

Counties and E-waste

MPCA

Air, Water & Waste Conference

2008

E-waste History 101

Residential electronics were a growing portion of the waste stream.

Recycling options were possible, though costly compared with disposal.

Televisions and Computer monitors contained large amounts of heavy metals, most notably lead.

Commercial electronics were already required to be managed as a regulated waste material.

2005 Legislative Session



2005 – Legislation bans Cathode Ray Tubes from disposal in MN effective July 1, 2006. No provision for collection/recycling in place.

2006 Legislative Session

Legislation for E-waste collection and recycling passes Senate, fails to get final vote on House floor on last day of the session. Disposal ban goes into effect shortly thereafter.



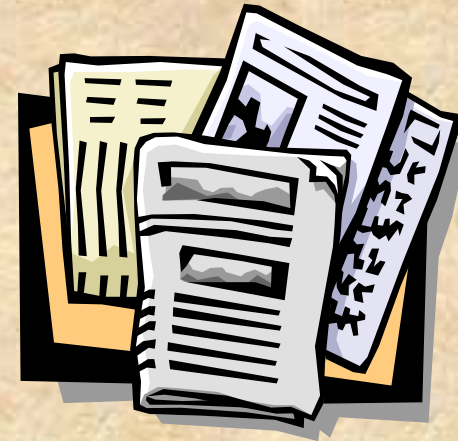
2007 Legislative Session



2007 – Legislation for E-waste collection and recycling passes House and Senate by wide margins. Gov Pawlenty signs into law effective July 1, 2007.

After the Bill passed ...

The Publicity ...



The Expectations ...

and The Waiting ...



Publicity

Media picked up on stories on all sides of the issue.



Upon passage, media publicized the legislations intent – establishment of an e-waste collection and recycling program.

Expectations ...



Residents expected that they could immediately begin recycling all of electronic items for free.

Counties expected that manufacturers and recyclers would aggressively pursue agreements.



