

COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared for:

Governor JIM DOYLE

and the

Legislature

of the

State of Wisconsin

Prepared by:

The Council on Recycling

C/O Planning and Evaluation Section
Bureau of Materials and Waste Management
Department of Natural Resources

MAY 2006

Questions concerning this report or the Council on Recycling may be directed to:

Daniel B. Fields, EI/8
Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster, Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin, 53707
608/266-5334

COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

Elected Officers/Executive Committee for 2005:

Chair: John Reindl, Recycling Manager, Dane County

Vice-Chair: Jeffrey A. Fielkow, Market Arm vice-President, Waste Management
Recycle America

Secretary: William A. Swift, Recycling Broker

Members:

Neil Peters-Michaud, CEO, Cascade Asset Management (7-1-04)

John S. Piotrowski, Senior. Env. Engineer, Packaging Corp. of America

Cecelia A. Stencil, Rusk County Recycling Coordinator

Charlotte R. Zieve, Retired UW Lecturer in Environmental Studies

COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Summary:

Membership: Seven-members representing business, industry and local governments

Purpose: Advises Governor, legislature, DNR and other agencies on recycling policy

Major issues:

Recycling of electronics- particularly computers and televisions,
Product stewardship,
Recycling of used oil filters and used oil absorbents,
Increasing paper recycling,
Mercury-containing products, and
Construction and demolition debris.

Background

The Council on Recycling, authorized in s. 287.22 Wis. Stats., is a citizens group appointed by the Governor to advise the Governor, Legislature, state agencies and local units of government on solid waste reduction, recovery, and recycling policy. The Council is attached to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for limited purposes and is staffed by the DNR. Each member appointed to the Council serves a 4-year term expiring on the date of commencement of the next gubernatorial term. Terms of members appointed in the interim also expire on that date. Current membership includes individuals representing industry, business, and local units of government.

Councils that serve in an advisory capacity are required under s. 15.09(3), Wis. Stats., to meet at least annually, although the Council on Recycling has met a minimum of 5 times a year since its first meeting on December 5, 1990. Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month and are open to the public. Council members take an official oath prior to assuming office and are bound by the code of ethics for public officials as provided under Chapter 19, Wis. Stats. The Council conducts business in accordance with its by-laws, Robert's Rules of Order, and the open meeting laws of the state of Wisconsin.

Council Responsibilities and Powers

The Council responsibilities, specified under s. 287.22, Wis. Stats., are to promote the efficient and prompt implementation of state programs related to solid waste reduction, recovery, and recycling, and to advise the Governor and Legislature on such matters. Specifically, the Council has the following duties:

Advise and assist state, county, and municipal officials in coordinating programs and the exchanging of information.

Advise the DNR and the University of Wisconsin System concerning educational efforts and research.

Advise the DNR concerning the development of a statewide plan for public service announcements.

Assist the Recycling Market Development Board if it develops rules. (Note: The Recycling Market development Board is no longer in existence but this statute has not been changed to reflect that action)

The statute also provides the Council with powers to execute its duties. The Council may request a status report from any state agency or authority implementing a solid waste reduction, recovery, or recycling program; and the Council may create subcommittees to assist in its work. A subcommittee can be formed from individual Council members, state employees, county and municipality representatives, and others.

State Agencies' Obligations to the Council on Recycling

Section 287.22(4), Wis. Stats., requires state agencies to assist the Council in fulfilling its duties to the fullest extent.

The Council has discussed numerous recycling issues since its inception. Many issues have been discussed for informational purposes and have not required or generated specific action by the Council. On issues where the Council has chosen to take action through the adoption of a recommendation, the approach has been to communicate that position to the Governor's office, the Legislature, state agencies and/or other interested parties.

Activities of the Council, 2005

Discussion of past activities and the positions taken by the Council in 2005 are summarized below. This summary is based on information discussed before the Council at its regular meetings and contained in the minutes. All meeting minutes are public records and are available from the Bureau of Education and Information, Department of Natural Resources

Overview

The Council met 5 times in 2005. The Council met in Green Bay, Madison (twice) Kimberly and Union Grove. The Council also toured the U.S. Oil facility in Kimberly, the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison and the Mercury Waste Solutions facility in Union Grove.

The Council reviewed past Council activities and determined priorities for 2005.

The Council's maintains an e-mail list of 88 people/organizations and also has 4 people on its' non-email mailing list. E-mail/Mailing list recipients receive agendas, minutes and background materials. This is one of the ways the Council keeps organizations and individuals around the state informed of the Council's activities and to invite input to our meetings.

Committees

The Council had four standing committees to focus their efforts in 2005. They were: Electronics, mercury containing devices, paper and construction and demolition (C&D).

Major topics addressed in 2005:

The Council decided to focus on four major areas in 2005:

- Computers, Televisions and other electronics
- Mercury in products
- Paper
- Construction and Demolition (C&D)

The Council also continued to support legislation on used oil filters and oil absorbents that had been introduced in the state legislature.

Computers, Televisions and other Electronics (Charlotte Zieve, Chair):

The Council continued efforts in this area. The Council's testified in favor of legislation introduced by Sen. Mark Miller. The Council reaffirmed their previous recommendations:

1. Developing state procurement guidelines

2. Diverting electronics using a financing system that is incorporated into the price of the product
3. Phase in ban that would apply to all computers (eliminating the household exemption)
4. Certification system to ensure that there was some certainty that the material was recycled or reused.

