

National Paint Stewardship Program builds recycling industry capacity, reduces local disposal costs

Virginia should consider legislation and programs to reduce paint waste in the Commonwealth by becoming part of the national PaintCare stewardship program and support the program through a paint stewardship assessment fee applied to the purchase of new paint .

The Issue:

According to the American Coatings Association, an estimated 10% (nearly 80,000,000 gallons) of paint goes unused each year. Paint products typically make up about 50% of the materials received through household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off programs, which are funded by local governments. Unfortunately, these programs are not available in all jurisdictions, and much of the paint ends up being placed in the regular trash or, worse, poured down the drain. When dumped in the trash or down the drain, unused paint can contaminate our environment with volatile organic compounds, fungicides, and (in the case of very old paint) hazardous metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and hexavalent chromium.



Eleven states including: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington plus the District of Columbia have enacted PaintCare Paint Stewardship Program legislation. PaintCare is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) product stewardship organization created by paint manufacturers to provide environmentally sound management practices for leftover architectural paint. So far, paint EPR programs in the U.S. have reused and recycled more than 16 million gallons of paint, created 200 jobs, and saved governments (and taxpayers) over \$150 million.

Proposed Solution:



The Northern Virginia Waste Management Board supports legislation that will allow Virginia become part of the PaintCare Paint Stewardship Program where manufacturers would collaborate with state, county, and local governments to establish a state-wide network of drop-off locations where households and businesses can reuse/recycle leftover paint.

Resources:

- Paint Product Stewardship A Background Report for the National Dialogue on Paint Product Stewardship. Tim Greiner and Vesela Veleva of Greiner Environmental, Inc. and Alan Phipps of the Product Stewardship Institute.
- PaintCare website. www.paintcare.org

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