Beyond the Plateau – New & Proposed Extended Producer Responsibility Batteries

Todd Ellis
Director, Stewardship Programs

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Agenda

1) Batteries Everywhere

2) US EPA “Battery Act”

3) State & Provincial Regulations
   a) Rechargeable
   b) Single Use

4) “Shift” in Thinking

5) Vermont

6) “Model” Bill & Connecticut

7) What’s Next?
Society is Mobile!
Batteries are everywhere!

Single-Use

Rechargeable
Now What?
The Start of it ALL!

Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act

Two major goals

- Facilitate recycling of nickel-cadmium & small sealed lead-acid rechargeable batteries (Heavy Metals)
- Phase out the use of mercury in batteries.
Laws Requiring Manufacturers/Brand Owners to Fund Collection & Recycling

- Florida (Ni-Cd & SSLA)
- Iowa (Ni-Cd & SSLA)
- Maine (Ni-Cd & SSLA)
- Maryland (Ni-Cd & SSLA)
- New Jersey (Ni-Cd & SSLA)
- Ontario (all primary only)

- New York (all rechargeable)
- British Columbia (all consumer)
- Manitoba (all consumer)
- Minnesota (all rechargeable)
- Quebec (all consumer, except SSLA)
Rechargeable Batteries

- Heavy Metals
- Industry forced to address issue
- Recycling program founded & funded by Industry - ’94
- Recycling programs
Single Use Batteries

- Mercury removed
- Environmental impact = net negative
- Considered Solid Waste
- Recycling Programs
“Shift” in Thinking

- MIT Study - Net negative, but the “shift” is on
- Corporation for Battery Recycling (CBR)
- Foundation Programs (OCRRA)
- “Free Riders”
- Voluntary to Mandatory
Vermont

- Primary batteries (May 2015)
- Covered “battery” definition
- Convenience Standards vs. “Rates & Dates”
- Private Right to Action
- Reimbursement
- Call2Recycle – Stewardship Organization
“Model” Bill

- Industry reaction – time for strategy
- PRBA / NEMA / CBR / Call2Recycle
- All Battery
- Connecticut – 2015?
What’s Next?

- Connecticut bill
- Stewardship Plan in VT
- Proactive vs. Reactive
- “Critical Mass”
QUESTIONS

Todd Ellis
Director, Stewardship Programs
678-218-1086
tellis@call2recycle.org