The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute's Stewardship Plan for Outdoor Power Equipment

October 1, 2011

Final Draft Submitted for Regulatory Approval

Version 2.0

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

The Canadian Task Force of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI-CTF) has developed a stewardship program for Outdoor Power Equipment (OPE) in BC to ensure compliance with the requirements of the British Columbia Ministry of Environment's (MoE) Recycling Regulation.

OPEs are currently defined in Schedule 3, Electronic and Electrical Product Category, Article 2.3 and includes items such as electrical snow blowers, electric lawn mowers and other electrical gardening tools. The MoE has asked that fuel-powered equipment be included within the OPEI's Product Stewardship Plan.

The OPE products within the Stewardship Program will be governed by the OPEI-CTF and the administration and implementation of the Stewardship Program will be contracted out to a company or association specializing in residuals management and stewardship.

Given the distinction between the electric-powered and fuel-powered OPEs, the OPEI-CTF will implement the Stewardship Program in three phases. The first phase of the Stewardship Program will focus on electrical-powered OPE. The second phase will research the stewardship options for fuel-powered OPE. The third phase will be the integration (where possible) of the stewardship programs for the two product types.

The estimates of recoverable OPE are relatively small compared to other stewardship programs. The OPEI-CTF estimates that between 30,000 and 40,000 electric-powered OPEs are retired every year in BC or approximately 150 to 200 tonnes. The estimates for fuel-powered OPEs are much less precise and the recyclable volumes of fuel-powered will be researched in the first two years of the program.

The collection network will feature a network of permanent return collection facilities in as well as seasonal events. The permanent recycling network will provide year-round recycling options for consumers wishing to return their unwanted OPE. In addition, the OPEI-CTF will work with willing retailers that wish to hold collection events in the spring and fall or partner with existing environmental programs. The events will be coordinated with Brandowner promotion programs and environmental programs such as Mow Down Pollution operated by Summerhill Impact and Home Depot.

The stewardship program for OPE has opted for visible environmental handling fees and the implementation method will be developed prior to the start of the program following an analysis of the supply chain.

Non-members of the OPEI will be able to participate in the OPEI Stewardship Program as long as they agree to follow the stewardship plan and remit the prescribed environmental handling fee. The OPEI-CTF will evaluate the need for environmental handling fees for fuel-powered OPEs within the first two years of the stewardship program's implementation. The OPEI Stewardship Plan will be amended should an environmental handling fee be established on fuel-powered OPEs.

1 Introduction

The Canadian Task Force of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI-CTF) has developed the following Stewardship Program to ensure its members fulfill the Producer requirements under Part 2 of the BC Ministry of Environment's Recycling Regulation.

In the Stewardship Plan, the term "Producer" is used in the context of the definition of the Recycling Regulation. Manufacturers, distributors and retailers may meet the definition of "Producer" depending on the products and their supply chain. Potential producers should contact the OPEI for more information about the definition of Producer.

1.1 Governance, Management and Administration

The OPEI-CTF will maintain the overall governance of the Stewardship Program for OPEs and the OPEI-CTF may form a Federally-registered Not-For-Profit organization under Part 2 of the Canada Corporations Act or join an existing Stewardship Agency as a platform to deliver the Stewardship Program.

Members of the OPEI will automatically become eligible to join the Stewardship Program developed by the OPEI-CTF and brandowners that are not members of the OPEI yet meet the definition of "Producer" (as defined by the Recycling Regulation) will be allowed to participate and become signatories to the Stewardship Plan. The non-OPEI members that are signatories to the Stewardship Plan will need to agree to follow the terms and conditions for Stewardship participation set by the OPEI-CTF as well as be in compliance with other International, Federal and Provincial laws.

The OPEI will contract out the administration, service delivery of the Stewardship Program as well as the research component for fuel-powered OPEs planned for the first two years of the program. Note that the contracts for administration, service delivery and research will be separate and may not be granted to the same organization. Organizations and industry will be able to bid on the work through an open RFP process.

