



Why Waste Haulers Support Extended Producer Responsibility

- Haulers are often 'guardians' of publicly and privately owned landfills, which means they have an inherent interest in keeping banned products out of the waste stream. Anything that helps accomplish that makes their jobs easier and reduces their liability.
- Solid waste workers are often the first to be exposed to toxins in the trash. Truck fires due to chemical reactions from illegally disposed household hazardous waste are more common than people might think.
- Likewise, solid waste workers have far more risk than the average person of exposure to needle sticks, inhalation of mercury vapors which accumulate in the bottoms of dumpsters, etc, etc.
- Haulers usually are the operators of load check programs and they see the tremendous variety and volume of hazardous waste that makes it to transfer stations and landfills - validating our concerns that people are NOT using the HHW programs that are available to them.
- If hazardous waste ends up at a landfill owned by a hauler - they foot the bill for disposal.
- Considering all of the hazardous waste that is not going to any HHW facility, HHW collection companies, like Philip, Veolia and Clean Harbors stand to pick up a lot of extra business through stewardship programs. Ideally, the programs will be well designed and will encourage consumers to heavily utilize the programs. This means more business for HHW hauling companies.
- Likewise, with product waste, haulers can haul for the producers, retailers and take-back programs instead of local government. Local government hauling contracts tend to be very tight, with little profit margin for the haulers yet considerable local demands for special programs like bulky item pickup and curbside service.
- Stronger markets for recycled content products mean profits for haulers - they market their recyclable commodities - and EPR is intended to stimulate markets for recycled products.
- There are also some altruistic reasons: it's the right thing to do and it presents a positive company image.



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