

Ore. DEQ approves plan for paint product stewardship

July 1 -- In what is being hailed as the first program of its kind in the U.S., the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has approved a plan for a paint product stewardship program that allows consumers to return unused paint to participating retailers and other sites for disposal.

The pilot program is expected to collect as much as 600,000 gallons of leftover paint annually in Oregon.

The new program, authorized by state law in 2009, will tap into the a national agreement organized by the Product Stewardship Institute Inc., which brought together paint manufacturers, retailers, contractors, recyclers and government officials to develop an environmentally sound and economically efficient solution to deal with leftover paint.

Oregon's PaintCare program begins today and is funded in part by a surcharge on paint and stain.

DEQ Director Dick Pedersen heralded the program as "another indication that Oregon is a leader in implementing the concept of product stewardship as a means of better managing the products manufactured and used."

The American Coatings Association, a trade organization for paint manufacturers, created the non-profit organization PaintCare to administer the program. The program will provide a number of locations where consumers can leave unused paint.

"Getting this law passed took a tremendous amount of cooperation from industry, government, and other stakeholders, and it is exciting to see all the hard work finally pay off," said Scott Cassel, Executive Director of the Product Stewardship Institute. "Oregon DEQ had clear goals in mind and persistently worked with the paint industry to develop a viable plan."

For more information, visit www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/prodstewardship/paint.htm.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Amanda Smith-Teutsch at 330-865-6166 or asmith-teutsch@crain.com