

**CFL Management, Education & Recycling Opportunities Stakeholders
Meeting
March 12, 2008
Draft Meeting Minutes**

Participant:

The following individuals and associated organizations were in attendance: Nancy Wittenberg, Ralph Asplen (NJDEP), Susanna Chiu, Eric Svenson, Albert Fralinger, Cindy Mehallow, Jeanne Pieratelli, Melissa Standing (PSEG) and Alain Fortier (Monmouth), Diana Vigilante (Somerset), Chris Sikorski (Middlesex), Fred Stanger (Middlesex), Joann Gemenden (Union) (Association of NJ Household Hazardous Waste Coordinators)

Comments:

Following introductions, Albert Fralinger provided an overview of the recent issues PSEG was managing associated with the proper management of CFL's and the public / customer concerns expressed with the environmental issues and health and safety concerns with mercury. PSEG also expressed an interest in partnering stakeholders to address this state wide issue. As background on the PSE&G CFL Switch and Save Program, Susanna Chiu and Melissa Standing presented the PSE&G Switch and Save Campaign and Program that took place in November 2008. They also highlighted the information provided to customers where information was available if questions developed on breakage or disposal of the CFL. They also emphasized the employee training that was given to each Customer Service center prior to the CFL give-a-way program.

Assistant Commissioner Nancy Wittenberg stated the NJ DEP is interested in working with retailers to develop CFL point-of-sale take-back programs. She has approached retailers such as Wal-Mart with mixed results. Ralph Asplen also mentioned there were 3 locations in New Jersey that would take back CFL's but did not advertise this. One location was IKEA. She also mentioned. This POS take-back model has been introduced in other areas (Com Ed working with Ace Hardware in Illinois). She emphasized that any program developed needs to be easy, free and safe for consumers. She cited possible sources for NJDEP funds to support program development: e-waste, recycling enhancement tax as possibilities. A hand out was distributed from the Veolia web site (an environmental service company). The web site information identified sponsors to an Illinois partnership with ACE hardware stores as well as packaging specifications for containers that could be purchased.

PSEG VP of Environment, Health & Safety Eric Svenson encourages any programs developed should make recycling as easy as possible by offering

multiple drop-off points. Alain Fortier and Joann Gemenden expressed concern and stated the household hazardous waste collection program and days are not the solution. They felt there were several reasons for this position. First the way the contracts are structured, e.g. \$35 / car it would not be financially a good idea. Also there are already thousands of cars participating in the collection days already and they could not handle more. In addition the collection programs shut down over the winter months so there would not be a drop off options available to citizens.

Participants agreed that local government and county household hazardous waste programs should not bear the sole responsibility for CFL disposal and recycling. Instead, they envision a partnership between four groups: manufacturers, retailers, utilities and local government.

- There was concern expressed that the labeling identifying the presence of mercury in CFL's was very small. Manufacturers should be encouraged to change package labeling to include more disposal and recycling information and make it more visible.
- Retailers should offer point-of-sale CFL recycling information and function as drop-off locations. Vendors such as Veolia, which offers a convenient mail-based, small-quantity lighting recycling program, can handle the actual disposal. The United States Postal Service is apparently considering partnering with Veolia to offer a similar arrangement.
- Utilities can play a role by encouraging use of CFLs, potentially as part of their energy efficiency efforts, and educating customers on the proper use of bulbs. They should also explore opportunities with the NJBPU and how would the down side cost of managing spent CFL's be viewed as part of the cost of the conservation program.
- Local governments can provide more drop-off locations (municipal offices, public library, recycling center, etc.) and publicize these options to residents through web sites, municipal newsletters, publicity in local newspapers, etc.) to offer more convenient options than just Household Hazardous Waste collection days.

Overall there was a feeling a gap existed with options...develop recycling/disposal infrastructure first, then there is the need to educate the public. Overall there was consensus that a process and infrastructure was needed in New Jersey to address this issue as the growth and use of the CFL market will continue.

Action Items:

As a result of the discussion there were several action items identified:

- 1.) Nancy Wittenberg (NJDEP) was going to approach the NJ Retailers Association again with a strong encouragement they become engaged with developing a solution to the CFL issue.
- 2.) Susanna Chiu working with Albert Fralinger (PSEG) was going to contact GE the bulb manufacturer PSE&G has a relationship with to discuss options and input involving education, labeling and recycling. Susanna will also contact the NJBPU regarding cost issues associated with CFL's and relationship to conservation programs. Cindy Mehallow will follow up with providing the Association of New Jersey Household Hazardous Waste Coordinators web link to PSE&G business and EHS web locations.
- 3.) Alain Fortier (ANJHHWC) with the other officers present will bring these issues up at their march Board meeting and pursue opportunities to standardize messages on CFL's on their web site and encourage specifically calling out CFL's as a material accepted at household hazardous waste collection days.