

## **AOR Product Stewardship Roundtable** **Product Stewardship Initiatives Update – June 22, 2007**

**Beverage Containers** – Oregon’s Bottle Bill was a pioneering piece of product stewardship legislation. For the past several years, AOR has been working to modernize it. SB 707 brings in water bottles and creates a task force to address issues including: redemption centers, coverage of all beverages and containers and increasing the deposit. AOR’s bill this session, SB 634, showed what a comprehensive approach could look like.

- AOR’s bottle bill page provides a wealth of information including presentations from the AOR 2006 forum on the issue. <http://www.aorr.org/pr03.htm>
- A product stewardship approach is used for containers in British Columbia. <http://www.elp.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/ips/bev/index.html> The entity operating the program for the manufacturers is Encorp Pacific. <http://www.encorpinc.com/cfm/index.cfm>

**Electronics** – Oregon’s HB 2626 creates a producer responsibility system for the management of obsolete electronics. Manufacturers will either provide collection and recycling or pay for a program contracted by the state. It is similar in many respects to what was passed and is being implemented in the State of Washington. There are now more than a half dozen states with electronics legislation, with many of the most recent taking a strong producer responsibility approach.

- DEQ will have information on implementation of the Oregon system. <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/electronics.htm>
- The Northwest Product Stewardship Council keeps track of state legislation. <http://www.productstewardship.net/policiesElectronics.html>

**Paint** – The Product Stewardship Institute has been negotiating with industry. This spring the NPCA (National Paint and Coatings Association), representing 95% of US paint manufacturing capacity, voted to move ahead with establishing a nationally-coordinated system funded by a fee collected with every gallon of paint sold. The details of an official agreement between industry and other dialogue participants are being worked out, but will include a demonstration project in Minnesota – followed by a rollout in other states beginning with Oregon, Washington and Vermont as soon as 2009.

- <http://www.productstewardship.us/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=117>

**Pharmaceuticals** – Ensuring the safe and environmentally sound management of unwanted/waste pharmaceuticals has emerged as a product stewardship issue both nationally and in the Northwest.

- The Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies has been holding a series of stakeholder meetings and will be issuing its recommendations soon. <http://www.oracwa.org/news.php>
- The “Medicine Take Back Program” in the state of Washington is a pilot program where a number of pharmacies are voluntarily taking back medicines. (It has applied for an exemption to enable it to also take back controlled substances.) <http://www.productstewardship.net/productsPharmaceuticalsMedicines.html>

## **Mercury Products**

**Thermostats** – The Product Stewardship Institute has been conducting a dialogue with mercury thermostat stakeholders including the Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC); contractors; and government officials. A number of pilot projects have been conducted, including one in Oregon that gave rebates to contractors for return of mercury thermostats.

- <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/hhw/thermostats.htm>
- <http://www.productstewardship.us/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=97>

**Fluorescent lights, Compact Fluorescent lights** – The increased promotion of energy efficient fluorescent lighting, in particular CFLs, has increased the call for more opportunities to recycle of these lamps. Within Oregon, for example, the Energy Trust has engaged government about how to promote recycling. Product Stewardships organizations are calling on retailers such as Wal-Mart to provide recycling. Current initiatives include:

- Take back projects in the State of Washington have enlisted a number of retailers to provide collection of fluorescent lamps.  
<http://www.productstewardship.net/productsMercuryFluorescent.html>
- The Product Stewardship Institute is developing an action plan that would pull together stakeholders (i.e., manufacturers, retailers, federal Energy Star program, state and local governments) at the national level to address the issue.

**Auto switches** – There is a replacement program sponsored by the auto “aftermarket” (e.g., repair shops, parts retailers): <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/mercuryswitchout.htm>

**Toxics: Pesticides and more** – The idea of looking more systematically at what chemicals are in products rather than just reacting to hazards in particular products is gaining attention. Some work on developing such a “chemical policy” has been done in California and conversations are starting in both Oregon and Washington.

**Phone Books** – The Product Stewardship Institute is doing a project and will hold its first stakeholder meeting June 28<sup>th</sup>. This project is focused primarily on source reduction, and only secondarily on increasing the recycling infrastructure.

<http://www.productstewardship.us/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=59>

## **Tires**

- <http://www.productstewardship.net/productsTires.html> (Includes links to Canadian tire stewardship programs.)
- <http://www.productstewardship.us/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=197> (Includes links to a “Tire Stewardship Action Plan” developed by PSI for the California Integrated Waste Management Board.)

**Other Products** – Information about efforts on these products may be found at the NWPSC or PSI websites:

- Household batteries
- Radioactive Devices (e.g., smoke detectors)
- Carpet
- Gas Cylinders (e.g., propane stove canisters)

## **General Resources**

Product Stewardship Institute – [www.productstewardship.us](http://www.productstewardship.us)

Northwest Product Stewardship Council – [www.productstewardship.net](http://www.productstewardship.net)

Product Policy Institute – [www.productpolicy.org](http://www.productpolicy.org)

## **ROUNDTABLE NOTES:**