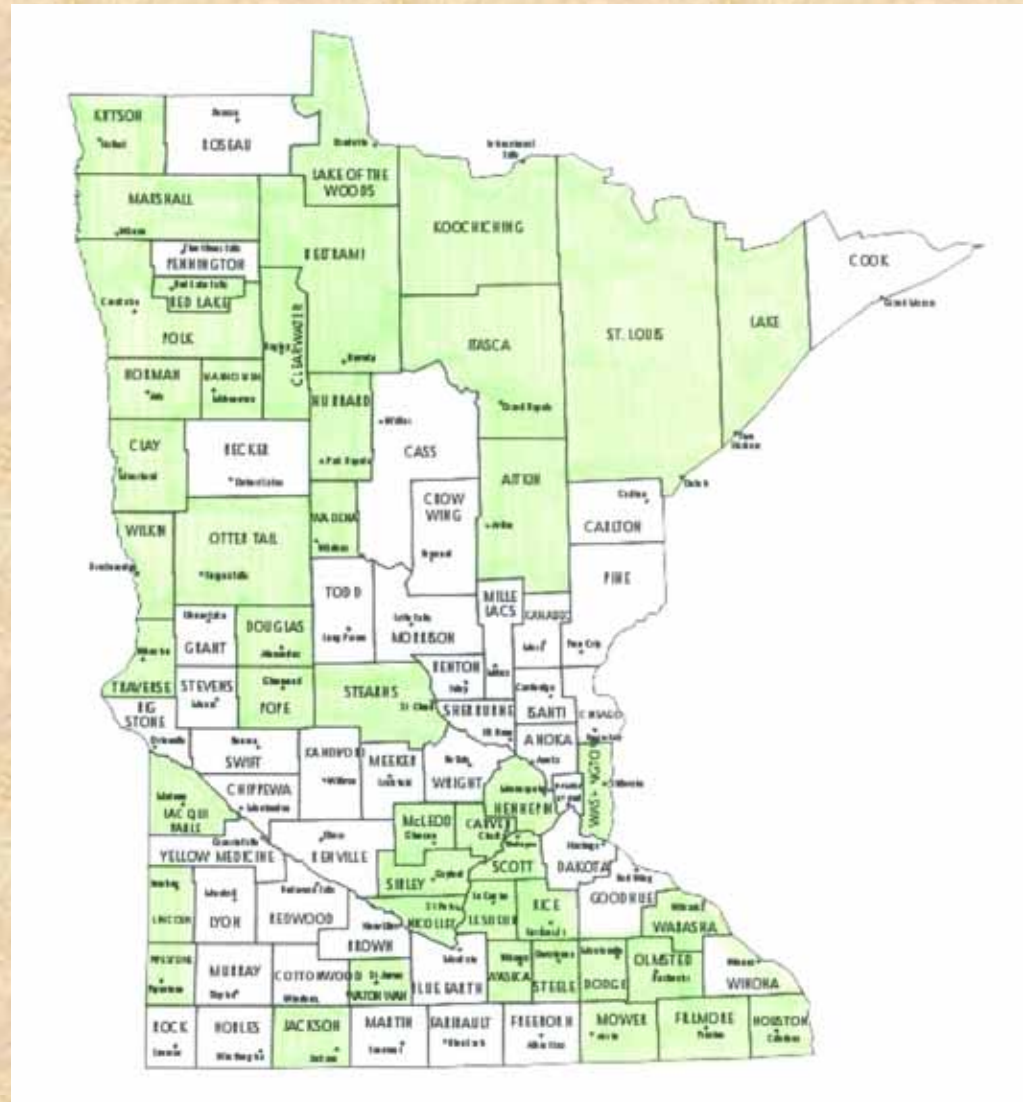
Waiting

- *There was a lag-time between the passage of the E-waste law and the effective date of the program.*
- *Manufacturers were not obligated to register until Sept 2007 – 3 months after the collectors and recyclers registered.*
- *Counties faced with ‘interim issues’ – determine how to proceed with meeting expectations in the absence of any guidelines or defined partnerships.*

Snapshot of E-waste in MN today ...

87 COUNTIES SURVEYED

- 45 responded
- Good mix of metro, metro-fringe & rural.



E-waste Snapshot continued ...

How is Residential E-waste collected:

- *76% of responding Counties provided the collection service for residents.*
- *65% of responding Counties had a private waste hauler or recycler collecting from residents.*
- *33% of responding Counties had both public and private collection available for residents.*

E-waste Snapshot continued ...

Do you charge the resident (end-user) at drop-off:

- *66% of collections have no charge to use service.*
- *33% of collections charge to use service **

** Of those that charged, the indicated charges averaged around \$5 - \$7/unit*

*** There was less certainty about private collector charges ***

E-waste Snapshot continued ...

Is the collector charged to recycle e-waste:

- *27% of Counties responding indicated they are paying for e-waste recycling. **
- *66% of Counties responding indicated they are not paying for e-waste recycling, or are being paid for their e-waste. ***
- ** approx charge for e-waste recycling = \$9/unit*
- *** approx rate for e-waste sales = \$0.02/lb*

E-waste Snapshot continued ...

Illegal Disposal:

50% observed no illegal dumping.

40% observed illegal dumping. *

* All but one County reported incident numbers same or decreasing



E-waste Snapshot continued ...

What are the barriers to your e-waste collection program:

Most indicated NO BARRIERS to their program (40% of those who responded)

Other common identified barriers include: cost to operate program/collect from remote areas & operational issues related to storage/consolidation & need for more advertising/education/awareness

E-waste Snapshot continued ...

What improvements to the existing law would encourage the establishment or expansion of collection programs:
or expansion of collection programs:

50% indicated NO CHANGE needed *

* some indicate program still changing as it is relatively new

Other comments include: State cost-sharing for public sites, funds for new infrastructure or improvements to manage materials.

SUMMARY

- *The implementation of an e-waste ban more than 1 year before the passage of a collection & recycling law lead to a disjointed state-wide program.*
- *The e-waste disposal ban resulted in a 'patchwork' of programs leading to public frustration, high collection/recycling prices and increased illegal disposal.*
- *Timelines for the establishment of a state-wide collection/recycling program were short, with staggered registration and participation timelines. This resulted in a lack of communication and initial confusion by all parties,.*

SUMMARY

- *The market for residential e-waste has stagnated. This may resolve itself as manufacturers determine their level of obligation under this new law, and evaluate their agreements for e-waste collection/recycling.*
- *The program is still developing, as more stakeholders continue to be identified.*
- *With any new program, there will be some obstacles to overcome. For collectors, tracking and reporting e-waste tonnages may prove challenging (especially for the first few months of the program).*

SUMMARY

- *Many new or small programs continue to face obstacles related to infrastructure limitations, or lack thereof.*
- *Some Counties are not realizing what opportunities are available to effectively market their materials.*
- *Should markets not increase in sales price, state financial assistance related to advertising/public education and fuel costs may be needed.*
- *State should look for areas where service is limited or not available, and attempt to assist communities with implementation of programs.*

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