1.2 Reporting and Review

The OPEI-CTF will review its stewardship program every five years and submit an updated stewardship plan to the Ministry of Environment for approval. The OPEI-CTF will be responsible for ensuring that all regulatory reporting, consultation and writing of the stewardship plan for regulatory agencies is completed on time and on budget.

In addition, in the first two years of the program, the OPEI-CTF will undertake a study of fuel-powered OPEs and submit a separate report to the MoE on those

results. The report will be available for public review in the same manner as the Stewardship Plan.

1.3 Management of Program Costs

The development costs associated with the Stewardship Plan will be borne by the OPEI and those costs will be recovered once the stewardship plan has been developed.

Initially, an Environmental Handling Fee (EHF) will be applied on electric-powered OPEs within the distribution chain and retailers will be encouraged to make the EHF visible to the consumer. The revenue collected will be used to cover the development costs incurred by the OPEI as well as fund the ongoing administration and implementation costs associated with the stewardship program after July 1, 2012. The OPEI-CTF will determine the structure and amount of the EHF closer to the implementation date.

No decision has been made on the need for an EHF for fuel-powered OPEs at this time.

1.4 Dispute Resolution

The OPEI has developed a general dispute resolution mechanism that will first include internal discussions, then mediation and finally commercial arbitration. The dispute resolution mechanism will be accessible to consumers, local governments, retailers and non-commercial stakeholders such as environmental groups.

There are three distinct stages to resolve differences between two or more parties.

First Stage:

The first stage is to encourage the parties to come to a fair resolution of the issue. This includes coming to a mutually agreed definition of the "problem or issue" and the development of different resolution options. Should any one of the parties be unsatisfied with the outcome of this stage, they must provide in writing to the OPEI that the first stage of the dispute resolution procedure has not been successful.

Second Stage:

The OPEI will take an active role in the mediation between the two or more parties. During this stage, the two parties will have an opportunity to describe the problem and the OPEI will develop a recommendation for consideration by the two parties.

Third Stage:

In the event that the two or more parties do not agree with the OPEI's recommendation, the OPEI will appoint a qualified mediator or an arbitrator under the Arbitration Act. The cost of the mediator or arbitrator will be borne by the parties unless the mediator or arbitrator determines that the costs should be divided differently.

In the event that the OPEI is a party in the dispute, then Stage 2 would be by-passed.

2 Stakeholder Consultation

The OPEI-CTF undertook an extensive stakeholder consultation starting in mid-August 2011. All information and details related to the consultation were posted at www.opei.ca.

The consultation involved meetings in Richmond, BC on September 12, 2011 and Nanaimo, BC on September 13, 2011. Webinars were held for participants in Kelowna on September 14, 2011 and Prince George on September 16, 2011. In addition, an International webinar was held on Tuesday September 27, 2011. Participants from Germany and the USA joined the webinar along with some stakeholders that were unable to make previous consultation meetings. Finally, written submissions were received from some Regional Districts. No members of the public participated in the consultation.

A summary of the stakeholder comments and a listing of the 80 people that participated in the consultation are summarized in Appendix 1.

There were three changes to the Stewardship Program as a result of the consultation. The first was the recognition that the supply chain for OPEs needs to be further evaluated to find the most appropriate point to introduce the Environmental Handling Fee (EHF). A more detailed discussion needs to take place with distributors and wholesalers; however, the general principle of a visible EHF at the point of sale remains in the Stewardship Plan.

The second change will be to use the ISO's definitions for garden equipment to help the OPEI-CTF and Ministry of Environment put boundaries on the stewardship program.

The third change was to the approach used for Regional Districts with large rural populations. The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has prepared a Position Paper on the Implementation of EPR Programs. The document is very useful as it provides Stewardship programs principles and expectations of stewardship in rural areas. The OPEI-CTF will test its program in that Regional District and adopt the criteria for other regional districts as appropriate.

