Washington’s paint stewardship law benefits household hazardous waste programs.

A state law passed in May 2019 requires paint manufacturers to set up and operate a paint stewardship program in Washington. Household hazardous waste (HHW) programs that participate can save money on paint management costs. Program funding comes from the PaintCare Fee applied to each container of architectural paint sold in Washington when the program begins in 2020.

Paint Stewardship in Washington
PaintCare is a nonprofit organization established by the American Coatings Association (ACA) to implement state-mandated paint stewardship programs on behalf of paint manufacturers in states that adopt paint stewardship laws. While the program is required by state law, it is designed and operated by the paint manufacturing industry through PaintCare. Similar programs operate in California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Minnesota, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Designing a Program for Washington
The law requires PaintCare, on behalf of paint manufacturers, to submit a comprehensive program plan to the Washington State Department of Ecology by May 2020. PaintCare is holding a series of public meetings beginning in September 2019 to present the goals and design of the program and to receive input from HHW programs and other stakeholders.

Water-Based (Latex) Paint is a Resource
An important goal of PaintCare is to conserve resources and increase the amount of paint that is recycled. Not all HHW programs accept water-based paint because it is expensive to manage. Residents and businesses are often told to let water-based paint dry out and then dispose of the dry paint in the trash. Through the PaintCare program, all paint, including latex paint, will be recycled to the maximum extent possible.

Making Paint Recycling Convenient
PaintCare establishes drop-off sites throughout the state where residents and businesses can take their leftover architectural paint. Although most drop-off sites are paint retailers, HHW programs, solid waste transfer stations, recycling centers, and landfills may also volunteer to be PaintCare drop-off sites and have their paint transportation and recycling costs paid by PaintCare.

Facilities that would like to become a drop-off site can fill out the interest form available in the Waste Facilities section of www.paintcare.org/WA.
Benefits of Partnering with PaintCare
- Save on paint management (supplies, transportation and recycling) and public outreach costs
- Conserve resources and keep paint out of the solid waste stream
- Make recycling of leftover paint more convenient for your community

PaintCare Partners Receive
- Staff training at your site
- Paint collection bins
- Free paint transportation and processing services
- Site signage
- Compensation for value-added services including paint reuse programs, bulking of oil-based paint, and other optional services
- Publicity of HHW site or event (optional)

Drop-Off Site Responsibilities
- Provide secure storage area for cubic yard boxes or drums
- Accept PaintCare products from the public during normal operating hours
- Properly pack PaintCare products in collection bins
- Assist with loading and unloading of full and empty paint collection bins
- Complete minimal paperwork to track outgoing paint shipments
- Ensure staff are trained in PaintCare guidelines and safe operating procedures

How do billing and payments work?
- In the most common scenario, when your site ships out PaintCare program products, the hauler sends PaintCare an invoice directly. This avoids the need for reimbursement.
- If your site also contracts with PaintCare for value-added services, such as paint reuse, your city/county sends an invoice to PaintCare for reimbursement.

Will PaintCare Require Operational Changes?
- If your program does not currently accept latex paint, PaintCare will not require you to do so. If you wish to start accepting latex, PaintCare will cover the transportation and processing costs.
- If your program does not currently accept paint from businesses, PaintCare will not require you to do so. If you wish to start accepting paint from businesses, PaintCare will cover the transportation and processing costs.
- HHW programs may continue to put restrictions on who can use their programs, e.g., to residents of certain towns or cities. (PaintCare retail drop-off sites will accept paint from anyone in the state, and from both households and businesses.)

Our program would like to partner with PaintCare, what are our next steps?
- Contact PaintCare to begin contracting discussions as early as possible
- Analyze your current operations so you can describe them in detail to PaintCare to help determine the most appropriate type of contracting approach for your program
- Reach out internally to those who will be involved with the contracting process to understand their needs and time constraints
- Consult with staff involved with paint management operations to ensure they understand how partnership with PaintCare works and to address any questions and concerns with PaintCare staff
- Review the fact sheet Contracting with PaintCare for Waste Facilities for more details on contract types and other considerations as you prepare. Get a copy by contacting PaintCare or find the fact sheet in the Waste Facilities section of www.paintcare.org/WA.

Contact
Jeremy Jones
West Coast Program Manager
(415) 590-0259
jjones@paint.org