

PROPOSALS FOR END-OF-LIFE ELECTRONICS MANAGEMENT:

A PRIMER

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Prepared and Compiled by

**The Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) and the Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference
(CSG/ERC)**

March 10, 2005

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Basel Ban: A 1995 amendment to the Basel Convention (see below) that would ban the export of hazardous waste from Basel Convention signatories that are members of the EU, OECD or Liechtenstein to all other parties to the Convention. The Basel Ban must be ratified by three-fourths of the parties to the Convention for it to go into effect. The amendment has not yet entered into force. A list of parties that have ratified the amendment can be accessed at <http://www.basel.int/ratif/frsetmain.php>.

Basel Convention: A multilateral agreement negotiated under the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) that regulates the trade of hazardous waste. Parties to the Convention that plan to import hazardous waste must ensure that the waste will be handled in an environmentally sound manner. The parties have developed guidelines on environmentally sound management (ESM) of certain waste streams, waste treatment and waste management practices, and guidelines on monitoring and detecting illegal traffic in hazardous waste. Currently, more than 160 countries are party to the convention, which entered into force in 1992. The U.S. has signed, but not ratified, the Convention, and as such is permitted to participate in the Convention's meetings, but cannot vote.

A list of parties to the Convention can be accessed at this link: <http://www.basel.int/ratif/convention.doc>

Cathode Ray Tube (CRT): A vacuum or picture tube device that converts an electronic signal into a visual image.

Consolidation Facility: A facility where used electronics from multiple collection sites are temporarily stored before shipment to a recycling, reuse, or processing facility.

Electronic Waste: Electronic equipment that has become available for disposal, reuse or recycling.

Environmentally Sound Management (ESM): ESM standards establish specific criteria and performance standards that an electronics recycler¹ must meet. Generally, ESM standards address

- Business practices
- Financial soundness
- Insurance
- Regulatory & permitting compliance
- Conditions for solid waste disposal
- Worker safety
- Training
- Data collection & reporting
- Environmental auditing
- Export
- Facility Closure Plans
- Hazardous waste management

Financing:

Four Principle Approaches:

1) **Advance Recycling (or Recovery) Fee (ARF):** A fee paid by consumers and businesses at the point of purchase on certain pieces of equipment. The accumulated fees cover all costs needed to support the collection and recycling of electronic products. Manufacturers are responsible for informing consumers about which

¹ The phrase electronics recycler includes asset management, brokering, demanufacturing, repair, reuse, and shredding.

products carry the fee and how to access end-of-life recycling programs. Retailers receive a percentage of the fee to cover their administrative costs.

2) Producer Responsibility: Two versions:

a.) **Full Cost Internalization (CI):** Requires producers to fully finance and manage the collection and recycling of their electronics products, either through collective responsibility, in which producers share responsibility for all products, or through individual responsibility, in which each producer is responsible for their own products.

b.) **Partial Cost Internalization (PCI):** Requires state and local governments to finance the costs of collection and transportation to a consolidation point. Producers are required to finance the cost of consolidation through recycling.

3) Hybrid Model: In this model, the funding system is financed by an ARF until certain performance standards are satisfied, and then the system transitions to the to either PCI or CI.

4) End-of-Life Fee: Consumers pay a fee at the point of collection, which is used to finance the cost of collection and recycling.

Historic Electronic Waste: Used electronic equipment that becomes electronic waste prior to the effective date of an e-recycling law or regulation.

National Electronics Product Stewardship Initiative (NEPSI): A three-year, multi-stakeholder dialogue that sought to develop a national financing system to help maximize the reuse and recycling of used TVs and personal computers. NEPSI participants included representatives from electronics manufacturers, state and local governments, recyclers, environmental groups, and others. Although a national financing system was never achieved, several significant documents were finalized and agreements reached; including the need for national legislation, a shared responsibility model (product stewardship), ESM standards, agreement on a hybrid model, and minimum standards for a successful system. See www.nepsi.org for documents.

Orphan Electronic Waste: Used electronic equipment whose manufacturer either cannot be identified, or is no longer in business.

Product Stewardship: Also known as extended product responsibility (EPR), this approach calls on those in the product life cycle — including manufacturers, retailers, users, government and recyclers -- to share responsibility for reducing the environmental impacts of products, including end-of-life management.