

DATE: 7-17-08

PROPOSAL TITLE: Waste Reduction through Retailer Collaboration

What is the problem?

The bulk of household wastes that end up in the garbage can come through retailers. To seriously reduce waste, we need to influence products that are coming through the retail chain. AW-3 sets an overall 15% waste reduction goal. Reduction can only be achieved through collaboration between public and private sector. Private sector is best positioned to provide consumers products with the smallest environmental footprint possible. Retailers have great influence over the products and packaging sold in the state. For example, Sam's Club worked with a dairy to reduce the waste associated with milk containers. In the United Kingdom retailers worked with the wine industry to light-weight wine bottles.

What are the target materials? (i.e. carpet, packaging, paper, food, organics, etc.)

Packaging and food, energy efficient products, products with recycled content alternatives.

What is the potential for reduction in green house gas emissions (tons)?

The AW-3 goal of 15% waste reduction could realize well over 900,000 MTCO₂E throughout the supply chain by influencing the products purchased in Washington.

What action is needed (specifically)?

Develop an invitation to the retail industry to create a memorandum of understanding between the parties to work to influence the supply chain to contribute to reduction in climate change gases. The Governor's office would convene the stakeholder group and facilitate the development of the MOU.

What mechanism should be used to put the action in place (legislation, executive order, regulations, policies, etc.)?

Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Governor, Executive Directors of major retailer associations and CEOs of major retail companies.

Is the proposal ready to proceed? (i.e. can the deliverable be delivered Sept 1? What is the current stage of development)?

Support from the Governor's Office is needed.

Affected parties and likely positions: How feasible is it in terms of support/opposition?

Retail Industry Leaders Association, National Retail Federation, Retail Merchants Association, Consumer Electronics Retailers Association, Amazon.com, Costco, Washington Retail Association, NW Grocers Association, Washington Food Industries, Safeway, Fred Meyer, Wal-Mart

This has not been "ground truth-ed" with retailers.

If this proposal is adopted and is implemented:

Who will be responsible to implement?

Govs office, ecology, retailers

How will it be implemented?

MOU

Ecology staff availability to work with Govs office

When will it be implemented?

Spring 2009