

Green Chemistry Symposium II Chemicals Policy for a Sustainable California

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Why does local government care that TSCA is broken?

Because:

- Taxpayer/ratepayer funding is wasted
- Expensive waste water management systems are built
- Expensive solid/hazardous waste systems are built
- Health care systems deal with environmentally caused illness – asthma to cancer
- Public education – what do we tell them?



Local Government Predicament

- How do we find alternatives with no data
 - Peer Review 2002
 - Beat up by industry
- Unable to affect change at end of pipe
- Responsible for damage control
- 100 years of waste management systems
 - Necessitates a paradigm shift



Hazardous Waste



Local Government Responsibility

- Keep chemicals out of the waste stream
- Find alternatives – with no data?
- Need to know if a product is hazardous
- End of pipe waste management
- Pollution prevention
- Protect public health
- Regulate (don't implement)



Market Problems

- Hazardous products are built for obsolescence
- Difficult to demanufacture and recycle
- Designed for disposal
- Lack of standards – plastics is the poster child
- Lack of data
- Government subsidizes industries' production of hazardous products – no incentive to change



More Problems

- Chemicals in consumer products do not disappear
- They end up in our land, water, air and in our bodies and children's bodies
- Waste management systems are not foolproof, they are however expensive
- Why is the EU ahead of the US
 - Cosmetics – we get their rejects



Market Drivers

- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
 - Local, State and Federal government purchasing policies
 - IPM
 - Government, like all users are stymied in efforts to find sufficient information for product selection
 - Green innovation leads to
 - Reduced exposure to problem chemicals
 - Protection of public health and the environment



Solutions

- Require toxicological data – risk-relevant info
- Shift burden of proof to industry
 - Industry required to determine if a product is hazardous at EOL
- Restrict chemicals from entering commerce unless proven safe
 - Error on the side of caution
 - Economic gain -not at the expense of safety
- Mandate producer responsibility
 - Eliminate government's waste subsidy
- Develop incentives for green innovation



Solutions

cont.

- Electronics leasing and mandatory take-back
- Labeling
- Cradle to cradle
- Reverse logistics
- Voluntary measures don't work – mandate
- Government regulates and oversees
- Industry internalizes external cost

