

MO PSC Notes
June 13, 2019

Paint

- Nadja has continued collecting paint data and now has data from 10 places compiled. Ozarks is sending more data.
- Five of 10 report collection figures for latex.
- We'll need to make an estimate of the percent of leftover paint being collected overall.
- Data clearly shows a lot is being collected and a lot of money is being spent.
- Nadja will convert from pounds to gallons (conversion rate is 10 pounds/gallon).
- Volunteers will reach out to independent paint and hardware stores in their local area. PSI will hold an outreach training session via phone.

Pharmaceuticals

- Outreach continues. There is a lot of positive support for addressing the pharmaceuticals issue.
- We discussed a potential pharmaceuticals stakeholder meeting (PSI will apply for a grant) to bring stakeholders together, start a conversation, and start moving in the same direction.
- Kathrina Donegan mentioned that they are trying to implement a sharps collection program and are running into obstacles from state regulatory issues, which could be one topic at a stakeholder meeting.

Mattresses

- Nadja provided an overview of Avenue of Life and its mattress recycling efforts.
 - The non-profit Avenue of Life supports 42 full-time jobs, has recycled 5,000 tons of materials, secured \$520,000 in grants to start up, and is now self-sustaining.
 - The program provides job training (the goal is to move employees on to other work). The most valuable transferable training truck driving.
 - Metal, cotton, wood, foam, and fabric can all be recovered and used in a variety of products.
 - They have had a very positive response and have established many partnerships.
 - Kansas City has free weekly bulky pick-up, so it costs a person more to recycle than to send a mattress to landfill in KC, while outside of KC recycling is likely cheaper.
- Barbara provided an overview of BedHead's mattress recycling program.
 - BedHead, which operates in the Springfield area, is a for-profit business established by a former hauler and a banker.
 - There is no free bulky pick-up in the area, which likely contributes to demand for BedHead's pick-up and recycling services to hospitals, nursing homes, colleges, landlords, hotels, mattress retailers, individuals, and others.
 - BedHead is growing and looking to expand outside its current area. Transportation is a hurdle. A hub-and-spoke model with collection points and a central processing facility is one effective strategy.

- The group discussed several challenges related to mattress recycling.
 - There are disreputable outfits that collect, repackage, and illegally sell used mattresses outside the area.
 - Curbside collection is difficult because wet mattresses can't be recycled.
 - Having more local governments accepting mattresses on recycle days would be helpful.
 - Landfills don't want mattresses (they're bulky). There's a unique opportunity here to work with landfill operators, who can set special handling fees and ban materials.
- Scott from PSI explained a range of product stewardship actions for mattresses.
 - Voluntary action: What could this group do to help existing mattress recyclers?
 - Pilots in other areas of the state?
 - Education?
 - Regulatory – three options:
 - Study bill: a bill that requires a study on the current situation, including existing programs and infrastructure, amounts of materials going to landfill, recycling, and illegal dumping, costs, etc.
 - “Resolve”: a simple bill expressing the intention to develop full legislation and outlining the parameters of full legislation.
 - Bill: legislation for producer responsibility for mattresses. The International Sleep Association and the Mattress Recycling Council are supportive of legislation but first need to see legislation introduced in a state to get involved.
- On a future call, we will focus more on mattress recycling education, including education on the three existing laws in the U.S., and will invite someone from another state government and someone from the Mattress Recycling Council.