

NEPSI Consolidation Points Workgroup
Summary of Issues and Outputs
January-April 2003
(6/3/03 draft)

Definitions

A “collection site” is a location where electronics are dropped off or brought to from individual residents or commercial users. A “consolidation point” is a location to which electronics from collection sites are brought for accumulating large enough loads (minimum load = 1 trailer ~53’ long, ~20,000 lbs or 20 pallets/load) for efficient transportation to processing facilities. A consolidation point need not be a fixed location, e.g., a trailer may be moved around from location to location especially in rural areas. Collection sites and consolidations points may be the same in some instances. Processing facilities will often also be consolidation points.

How many consolidation points would be needed for an effective national system?

Roughly based on the Seattle assessment where a consolidation point could serve a population of 600,000 in an urban area, 1 consolidation point would be needed for every 500,000 people (500,000 was used for ease of calculation). For the U.S., that would mean ~560 consolidation points nationwide. Assuming 1 consolidation point/500,000 people and 1.5 pounds of electronic scrap/person/year, each consolidation point would collect an estimated 750,000 pounds (or 40 trailer loads @ 20,000 pounds/load) of electronics per year.

Cost and fund the system first, then let service demand and logistics define the location and number of consolidation points.

There was considerable disagreement and discussion on the number and location of consolidation points. As an alternative to specifying predetermined locations and numbers of consolidation points, the group developed estimates of costs and funding mechanisms for a national system that collected and processed 25%, 50% or 100% of the products available for recycling in a given year. The infrastructure providers (manufacturers, recyclers, various collectors and transporters, TPO, etc.) could let service demand and logistics control the expenditure of available funds to provide the most convenient service to the greatest number of residents and businesses. This would also allow for a gradual market-driven phase-in of the infrastructure that matched the number and location of consolidation points with evolving service demand.

Work product: “Costing a National System (including consolidation points variables)”

The outputs and details of the consolidation points workgroup are available in the NEPSI internal working document Costing a National System (including consolidation points variables)” May 1, 2003 revision (posted on NEPSI website).