Forward Progress on Moderate-Risk Waste with the Beyond Waste Plan

Beyond Waste
www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste
30-Year Statewide Plan to:

- Decrease solid and hazardous wastes
- Increase recycling and reuse
- Reduce the use of toxic substances
- Properly manage remaining wastes
- Consistent with state law
Vision

We can transition to a society where wastes are viewed as inefficient, and where most wastes and toxic substances have been eliminated.

This will contribute to environmental, economic and social vitality.
Collaboration Defined

• 4-year plus planning process

• Comprehensive scope and broad vision required collaborative planning

• 64 recommendations, from
  – 25 issue papers, developed by 14+ workgroups (120 people), and
  – discussed at 36 public mtgs, 20+ State SWAC meetings, and
  – 20+ conferences/mtgs, then distributed to a mail list of over 1,000
Beyond Waste 5 Key Initiatives

• Reduce INDUSTRY’S toxic materials & hazardous wastes

• Reduce threats from small-volume hazardous wastes & materials (MRW)
  – (MRW = Household Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Waste from Small non-household generators)

• Increase ORGANICS closed-loop recycling

• Make GREEN BUILDING mainstream

• MEASURE PROGRESS regularly
Why these 5 Key Initiatives?

• Address stakeholder priorities

• Address large portions of waste stream

• Opportunity and momentum

• Impacts on health & environment

• Interconnectedness
Washington’s MRW System

- Every county is required to collect HHW

- 24 Counties also collect some small quantity (CESQG) hazardous wastes from businesses

- Collection has been the focus of many programs at the expense of other MRW program areas
What’s Working Well?

• Costs per participant are decreasing
• Consumers & businesses are better informed
• Collection system is fairly stable
• A large portion of what is collected is:
  – Recycled
  – Burned for energy
  – Neutralized or treated to be less problematic
Today’s Reality

• Regulatory system based on quantity and wastes vs. threats and products

• MRW mgt system is not sustainable

• More than $15 million spent by counties and cities on MRW programs, which collected 16% (roughly) of HHW generated (and 1% of CESQG waste generated) in 2003
2003 MRW Collection

**HHW**
8.9% of households participated
16% of HHW generated in collected (estimate)

**CESQG (Small businesses)**
Unknown % of CESQGs participated
1% of SQG waste (estimate)

**MRW Totals:**
29 million pounds collected
- 41% used oil (by weight)
- 35% paint (by weight)
Troubling Trends

• Not enough $$ to fully fund the system

• Most uncollected MRW is still disposed

• MRW system doesn’t eliminate threats or exposure in use or manufacturing phases

• Most $ spent to collect paint—can be reused, is less of a problem
Moving Beyond Collection

• Beyond Waste lays out 30-year goals for MRW that mean moving beyond collection. Plan to move “upstream” to provide a WA future of:
  - Safe Products and Services
  - Efficient Materials Management
  - Greater Economic Vitality
10 BW MRW Recommendations

• Prioritize substances
• Reduce threats from mercury and PBDEs
• Develop electronics and paint product stewardship systems
• Ensure proper use of pesticides
• State govt leadership-EPP & reducing use
• Fully implement local haz waste plans
• Manage MRW by hazards, toxicity & risk
• Ensure MRW facilities are in compliance
All 10 MRW Recommendations Require Partnerships

• Create partnerships among government, business, organizations, and citizen groups from every sector across the state, as they are crucial to decision-making and achieving the Beyond Waste goals

• What gets done is up to US collectively
Six Elements of Local HW Plans

- Public Education (mainly HHW)
- Business Technical Assistance
- HHW Collection
- Business Collection Assistance
- Local Compliance/Enforcement
- Used Oil Collection System (DIY)
Beyond Waste Project Examples

- Handout of Local HW Plan Implementation
  Projects that support the BW Plan