

Connecticut Product Stewardship Council meeting with Paint Care

November 14, 2012

Meeting Summary

The purpose of this meeting was to provide an update from PaintCare on the status of implementation of the paint stewardship program and to discuss progress with each stakeholder group (municipalities, service providers and retailers). Participants were encouraged to provide feedback and ideas to PaintCare to be considered in the development of the Program Plan to be submitted to DEEP for approval by March 1, 2013.

After introductions, Marjaneh Zarrehparvar, representing PaintCare, gave an update on the status of the program in Connecticut. Key updates included:

Marjaneh introduced Laura Panciera as the new local contact for Paint Care. She will be working specifically to help implement the program in Connecticut and Rhode Island. She will be working with state and local government contacts and helping identify retailers interested in participating in the program. Laura will begin with Paint Care on December 3.

Retailers – There were a number of retailers present in the meeting and Marjaneh went over the status of the program for retailers.

- There was some concern about how to roll out the program due to the anticipated large volumes of household paint coming in the program. Marjaneh spoke about their awareness that the beginning of the program is likely to generate large volumes of latex paint because Connecticut has never collected latex before and there are likely large stockpiles in CT homes. Marjaneh will work closely with the selected vendor to make sure retailers are serviced promptly so that they are not caught with more paint than they have the capacity to safely store.
- Retailers that are close to the NY border will have NY customers dropping off paint even though NY does not have a paint law and NY residents that bought their paint in NY didn't pay the fee. Marjaneh and Tom (DEEP) pointed out the intent of the program is to bring similar legislation to NY and all states at some point. NY will in fact consider the bill possibly next year. Marjaneh pointed out that the program could handle paint brought in from neighboring states, and that there was no way to avoid it without burdening retailers with verifying residency – something they don't want to have to require.
- Mis-tints, obsolete products and other non-postconsumer, store generated waste are not a part of the program
- Retailers will not have to segregate oil and latex paint. Marjaneh pointed to the PaintCare website for more detailed information on which products are covered under the program.
- There was discussion of storing latex paint outside due to freezing and thawing which could impact the quality of the paint. Marty Bergstedt from Amazon Paint (on the phone), said they have found ways to deal with the problem of degraded paint. Indoor storage is ideal and most people don't get rid of paint in the cold months, they wait for spring or fall to do such cleanouts, so the volume in winter months is expected to be less.
- The majority of business for paint retailers comes from contractors. Retailers wanted to be sure the limits on the amount of paint they could accept accounted for the amount generated by professional painters.

- Paint Care will soon be sending out letters to retailers inviting them to become a paint drop-off site. PaintCare wants to make sure that residents have reasonable access to a convenient drop-off site and given CT's small size, this should not be an issue.

Service Providers

- PaintCare is likely to hire only one transporter to service Connecticut. They believe one service provider can cover the whole state.
- Paint Care recognizes that having only one service provider can impact competition so they are also considering working with HHW programs to allow them to keep using their existing service provider. Cost reimbursement will be negotiated on a case by case basis, and cannot exceed the cost of using PaintCare's contracted transporter.
- PaintCare will go out to bid for processing services in early December and for transportation services in January. They will direct where the paint goes for processing.

HHW Programs

- With the assistance of DEEP, PaintCare has met with the majority of HHW program in the state. Once Laura is on board, she will complete site visits and reengage all sites previously visited to determine their interest in partnering with the program. PaintCare will enter into an agreement with each HHW program administrator. In some regions that will mean each participating town, but in most cases it is the administrative entity.
- HRRR expressed concerns about PaintCare meeting its deadline. After initial projections that the program could begin ahead of schedule, the timeline is now meeting the statutory deadline. There was concern that Connecticut could take a back seat to California's program and the challenges it brings. Marjaneh indicated she was confident that the deadline would be met.
- HHW programs will need to make a decision about whether or not to add latex and continue to accept it if there is a convenient network of retailers.

The group felt it would be worthwhile to hold another stakeholder meeting in January as well as some webinars. The purpose of the webinars would be to address specific areas of concern such as for retailers or HHW programs.