3 Product Life Cycle

Outdoor power equipment is a broad category of products that are used in consumer and commercial applications. The products can be very small handheld-electric powered leaf-blowers to large diesel-powered tractors.

The general description of the applications the different types of OPE are summarized below in Table 1.

Table 1: Types of Outdoor Power Equipment sold in British Columbia

Category	Type of OPE	Description / Application
Consumer	Riders	Tractors / Utility Vehicles
	Mowers	Walk / Riding Lawn Mowers
	Edgers/Trimmers	Fixed Blade / Line
	Rotary Tillers	Garden / Vegetable Gardens
	Snow Throwers	Walk / Ride
	Handheld	Blowers
		Brushcutters
		Chain Saws
		Cut-Off Machines
		Augers
		Drills
		Tiller
		Hedge Trimmers
		Pole Pruners
		Split-Boom Products
		Stick Edger
		Trimmers
Commercial	Landscape	All Types Listed Above
	Golf	All Types Listed Above

3.1 Market Size

There are a wide range of OPEs currently sold in British Columbia. Typical products include lawn mowers, snow blowers, leaf blowers, trimmers and finally chain saws. While there is a wide range of product types, the OPEs can be categorized into two power groups: electric and fuel.

3.1.1 Electric-Powered Outdoor Power Equipment

The electric-powered OPEs include electric lawn mowers, electric snow blowers and electric garden equipment. The battery OPEs use Lithium Ion or Lead-Acid batteries and the electric OPEs are plugged into a regular 110V, 15amp electrical wall socket.

There are virtually no public statistics for the sale of electric lawn mowers and snow blowers sales in BC. For the purpose of the Stewardship Plan, the OPEI-CTF used the following assumptions to estimate the number of electric lawn mowers sold in BC per year. The assumptions are: 1 million homes in BC; a 10 year life-span and a 10% market share. Based on these assumptions, an estimate of 10,000 electric-lawn mowers are sold in BC every year.

The estimate for electric snow blowers is even less precise with an estimate of 1,000 electric snow blowers sold last year.

The majority of electric OPEs are in the handheld category and the industry has some statistics on the market size in BC (Table 2). Based on the limited industry data, less than 30 % of the handheld category will be electric or battery powered.

Table 2: Handheld Products Sold in British Columbia

Market Size					Life Span			
Unit	Fuel	Electric	Battery		Commercial	Years	Consumer	Years
Chain Saws	20,800	3,250	130		20%	3	80%	15-20
Trimmers Brushcutters	35,100	13,000	390		20%	3	80%	10-15
Leaf Blowers	10,400	7,500	130		20%	5	80%	10-15
Hedge Trimmers	1,700	2,600	130		20%	7	80%	10-15
Other Power Tools (cement saws, augers, tillers)	2,600	650	0		95%	3	5%	15-20
Totals	69,600	27,000	780					

*Based on Canadian statistics and BC being 13% of the Canadian Market Share.

The average life span of an electric OPE varies depending on their design and application. However, the OPEI believes that the market share of electric OPE has been stable for a number of years and as such, the number of electric OPEs sold in British Columbia is thought to be a close approximation of the number of unwanted OPEs that will need to be accounted for in the Stewardship Plan.

If this assumption is correct, the potential number of collected electric OPE is estimated to be 30,000 to 40,000 units per year. Using an average weight of 5kg, the OPEI estimates that the weight of the collected electric product is 150,000 to 200,000kg/yr in British Columbia.

Of significance is the relatively small number of electric OPEs that are expected to be recovered on an annual basis. In comparison, small appliances and electronics are expecting 7,500 and 18,000 tonnes annually vs the 150 to 200 metric tonnes for electric OPEs.

3.1.2 Fuel-Powered Outdoor Power Equipment

The volumes of fuel-powered OPEs are more difficult to estimate because of the lack of sales data and the longer life cycle of the product. In addition, the existing steel recycling infrastructure is currently collecting these materials because of the commodity value of the metals; however, the recycling information of steel recyclers is anecdotal and not quantified.

