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EPA Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC) Web Academy Solid Waste Management and Recycling Educational Series March 16, 2011 1-2:30pm Eastern Time

Product Stewardship

Product Stewardship -A Local Government Perspective Leslie Wilson, Environmentalist III/HHW Coordinator Carver County, MN









Government's Role

- Common good
- Quality of life
- Difficult to determine causes
- Efficiency
- Fairness
- Fiscally responsible



Drawing the Line?





Solid Waste Scorecard

•47% recycling rate – stagnant since 1990's

•Waste continues – 1.07 tons per

person per year

•\$1-2 billion annually

Current Solid Waste System Isn't "Working"



8

Drawing the Line?





Drawing the Line?

Common good? Quality of life? Difficult to determine causes? Efficiency? Fairness? Fiscally responsible?



Solution – Product Stewardship



There is \$ in Waste!

Oregon ('09) & other paint laws

- •60+ retail paint collection sites foot traffic up
- •Est 5 year 10 fold paint volume increase
- •Envirosystems, investor in high growth potential companies, recent investment in Amazon & Hotz
- •Increase recycling paint products market

•Jobs

What's in it for Us?









Government's New Role

- •Rates & dates
- •Require recycling & environmental protection
- Independent audits
- •Incentivize/reward "smart" design?



Figure Out Our Side of the "Line"

Common good Quality of life Difficult to determine causes Efficiency Fairness Fiscally responsible



How Does Product Stewardship Happen?

Educate – county boards, city councils, legislators, county & city staff, constituents, business Partners – strength in numbers Product stewardship laws - now! Listen to local government staff – lots of changes happening Find champions - government & business, and support them

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