Photovoltaic Module Stewardship & Takeback Program

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

ASTSWMO Joint HW & MM Training, Milwaukee WI, August 2019
Washington’s “Solar Panel” Law

- Photovoltaic Module Stewardship & Takeback Program [Chapter 70.355 RCW](#)
  - PV module manufacturers responsible for financing the takeback and recycling system for modules installed after July 2017
- Law Passed in 2017
  - Senate Bill 5939 - Primarily a tax incentive bill, with a solar stewardship program included
- Program collection begins January 2021 (not yet operational)
Timeline

- **July 2019**  Final guidance document published
- **January 2020**  Initial plans submitted to Ecology
- **January 2021**  Plans implemented and collection operational.
  Only manufacturers participating in a plan can sell in/to WA State
- **April 2022**  First annual report due

Examples: Covered in Program

- Residential rooftop with solar panels
- Large solar array on the roof of a commercial building
- Solar-powered billboard
- Solar panels on the side of a hillside

By harnessing the sun’s energy, this billboard supports the community.
Examples: NOT Covered in Program
Department’s Role

• Create guidance document (by 7/1/19) for manufacturers to use when:
  • Creating a stewardship (recycling) plan
  • Preparing an annual report
  • Listing downstream vendors
  • Creating collection network
• Review and approve plans that meet all requirements
• Enforce on manufacturers not submitting or participating in an approved plan (after 1/1/21)
Manufacturers’ Role – Plans & Programs

- Create their own plan or join stewardship organization plan.
- Include list of all manufacturers and brand names covered in plan.
- Provide convenient take back locations across state.
- Accept all types of covered PVs; no drop-off fee charged.
- Require BMPs for all collectors, transporters, and processors (ISO 14001).
- Assess and apportion program costs to all manufacturers in plan.
- Submit annual progress report.
- Update plan every five years.
Current Infrastructure & National Options

- Infrastructure needed!
  - No sites (that we know of) in WA recycling PV modules.
  - Recycling locations in: ID, OH, and WI

- National Program?
  - The law states a manufacturer may participate in a national program, if one exists that is “substantially equivalent to the intent of the state program”
  - Dept. to determine “substantial equivalence”
Thank You

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