

# Connecticut Product Stewardship Paint Initiative

## The Problem

- More than 740,000 gallons of paint go unused in CT each year.
- Latex paint can be recycled, and has great potential for viable markets.
- Now no sites in CT for consumers to drop off latex paint for recycling.
- Oil-based paint should be disposed of as household hazardous waste (HHW).
- Only 18% of unused paint is brought to HHW collections each year.
- Municipalities paid \$620,000 in 2008 to collect and dispose of paint.
- Paint accounts for 30-50% of all municipal HHW collection costs.
- HHW paint collection and disposal costs \$4.50/gallon.
- Cost of paint disposal at HHW events is borne by municipal taxpayers.

## The Solution

**A paint product stewardship law for CT requiring paint manufacturers to create, finance and manage an environmentally sound, cost-effective paint stewardship program, including strategies and plans to:**

- ◆ **reduce the generation of postconsumer paint,**
- ◆ **promote the reuse of postconsumer paint,**
- ◆ **collect, transport and process postconsumer paint for end-of-life management through reuse, recycling, energy recovery or disposal.**

## Who Pays and Who Doesn't?

- Paint manufacturers finance program with a stewardship fee added to the price for each container of paint sold in the State.
- Fee will be less than 25% of current \$4.50/gallon HHW cost.
- Municipal budget savings throughout state annually estimated at \$620,000
- No fiscal impact to the State. Net positive fiscal impact for municipalities.



## The Benefits

- Covers all postconsumer paint and stain sold in containers of five gallons or less. (Postconsumer paint is unused paint no longer wanted by the purchaser.)
- Provides consumers with an easy way to properly manage leftover paint.
- Free collections for residential and small commercial consumers and paint contractors. (Current HHW events are for households only.)
- Uses existing HHW collection infrastructure as possible and expands collection opportunities for consumers.
- Retailers **not** required to offer in-store take back programs.
- CT DEP to approve program plan, get annual report, independent audit.
- Consistent with the 2006 CT Solid Waste Management Plan.
- **Saves municipalities and property taxpayers, money!**
- **Increases paint recycling!**
- **Program covers both latex and oil-based paint**



## Who Supports the Paint Initiative?

- ◆ American Coatings Association—representing paint manufacturers
- ◆ Product Stewardship Institute
- ◆ CT Product Stewardship Council
- ◆ CT Sierra Club
- ◆ CT Recyclers Coalition (CRC)
- ◆ CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM)
- ◆ CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- ◆ Hardware Store Retailers such as TrueValue and Ace
- ◆ Municipalities and regional solid waste/hazardous waste government agencies representing more than 125 CT municipalities.



Prepared by the CPSC Paint Initiative Subcommittee: Lori Vitagliano, HazWaste Central \* Kim O'Rourke, City of Middletown \* Cheryl Reedy, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority. For more information e-mail [cheryreedy@hrra.org](mailto:cheryreedy@hrra.org)