmutter Associates: RESOURCES RELATED TO REUSED AND RECYCLED MATERIALS

Question: The value of recycled materials fluctuates greatly based on market forces. How can communities get more economic benefit from their waste streams?

Recommended Actions:

1. give/sell/buy things on websites such as Craig’s List (www.craigslist.org) and Freecycle (<http://www.freecycle.org/>)
2. repair and reuse things before you recycle them
3. compost food as well as yard waste
4. be conscious consumers: buy things that create less waste, buy only what you need, don't fall for advertising that makes you upgrade your electronics when you don't need to
5. talk to your neighbors and make sure they are recycling
6. get involved in state issues

To learn more and support Recycling and Reuse:

- Craig’s List (www.craigslist.org)
- Freecycle (<http://www.freecycle.org/>)
- US Compost Council: <http://www.compostingcouncil.org>
- Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives: <http://no-burn.org/>
- US EPA Solid Waste: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm>
- Grassroots Recycling Network: <http://www.grn.org/>
- MassDEP: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/index.htm>
- Institute for Local Self-Reliance: <http://ilsr.org/>

Cory Atkins, State Representative

Question: We have two key bills currently pending before the legislature that relate to waste management: the e-waste bill, HB 833, and the Updated Bottle Bill, HB 3515. E-waste legislation has been before the legislature since 2001 and updated bottle bill legislation, since 1993. Over 100 municipalities have signed resolutions in support of both bills. What are the primary obstacles to passing this legislation? What can citizens do to influence the state legislature to enact sustainable waste management legislation?

Recommended Actions:

1. **Updated Bottle Bill (H 3515):** Chairs of the committee holding the Updated Bottle Bill are Senator Michael Morrissey and State Representative Barry Finegold. Both the Updated Bottle Bill and E-Waste bills have been heard in Committee. The next step is to write letters to the editor asking representatives to **release the bills favorably**, coordinate with MassRecycle, Sierra Club and MASSPIRG to find supporters who live in Norfolk/Plymouth (Senator Morrissey's district) and Andover/Lawrence/Tewksbury (Representative Finegold's district) to find those who can submit those letters to their local papers.
2. **E-Waste Bill (H 833):** The House Chair of the Committee holding the E-Waste Bill is Representative William Straus who represents Mattapoisett/Middleborough district. All of the above actions apply but need to be addressed to Representative Straus.
3. Letters to Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo are also important since the Speaker controls the agenda for the House.
4. Use the Acton and Concord Selectmen's resolution or the MassRecycle resolution (www.massrecycle.org/bottlebill) in support of the bottle bill as a draft resolution for other towns and get their Mayors or boards of selectmen to adopt it. MassRecycle is tracking the towns that are signing bottle bill resolutions. They need to be notified when a community signs a resolution so they can keep an accurate tally. The more towns that sign, the more impact on the process.

To learn more and become more involved in supporting sustainable waste management legislation:

- **Phillip Sego**
Massachusetts Sierra Club
617-610-3054
phil@sierraclubmass.org
- **Jessica Wozniak**
60 Thoreau Street #203
Concord, MA 01742
617-338-0244
info@massrecycle.org
- **Janet S. Domenitz, Executive Director**
MASSPIRG
617-292-4800
Janet.Domenitz@MASSPIRG.org