The Council also made specific recommendations regarding Sen. Miller's bill, including:

- 1) Rather than the detailed requirements for the individual producers to develop recycling plans and the standards for collection/recycling programs, the legislation instead require the establishment of a third party organization (TPO) to set up a system for a take-back and recycling program
- 2) Each manufacturer pays the fees established by the TPO for the receipt and collection of the covered electronics unless the manufacturer develops an equivalent system.
- 3) Support the requirement that manufacturers provide funding to the state for state oversight of the program.
- 4) Intensive and extensive education programs to both the household sector and the non-household sector on the requirements to keep electronic scrap out of landfills and on the opportunities for recycling. This responsibility should be placed on the manufacturers or the third party organization, although they can contract with other entities for the performance of this work.
- 5) In addition to our prior recommendation on state purchasing, we also recommend that the purchasing requirements of the state include provisions for the "Design for the Environment" with certification of sellers in accordance with nationally recognized standards.
- 6) Finally – and perhaps most important in the long run – we stress our recommendation that the Legislature and the Governor encourage Congress to develop legislation for a national electronics recycling program.

This legislation did not pass during the 2005/06 session. The Council will continue to work on this issue.

Mercury in Products- John Reindl, Chair:

The Council reiterated that their focus was on mercury in products and not mercury from air-borne sources. The Council recognized that quite a bit of work was being done by a variety of different groups. For example, the DNR is working with the Wisconsin Dental Association, the EPA and the National Hospital Association on retrieving dental amalgam mercury. Several Wisconsin communities have passed resolutions banning mercury devices from being sold in their jurisdictions. Many state, local and national groups are involved in this issue. The Council will

review this issue in 2006 to determine whether or not the Council can make a difference on this issue.

Paper- John Piotrowski, Chair:

The Council heard reports that the markets were very strong for paper for all of 2005 and the foreseeable future. The major issue for paper recycling continues to be 'stickies' or paper with glue, such as labels, tape, etc. Paper manufacturers are also concerned about the advent of single-stream recycling. There is quite a bit of debate about whether or not the quality is lost in single-stream collections. The other major issue revolves around strategies to increase paper recycling to alleviate a shortage of recycled stock. Surveys were done of paper mills and recyclers to find out what they viewed as impediments to increased recycling of paper.

Construction and Demolition-Neil Peters-Michaud, Chair:

The committee noted that many different groups were making progress in this area. DNR has begun a 'Green Tier' initiative and has built a new state office building that won a green building award. Groups such as WasteCap Wisconsin and the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) continued to be active players in this field.

Other issues of Note:

The Council also discussed:

- The rules revision package for NR 544 (the recycling law)
- The economic impact of recycling on the state's economy
- Governor's Task Force on Waste Materials Recovery and Disposal
- Strong price support for recycled materials
- Problems with the Bureau of Correctional Enterprises electronics collection program
- Landfill tipping fee changes
- Opposition to transferring of funds from the Recycling Fund to other programs
- Increases in out-of-state waste coming to Wisconsin landfills
- Single stream recycling and
- Landfill stability and possible extension of landfill leachate lines

GOALS, 2006

The Council identified the major areas of concern that they will pursue in 2006, although other issues may develop. They are:

- Computers, Televisions and other electronics
- Construction and Demolition (C&D)

Landfill stability
Education
Paper
Used oil filters and absorbents
Clean Sweep programs for the collection and management of hazardous materials

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:

The Council on Recycling continued to support legislation for used oil filters and electronics recycling. The Council has also devoted significant time to barriers to paper recycling, most significantly the 'stickies' issue. The Council decided that Construction and Demolition efforts are progressing well and that the Council will monitor and support those issues but not make them a priority. The Council will add education to the list of issues to pay special attention to in 2006. The Council will continue to serve as a forum for organizations and individuals to discuss the issues that matter to the individuals and companies with an interest in recycling in Wisconsin. The Council will continue to give advice and seek solutions for the difficulties and opportunities facing recycling in Wisconsin today.

DIRECTORY

COUNCIL ON RECYCLING 2004

Jeffrey A. Fielkow
4600 N. Port Washington Rd
Milwaukee, WI 53212
Jfielkow@recycleamerica.com

Market Arm
Vice President
Waste Management
Recycle America
414-967-1881 (W)
414-540-2199 (H)

John S Piotrowski
N9090 County Road E
Tomahawk, WI 54487
Jpiotrowski@packagingcorp.com

Sr. Env Engineer
Packaging Corp.
of America
715-453-2131 (W)
715-539-3639 (H)

Neil Peters-Michaud
5215 Hedden Circle
Middleton, WI 53562
Neil@cascade-assets.com

CEO
Cascade Asset
Management, LLC
608-222-4800 (W)
608-231-5123 (H)

John Reindl
4514 Gregg Rd
Madison, WI 53705
Reindl@co.dane.wi.us

Recycling Manager
Dane County
608-267-8815 (W)
608-238-0393 (H)

Cecelia A. Stencil
W14120 Island Lake Rd
Weyerhaeuser, WI 54895
Cecelia@ruskcountywi.us

Rusk County
Recycling Coordinator
715-532-2167 (W)
715-353-2897 (H)

William R. Swift
N56 W26184 Richmond Rd
Sussex, WI 53089
Olds114@hotmail.com

262-253-0486(H&W)

Charlotte R. Zieve
PO Box 267
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
Crzieve@verizon.net

920-876-2114 (H)

Chair: John Reindl
Vice Chair: Jeffery Fielkow
Secretary: William Swift