The OPEI will undertake a two year study to develop an estimate of the products and their life cycle.

3.1.3 Seasonality of Sales

Outdoor Power Equipment is a seasonal product with the majority of sales occurring in the spring and fall. The winter months (December through February) have the lowest sales presumably because this is a period of low utilization of OPEs by consumers.

3.2 Product Composition

3.2.1 Electric Outdoor Power Equipment

Metals and plastics are the primary commodities recovered from electric-powered OPEs. The metals are primarily steel, aluminum and copper and the target is to recover and sell over 90% of the metals for their commodity value.

The plastics are a variety of polyolefins. The recyclability of these plastics will need to be determined once the programs have been established. If the polyolefins cannot be recycled, then energy recovery is the next best environmental management option.

3.2.2 Fuel-Powered OPE

In addition to the metal and plastics recycling options listed above, gas-powered OPE contains hazardous materials such as gasoline mixed with oil, gasoline, waste oil and lead-acid batteries.

A research study of fuel-powered OPEs will be commissioned and managed by the OPEI-CTF in the first two years of the Stewardship Program. The study will quantify the existing "informal" recycling network for fuel-powered OPE and identify possible gaps in coverage, public awareness, etc. The research study will be open and transparent with the involvement of local government, consumers, ENGOs and the BC Ministry of Environment.

3.3 Re-Use Programs

Every Stewardship Program is required to establish a reuse program. Currently the re-use of OPE is very well developed though re-selling websites such as Craig's List; garage sales as well as charitable organizations such as the Salvation Army or local product dealerships.

Valuable OPEs that are not at the end of the functional life are not expected to be dropped off at return collection facilities or events because they have a residual value. The reuse of functional OPEs will be encouraged in communication materials to the public.

4 Program Performance

The program will be implemented in three phases. The first phase will focus on electrical OPE. The second phase will undertake research in the current recycling and stewardship options of fuel-powered OPEs. The third phase will be the integration (if possible) of the fuel and electrical OPE programs.

The programs performance will be measured and reported for BC at the OPEI's stewardship website www.opei.ca. The following sections summarize the different performance measures and the actions used to achieve its long-term targets.

4.1 Consumer Awareness

The key factors to the successful recovery and processing of products in a Stewardship Program are awareness and support for the program by consumers.

The OPEI will set a long-term target for awareness after a baseline survey in the first year. The action items related to consumer awareness are:

1. Undertake an annual consumer awareness survey to determine:
    - The baseline level of awareness and support for the Stewardship Program in Year 1 followed by a similar survey in urban areas in Year 2 and rural areas in Year 3;
    - if the long-term targets are being met; and,
    - if the communication materials need to be altered or targeted on certain sectors of the population.

2. Prepare the written communication materials in the first year and distribute 5,000 brochures/yr to:
    - consumers at the point of purchase;
    - return-collection and recycling facilities; and,
    - the RCBC hotline and local governments.

    The communication materials will focus on raising the awareness and support for the reuse and recycling of OPEs as well as the safe handling of unwanted OPEs. Further, the OPEI-CTF will work with national brandowners and have national advertizing campaigns that

can include the communication materials about the recycling of OPE and the subsequent environmental benefits. Finally, the OPEI recognizes that there are a few French-speaking communities in British Columbia and communication materials will be prepared in both English and French.

3. Ensure the stewardship website and the websites of Retailers and Producers contains current information and communication materials regarding the Stewardship Program for OPEs in British Columbia. The main stewardship website will be established by July 1, 2012 and will be the central website for consumers and industry to obtain information about the location of return collection facilities in their community. Before the end of Year 2, a Google Maps application will delineate the locations of the return collection facilities for consumers.

To ensure that the stewardship program is adequate for rural areas, the OPEI will contact each Regional Districts on an annual basis to assess the effectiveness of the outreach programs. The results of the assessment will be included in the Annual Report and the results will be used to modify the communication materials as necessary.

