Overview of the Minnesota Electronics Recycling Act

3rd Annual Global E-waste Management (GEM) Meeting

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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 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)
- 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

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