Update on California’s Covered Electronic Waste (CEW) Recycling Program

Provided by the California Integrated Waste Management Board

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www.eRecycle.org
This update will cover:

- Synopsis of CA’s E-waste Act
- Program statistics
- Industry dynamics
- Operational challenges
- Future considerations
Electronic Waste Recycling Act

• System to pay for the recovery and recycling of covered electronic waste (CEW)
  – Only CEW from CA sources are eligible
  – Must be recycled (cancelled) in CA
  – CIWMB sets payment rates to cover average net costs

• System funded through a fee paid by consumers of new covered electronic devices (CED)
  – DTSC determines what constitutes a CED
  – CIWMB determines fee structure to maintain solvency
Electronic Waste Recycling Act

Covered electronic devices include:

- Cathode ray tubes (CRT) televisions and computer monitors
- Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) televisions and monitors
- Laptop computers
- Gas plasma display televisions
- Personal DVD players
Recent Program Milestones

• In 2008, CIWMB reduced payment rates to reflect costs, and raised consumer fee to maintain program solvency
  • Payment rate now $0.39 per pound
  • Fee level now $8, $16, or $25 (screen size)

• Over 700 million pounds claimed
(Note that 2nd and 3rd quarter 2009 quantities represent only a portion of anticipated claims. Recyclers are supposed submit a claim up within 45 days after the end of a reporting month.)
Program Participation

- Approximately 60 approved recyclers
- Approximately 600 approved collectors
- Unknown number of “handlers”
  – Entities other than the California source that transfer CEW to approved collectors
Program Challenges

• Source documentation deficiencies
  • Incomplete, non-compliant, falsified
  • Evolving techniques for detecting

• Holding participants accountable
  • Denial of payment claims
  • Revocation of approval
  • Further enforcement / prosecution
Future Uncertainties

• Continued growth of CEW volumes?
• Future of CRT glass markets?
• Volatility in commodity markets?
Future Considerations

• Net Cost Report (NCR) requirements
  – NCRs are used to calculate payment rates
  – Board must act by Dec 31, 2009 to require that NCRs be submitted by Mar 1, 2010

• Payment rates and fee levels
  – Board may act by July 1, 2010 to adjust payment rates if necessary
  – Board may act by August 1, 2010 to adjust fee levels if necessary