4.2 Collection System and Consumer Access

The current stewardship model in BC is to have a network of return-collection facilities that bulk ships the unwanted products to a central facility for processing. This model is not desirable for OPEs because many of the stewarded products are large, bulky and heavy.

As such, the OPEI-CTF recognizes that OPE is a different type of product from the typical Stewarded product and the OPEI-CTF believes that the collection and transportation network for OPEs should:

- be capable of handling larger and heavier products (e.g., tractors and utility vehicles);
- be capable of processing the products close to the point of collection thus minimizing transportation costs; and,
- recognize the inherent value of the copper, aluminum and steel in the product.

The OPEI-CTF is proposing to take a non-conventional approach and utilize the existing collection and transportation network operated by the steel recycling business.

The following Steel Recyclers currently collect and recycle OPEs.

City	Steel Recycler
Victoria	Schnitzer Steel Pacific
Duncan	Schnitzer Steel Pacific
Nanaimo	Schnitzer Steel Pacific
Courtney	Schnitzer Steel Pacific
Campbell River	Schnitzer Steel Pacific
Richmond	Richmond Steel
Surrey	Schnitzer Amix Steel
Burnaby	ABC Recycling
Abbotsford	CCON Metals
Chilliwack	Schnitzer Amix Steel
Langley	ABC Recycling
Powell River	Augusta Recycling
Penticton	Action Steel Sales
Kelowna	Action Steel Recycling
Kamloops	Rivershore Used Auto Parts
Williams Lake	Williams Lake Salvage
Prince George	Richmond Steel
Fort St John	Richmond Steel
Terrace	Bold Metals
Nelson	Balfour Metals
Cranbrook	Columbia Metals

The steel recyclers listed above have an elaborate collection network that can serve as drop-off locations that the public can drop off unwanted OPEs at no charge. The additional drop-off locations include as many as 120 steel and automotive recyclers in urban and rural locations as well as local governments that have roll-off-bins for steel in rural and remote locations. The steel and automotive recyclers in BC are ideal return collection facilities for fuel-powered OPEs because they are regulated by the MoE and have established Environmental Management Program for hazardous wastes.

4.2.1 Return Collection Facilities

While the OPEI-CTF favours the steel recycling network, the task force will likely issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the administration of the collection, transportation and recycling of OPEs. Stewardship Agencies and companies will be encouraged to bid on the RFP through an open bidding process. The RFP will require contracts for over 100 return collection facilities in urban and rural locations by the end of 2013 and 120 by the end of 2014. The return collection facilities must be convenient for the public to drop off electrical OPE in Phase 1 of the Stewardship Program and capable of processing fuel-powered OPEs in the third phase of the program.

The OPEI-CTF will include a requirement in the RFP to provide adequate coverage for the collection of OPEs in rural communities. The RFP will require the contractor to consider the guidelines prepared by the Product Stewardship Council of BC and test the suitability of the Position Paper on Implementation of EPR Programs in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako as well as individual input from the Regional Districts. By the end of the first year, the contractor will ensure that each Regional District will have a rural delivery program for OPEs and the contractor will be required to contact all the Regional Districts on an annual basis to assess and improve the rural delivery of the program.

By the end of the third year of the program, the RFP will require a minimum of 120 return collection facilities in urban and rural communities with an average travel time for 95% of the urban population of less than 25km.

4.2.2 Events

The OPEI-CTF will include in the RFP the requirement for events at retailers that want to partner for OPE Stewardship events. Some retailers will want to participate in a return-to-retail type of event in the spring or fall to promote their products. In addition, the Stewardship Program will generate a lot of public service announcements from the media providing value to the retailer and distributor.

The OPEI will conduct 25 events in 2013, 40 events in 2014 and by the third year of the Stewardship Plan, the OPEI-CTF will contract for a minimum of 50 events per year for the public to bring unwanted OPEs.

