



## NERC

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### *Northeast Recycling Council, Inc.*

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#### **A Unified Legislative Approach to End-of-Life Electronics Management in the Northeast March 2005**

The Northeast Recycling Council, Inc. (NERC) and the Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) have recently begun a collaborative effort to seek a unified legislative approach to end-of-life electronics management in the Northeast. This project came about at the request of the environmental legislative leadership in the ten Northeast states.

The goal of this project is to develop model legislation that will be filed in the Northeast states.

An overview of the planned process is as follows:

- I **WHAT:** Develop fact sheets for legislators on the following topics:
  - a. **Background on key concepts and terminology used in electronics legislation**
  - b. **Legislative overview** of legislation filed, proposed and adopted in the United States.
  - c. **Point-counterpoint:** Why the Maine approach? Why the approach proposed by the MN OEA?
  - d. **State agency perspective:** Consolidated presentation of opinions of state agencies on critical elements of electronics end-of-life management legislation.
  - e. **Industry perspective:** ARF vs. Cost internalization
  - f. **Retail perspective**

**WHEN:** We expect to have completed all fact sheets except for the state agency perspective by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The state agency fact sheet will be ready by the end of March.

II **WHAT:** State agency staff and management were provided with a questionnaire seeking their position on key issues in end-of-life management legislation.

**WHEN:** A conference call is scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup>. The goal of this discussion is to arrive at a coordinated position about electronics end-of-life management legislation that reflects the policy preferences of the state agencies.

III **WHAT:** A series of meetings in New York City and/or conference calls between the CSG/ERC Energy & Environment Committee<sup>1</sup> and representatives of state agencies, local governments, manufacturers, retailers, recyclers and environmental groups to solicit their recommendations.

**WHEN:** Tentatively early May to mid-June.

IV **WHAT:** Working with ERC & NERC, the CSG/ERC Energy & Environment Committee will draft legislation that reflects the guidance provided through the stakeholder discussions. The draft will be made public.

**WHEN:** Tentatively mid-July.

V **WHAT:** Multi-stakeholder discussion between the CSG/ERC Energy & Environment Committee and any interested party about the draft legislation.

**WHEN:** Tentatively during the ERC Annual Meeting, July 25 – 28 at the Mohegan Sun Casino & Resort in Uncasville, CT.

VI **WHAT:** Draft legislation revised as result of multi-stakeholder dialogue to reflect consensus positions.

**WHEN:** Goal will be October 30<sup>th</sup>.

VII **WHAT:** Coordinated and consistent electronics end-of-life management legislation filed throughout the NERC and ERC states.

**WHEN:** Next legislative session.

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<sup>1</sup> The CSG/ERC Energy & Environment Committee is composed of more than 80 state officials from ten Northeastern states, three Eastern Canadian provinces, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The Committee works to evaluate, develop and promote innovative state policy, and forge regional strategies to address common energy and environmental concerns. For the 2005-2006 biennium, the Committee's officers include its co-chairs: Sen. Carl Marcellino (NY) and Rep. James Marzilli (MA); and co-vice-chairs: Sen. David McBride (DE), Sen. Mary Jo White (PA), Asm. Reed Gusciora (NJ) and MNA Rita Dionne-Marsolais (QU).