



Contact: Paulina Rosenthal, (916) 617-4590
City of West Sacramento Refuse and Recycling Division

THE CITY OF WEST SACRAMENTO TAKES ACTION TOWARD A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE BY SUPPORTING EFFORT TO REDUCE WASTE

Resolution Furthers Commitment to Seek Fair & Eco-Wise Solutions For Growing Waste Disposal Issues

West Sacramento, California (September 29, 2009) – The City of West Sacramento is proud to announce the adoption of a “Producer Responsibility” resolution in partnership with the California Product Stewardship Council. “Producer Responsibility” is a concept whereby product manufacturers are primarily responsible for the life cycle of their products.

Beyond recycling, “Producer Responsibility” is an important environmental policy approach in which producers assume responsibility – financial and physical – for the proper management of their products throughout the life span. When producers are accountable for ensuring their products are re-used or recycled responsibly, they are encouraged to design and purchase goods that are more durable, easier to recycle, and less toxic.

“This resolution of support clearly lets suppliers and producers doing business with West Sacramento know that we expect them to bear primary responsibility for the life cycle of their products,” says West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon. “We will encourage and reward green design and stewardship and are proud to be on the forefront of this positive approach toward more durable, less toxic, and easier to recycle products.”

The City of West Sacramento joins a growing number of cities and counties that have already endorsed the “Producer Responsibility” concept resolution, including the cities of Fresno and San Jose, and the counties of Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, Butte, Yolo and many others. For a full list of supporting jurisdictions, go to www.calPSC.org

“We’re dedicated to reversing the trend of California producing more and more waste every year,” says Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director of the California Product Stewardship Council. “With the support of local governments such as the City of West Sacramento, we move one step closer to achieving our goals for a vibrant consumer economy with sustainable production and consumption.”

By adopting a Producer Responsibility resolution, the City of West Sacramento:



- Urges the California Integrated Waste Management Board to continue taking timely action to implement the Framework for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) System in California to manage Universal and other wastes;
- Urges the California Legislature to pass framework EPR legislation that shifts Universal and other waste management costs from local government to the producers and users of the product, and which will give producers the incentive to redesign products to make them less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle;
- Directs the City to encourage all manufacturers to share in the responsibility for eliminating waste through minimizing excess packaging, designing products for durability, reusability and the ability to be recycled; using recycled materials in the manufacture of new products; and providing financial support for collection, processing, recycling, or disposal of used materials;
- Directs the City to develop producer responsibility policies such as leasing products rather than purchasing them and requiring producers to offer less toxic alternatives and to take responsibility for collecting and recycling their products and the end of their useful life.
- Supports the State and Congressional delegations to introduce and pass legislation which shifts the burden of managing discarded products containing toxic material from local governments to the producers of those products.

For more information, or to schedule an interview, call Heidi Sanborn, CPSC executive director (916)480-9010.

About the California Product Stewardship Council:

The California Product Stewardship Council is a not-for-profit, non government agency dedicated to shifting California's product waste management system from one focused on government funded and ratepayer financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility. CPSC is working toward this goal to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.

CPSC strives to: (1) Build capacity and knowledge among local governments, and build relationships with stakeholders, to bring about producer financed and managed systems for product discards, including, but not restricted to, products covered by the Universal Waste Ban; (2) Provide a forum for the exchange of information regarding existing and proposed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs; (3) Develop and recommend practical local and statewide EPR policy and educational tools such as model ordinances and legislation, newsletters, articles, policy briefings, etc.; (4) Provide effective leadership on EPR initiatives in California and develop a prioritized list, with timelines, of future EPR programs; and, (5) Educate elected and appointed officials and other decision makers on the benefits to local government of EPR. For more information, go to www.calpsc.org

