

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Resolution Re-Adopted July 28, 2009

Resolution in Support of Paint Reuse and Recycling

Issue: Recycling of paint products.

Proposed policy: NACo supports maximizing the reuse and recycling of leftover paint through a financing system that includes the paint industry that effectively covers the cost of collection, transportation, and reuse or recycling without relying solely on state and local governments.

Background: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that there are 50-130 million gallons of paint that is leftover each year in the United States. The cost to manage that paint properly would be \$400 million to \$1 billion per year. Paint management represents the largest cost to local household hazardous waste programs in Minnesota and across the country.

The 2005 Memorandum of Understanding was signed or endorsed by over 60 representatives of paint manufacturers, retailers, painting contractors, recyclers, government officials, and other relevant stakeholders. The 2005 MOU outlined work on 11 projects through September 2006 that will become the basis for developing a nationally coordinated paint management system. The 2005 MOU acknowledges that there is a shared responsibility to properly manage latex and oil-based paints at the end of their useful lives. A second MOU was signed in 2007, which outlined the National Paint and Coatings Association's intent to develop and implement an industry-lead waste paint program on a national level, beginning with Minnesota and then rolling out to other states. The primary goal of the 2007 MOU is to develop a national program that will result in:

- 1) Reduced paint waste;
- 2) The efficient collection, reuse, and recycling of leftover paint; increased markets for products made from leftover paint; and
- 3) A sustainable financing system to cover any resulting end-of-life management costs for past and future products.

Supporting objectives include decreasing the improper disposal of leftover paint, attaining the highest value possible for leftover paint, and improving container collection and recycling.

The Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board (SWMCB) includes six counties in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area in Minnesota. The SWMCB is a member of the national Paint Product Stewardship Initiative, which developed the Memorandums of Understanding.

Regarding financing, it has been pointed out that a financing system that continues to rely solely on government funding is neither equitable nor sustainable.

Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact: Passage of legislation to increase reuse and recycling of leftover paint will have positive impacts on the environment, and should be conducted in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders through development of a financing system that does not rely solely on government funding.

Submitted by: Commissioner Victoria A. Reinhardt, Ramsey County, Minnesota