

## DRAFT

RI Litter Task Force meeting notes May 26, 2005

Introductions around the room (attendance on spread sheet that was handed to all)

State purchasing is looking at finding a container that will recycle (not sure what I meant here) (Maybe trash containers that have separate compartments)

Caroline Karp begins discussion of Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Reduce litter by reducing the raw materials to be thrown away. Brown Student paper on the topic written after consultation with Brown Purchasing. Brown now does EPP for office supplies.

EPP focuses on the full life cycle of products, less packaging, non toxic disposal issues, etc. Buy the right stuff. RI has a law that allows the state to do this, but it is not really being used.

With Brown going to an electronic purchasing catalog it is much easier for departments to do this. Executive support is important in implementation.

Note that the EPA has EPP guidelines and they are pretty good.

Brown purchasing is doing education for departments and the catalog shows which products are EPP. Brown could help other institutional buyers do the same things. Brown does most office supply purchasing through one vendor and explained to vendor about EPP. Most office supply vendors can do the same thing. Brown has not yet mandated EPP, nor does it know the cost differential between what it spends using EPP versus non-EPP spending. But it is reducing hazardous materials and disposal costs as well, though not yet tracked.

Maybe set up a buyer's co-op in RI??

State is looking into EPP, but not all the way there yet. Office product supplier is not responding yet. But state will do an EPP electronic catalog. Colleges would be a logical place to start.

Some businesses have used this for specific projects, such as Toray Plastic using packaging that is easily recycled. Wastexpress designed the system.

EPP can be phased in relatively easily. MA is ahead of RI in this. Alliance for Healthy Tomorrow is doing some of this. EPP can be offered with financial incentives for purchasing staff's.

Sometimes it is as simple as two-sided copies versus one-sided printing. Fits in with state Fiscal Fitness program. Revise *Fiscal Fitness* to include rewards for cost-saving environmental initiatives. RIRRC could be involved as well.

Really need to focus on whole life cycle of products. Then do some marketing such as <sup>3</sup>Clean RI, ride with pride<sup>2</sup> for litter.

## **DRAFT Desirable Purchasing and Procurement Principles**

Desirable purchasing principles and practices are:

1. Buy from Vendors (and Partners) that offer EPP product lines and/or specialize in EP products themselves
2. Promote EP product lines to associated departments, members
3. Buy products with no, low and/or biodegradable packaging
4. Buy recycled
5. Buy the least toxic alternatives (re. raw materials, wastes)
6. Buy environmentally certified products wherever possible, e.g, ENERGY STAR
7. Buy products that are built for re-assembly (carpets, Xerox machines, vehicles) and include *producer responsibility (cradle to cradle)* requirements in purchase agreements, i.e., producer/retailer retains lifetime responsibility for the product (computers,
8. Buy local where possible

Create networks/alliances (among municipalities, ngos) to take advantage of economies of scale for EP purchasing and dissemination of best available information

Create alliances to take advantage of local knowledge on this.

Producer responsibility legislation??

Recommendation to streamline RIDOT pickup of highway trash will not be implemented at present. RIDOT trucks remain with ACI crews to protect ACI crews.

For Task Force/next steps:

Set a strategic plan for task force, Tom will assemble a small group of volunteers to work on this. Kathy will help draft plan. How do various issues fit together?

Litter is immediate issue, others fit in more long term, such as EPP and plastic bags

Will need to have a legislative package put together this Fall.