

# Beyond Waste IWG Status Update

July 21, 2008

## **Workgroup Goal**

To significantly expand source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting and build on what is best and most successful in current waste management system by developing an implementation plan targeting products with the largest GHG reduction potential. This action was identified by CAT/TWG as AW- 3.

## **Focus/Priority Area(s)**

Currently we are considering the following:

### ◆ **Target Waste Streams**

- Get the Paper Out (2.7 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>E potentially available)
- Get the Food Waste Out (.8 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>E potentially available)
- Get the Metals Out (At least 1.3 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>E potentially available)
- Get Construction and Demolition Waste Out (1 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>E in carpet alone)

### ◆ **Reduce Product Footprint and Close the Recycling Loop**

- Adopt Product Stewardship Framework
- Optimize and Expand the Collection System
- Provide Incentives for Recycled Product Manufacturing
- Establish Strong Government Procurement Practices
- Collaborate with Industry, especially Retailers
- Assistance to Industry through a Sustainable Products Institute

## **Anticipated Recommendations**

The BW IWG will bring forward a package of recommendations that will address the above focus areas. The recommendations will include draft legislative proposals and related documentation, proposals that do not need legislation but administrative actions, and a phased strategic implementation plan.

## **Current Activities**

The workgroup first met on June 16, 2008. We held task-group conference calls the following week to flesh out brainstormed proposals. At our July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, we winnowed the list down to nine. We have held another series of conference calls on the nine proposals. We plan to meet on July 23<sup>rd</sup> to further refine the list.

We have meetings scheduled on August 6, August 26, September 18 and October 1. We believe we will deliver well developed proposals for the CAT to consider through our process.

## **General Observations and Status**

Workgroup members are both highly knowledgeable and passionate about the issues. There is high enthusiasm among the members about forwarding actionable recommendations to the CAT.

It is important to realize that the solid waste system and materials management are indeed systems. Focusing on the end-of pipe (waste collections/recycling/disposal) is only a fraction of the total system.

The proposals that the BW IWG will forward will focus on influencing the complete product life-cycle, cradle to grave. The global ramifications of local actions to reduce and recycle solid wastes are enormous. Washington can effectively influence upstream generation of greenhouse gases by reducing energy and material inputs into products, through waste reduction and recycling of solid wastes.