

Overview of the Minnesota Electronics Recycling Act

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Policy Context

- Policy emphasis on management of products with toxic constituents
- Hennepin County initiated collection (1992)
- Report to Legislature recommending disposal ban (1995)
- MN Electronics Demonstration Project (1999)
 - Modeled collection scenarios
- Product stewardship policy issued (1999)
- Disposal ban enacted (2003)
- Legislative Waste Management Task Force (2006)
- Legislative proposals considered (2002-2007)



Consultation

- State CRT task force (1999-2001)
- MPCA participation in NEPSI (2001-2004)
 - EPA funded initiative
- Producer responsibility approach (2003-2005)
- MPCA convened Waste Electronics Consultation Process (2004)
- Significant outreach and discussion
- Act had strong support from range of stakeholders
 - Best Buy, local government, environmental advocacy groups, IBM, 3M etc.





MN Electronics Recycling Act

- Program enacted May 2007
 - Obligation determined by concurrent year sales of VDDs
 - Expanded list of CEDs to collected
 - Annual registration fee
 - Additional credit for collection in rural areas
 - If manufacturers opt or fail to meet obligation, .30, .40, or .50 fee
 - Manufacturers can apply credits to future years or sell
 - Cap of 25 percent of annual obligation
 - RoHS compliance
 - Retail information responsibility
- Market share approach adopted in IN, WI, NY, VT etc.



Program Year Summary

	PY1/FY08	PY2/FY09	PY3/FY10	PY4/FY11	PY5/FY12	
Recycled per capita, statewide (pounds)	6.5 lbs.	5.7 lbs.	6.5 lbs.	6.2 lbs.	6.6 lbs.	
CEDs recycled (pounds)	33.6 million	30.3 million	34.7 million	33.0 million	35.1 million	Supply
Conversion: program pounds*	41.8 million	36.5 million	41.4 million	38.4 million	40.9 million	
VDD sales (pounds)	25.6 million	31.2 million	29.2 million	27.1 million	26.1 million	
Manufacturer recycling obligation (program pounds)	15.3 million (60 percent)	25.0 million	23.4 million	21.7 million	20.9 million	Demand
New recycling credits**: net change	17.6 million	5.1 million	10.5 million	10.0 million	3.3 million	Credits
Recycling credits available	17.6 million	22.7 million	33.2 million	43.4 million	46.6 million	



Evaluation of the Act

- Increase in amount collected
- Expansion of collection opportunities
 - Retail collection presence
 - Best Buy and Staples
- Prevalence of eStewards/R2 certified processors
- Decrease in costs for local government
- Competitive marketplace
- Very little compliance and enforcement activity



Evaluation of the Act

- Narrow scope of products
- Collection in non-metropolitan areas
- Imbalance between obligation and collection
 - Newer electronics are lighter in weight, but materials being collected are still the older heavier type
- Lack of incentives for reuse
- Overall program integrity
 - Tracking and documentation of transactions



Potential Amendments

- Determination of obligation
 - Change from current to previous year
 - Change methodology to set obligation
 - Move from weight to units
 - Use weight collected to establish obligation
 - Previous year's collected weight apportioned to current market share
- Expand list of obligated products
- Collection opportunities
 - Increase rural credit
 - Implement convenience standard



Substantive Revision

- Captures evolving status of EPR in U.S.
 - Paint stewardship program enacted in seven states
- Inclusion of broader range of products
- Transfer some responsibilities to PRO
- Stewardship plan that outlines collection and processing infrastructure
- May support greater consistency
- Many transitional issues to consider



For more information:

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