

WEPSI Policy and Regulatory Subgroup Plan for Work Groups

Jan 9, 2001

Our subgroup has selected 2 topics to focus on in detail:

1) Policies supporting incorporation of economic development opportunities into an electronics product stewardship system.

Utilizing the information we have gathered so far, we can already outline some potential issues and/or strategies of priority interest and relevance for the Northwest, which are listed here. From these the group will select 1 or 2 issues to research further and create an action plan for implementation.

- Assessment of opportunities and/or resources required for small business development for electronics recycling/reuse in economically distressed areas.
- Cost-benefit for waste stream diversion for electronic products - what are real costs of disposal vs. costs/benefits of reuse/recycling?
- Role that a web-based electronic recovery information center (i.e. Joel Makower*s ERIC concept) can play in market and business development? In addition to clarifying role/impact, what are the costs, available resources, partnerships that could support this initiative?
- Eco-industrial parks and electronics recycling/reuse * what are the possible pairings of businesses? What incentives are available or needed to support EIP development? What are the locational issues (i.e. virtual parks vs. physical ones, transportation cost issues, siting issues)?
- Infrastructure needs and issues * what are the economic investments that are needed to develop a public infrastructure that would support e-scrap recycling/reuse? What are the economic payoffs?
- Other ideas?

The final product of this work will be a list of potential economic development policies or strategies, and an action plan for implementation of 1 or 2 priority opportunities.

2) Criteria for environmentally sound recycling of electronics

We will develop a set of criteria that we feel an environmentally sound recycling policy should include. These criteria would serve as a tool that could be used in several different ways, including:

- a standard to use in evaluating certification procedures for electronics recycling facilities
- a guideline for recycling facilities to use in optimizing their own operations
- a recognized Guideline for recyclers to sign on to
- An information source and guideline for uninformed communities, that are selecting recycling services
- An educational tool for consumers

The final product of this work will be the actual criteria

To make the most of limited time and resources, it seemed best to form a small work group for each topic, which will report back to the full subgroup. This allows a couple self-selected subgroup members with specific interest in these topics, together with 1 or 2 non-subgroup people involved in the topic, to efficiently create some products, which the full subgroup can then review and evaluate.

To the extent possible, these work groups will communicate via e-mail.

All members of the Policy and Regulatory Subgroup are welcome to participate in one or both of these work groups. Or, subgroup members can comment on work group progress by participating in the regular subgroup meetings. If you would like to be actively involved in one of these groups, please let Lori Stole know. Thanks.