



12TH CANADIAN POLLUTION PREVENTION ROUNDTABLE

June 10-12, 2008
Edmonton, Alberta

Crowne Plaza- Chateau Lacombe





1.1 “CCME’s Work on Sustainable Packaging”

Christine Della Costa, Waste Reduction Specialist,
Alberta Environment

Canada-Wide Strategy on Sustainable Packaging

Pollution Prevention Roundtable
June 2008

Christine Della Costa, Alberta Environment



What is CCME?

Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment

- 14 Environment Ministers from federal, provincial and territorial governments
- Focus on national issues
- Consensus-based decisions
- Voluntary implementation



What is the EPR Task Group?

Extended Producer Responsibility Task Group

- Formed in 2006
- Provide guidance on developing & implementing EPR and product stewardship programs
- Consider packaging as a first priority
- Identify potential areas for CCME contributions

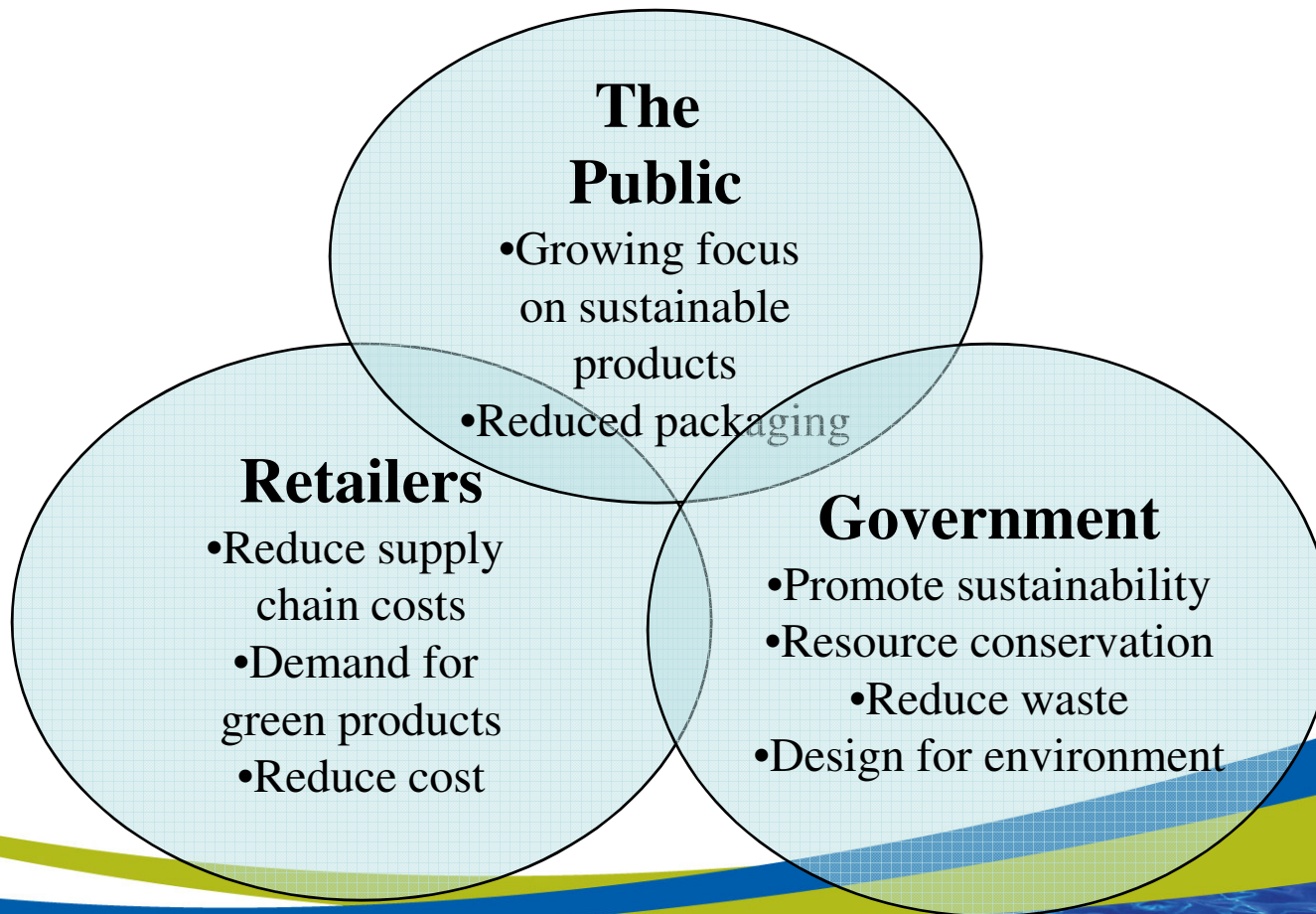


Previous CCME Packaging Work

- 1990: Endorsed the National Packaging Protocol– target of reducing total packaging waste by 50% by the year 2000.
- 1996: Target met -- many of the improvements were at “back of store”
- 2000: Task Force wrapped up -- made recommendations for continued work



Why the renewed priority?



Why a national strategy?

Likely to have a greater ability to affect “sustainability” matters if approaching them under a national context:

- Much of Canada’s packaging is designed and manufactured elsewhere (internationally)
- Relative small size of our individual economies in a global context
- Federal Gov't jurisdiction on packaging is limited to health and safety issues

[But that doesn’t erase the need for specific actions at the provincial and local levels ...]



What's happened so far?

Studies, jurisdictional scans, consultation ...

Main messages back from stakeholders:

- CCME should take a leadership role in encouraging sustainable packaging
- Develop a long-term strategy
- Identify and enact short-term actions
- “Get on with it”



Some good stuff ...

A lot of great information already out there:

- Good work done by industry, other jurisdictions and organizations can likely be endorsed in entirety or with minor modifications. For example:
 - Defining sustainable packaging
 - Design guidelines for sustainable packaging

A lot of interest from many different entities at having a national packaging framework



Some challenging stuff ...

Packaging has to take into account a complicated array of factors and needs:

- Product protection (e.g., transportation, storage)
- Complex supply chains
- Health and safety criteria (particularly for food products)
- Impact of alternate packaging
- Life cycle costs

It's probably not possible or useful to pick “winner” or “loser” materials when considering sustainability



Some more challenging stuff:

In building a national framework:

- What's the appropriate level of detail?
- How should we measure success and who should be responsible for doing it?
- How much can we achieve without regulation?
- If we do need regulation, will the provinces/territories be in a position to use the same (or close enough) regulatory framework



What's happening next?

Task Group met earlier this week:

- Reviewed the draft packaging strategy
- Identified a number of sections that need revision or further work
- Plan to have a draft ready for stakeholder review sometime this fall

- Stay tuned ...