4.2.3 Linkages to Other Stewardship Programs

Outdoor power equipment comes in a wide range of shapes and sizes - from very simple battery operated handheld products to very large and complex products. Some unwanted OPEs have waste tires, waste lead-acid batteries, waste oils, waste fuel and in some cases waste antifreeze.

In addition, the OPEI-CTF will seek partnerships with an event-driven program entitled “Mow Down Pollution”. This program operated in BC by Summerhill Impact and Home Depot stores is designed to promote the retirement of 2-stroke lawn mowers.

The OPEI-CTF will ensure that the return collection facilities that will provide the collection and transportation network will be linked into the collection networks for other stewarded products including lead-acid batteries, tires, used oil and waste antifreeze.

4.3 Recovery Rates

The Recovery Rates will be calculated on the weight of recovered product vs the weight of product sold. A baseline recovery rate for electric-powered OPEs will be established during the first year of operation once some sales and recovery data have been collected.

Meaningful Recovery Rates will be established above the baseline in subsequent years. Recovery Rates will be calculated on a weight-basis with periodic audits to determine the composition and weight of each recovered item. Statistical analysis will be used to determine the number of audits that are needed to have confidence in the collected data.

The following table summarizes the Recovery Actions and Targets for the first five years of the Stewardship Program.

Year	Sales of OPE	Weight of OPE Collected	Recovery Rate
1	Establish Baseline	Establish Baseline	Baseline to be Calculated
2	Target to be set after Year 1	Target to be set after Year 1	Establish Meaningful Target after Year 1 Results Prepared
3	Target to be set after Year 2	Target to be set after Year 2	Determine Rate of Improvement and Strategy to 75% Recovery Rate
4	Target to be set after Year 2	Target to be set after Year 2	Monitor Rate of Improvement and Adjust Program as Necessary
5	Target to be set after Year 2	Target to be set after Year 2	Monitor Rate of Improvement and Adjust Program as Necessary

5.0 Management of Environmental Impacts

There are three important aspects to minimizing the environmental impacts: Product Design for the Environment; Ecological Footprint of the Stewardship Program and the Recycling of Recovered Commodities. The efforts of the OPEI-CTF in these three aspects will be documented as the program is being developed and tracked in the OPEI's annual report.

With respect to Design for the Environment, the OPEI works through a series of committees. One of the primary committees is the Clean Air Act Committee (CAAC). The CAAC oversees all activities associated with emissions from ground supported lawn and garden engines and equipment, serves as the liaison organization between the industry and regulatory agencies and develops programs that reduce emissions from lawn and garden engines/equipment and associated

products. For more information about the CAAC, contact the OPEI at kreamy@opei.org.

The Ecological Footprint of the OPEI stewardship program in British Columbia will be developed once the collection, transportation and recycling programs have been finalized. Of interest to the OPEI is the CO2 footprint of the program and the OPEI programs designed to reduce the CO2 footprint of the Stewardship Program.

Finally, the OPEI stewardship program will track of recovered materials using the Pollution Prevention Hierarchy. Of particular interest is the percentage of metals recovered during processing as well as initiatives designed to increase the metal recovery and prevent "down cycling".

6.0 Summary of Targets and Timelines

Performance Measures	**Targets**		
	Year 1	**Year 2**	**Year 3 etc.**
Recovery Rate	Gather baseline sales and collection data for electric-powered OPEs	Set targets to be set during the first quarter of 2013 following baseline data collection period	Evaluate Recovery Rates and Rate of Improvement - modify targets as necessary
	Conduct Research study on fuel powered OPEs		Establish fuel-powered collection rates and targets
Consumer Awareness	Conduct Baseline Consumer Awareness Survey	Conduct Consumer Awareness Survey in urban area	Conduct Consumer Awareness Survey in rural area
		25% of the OPE consumers aware of stewardship program by end of 2014	Increase public awareness by 5% per year to 75% awareness of consumers
	Distribute minimum of 5,000 pamphlets per year to consumers	Distribute minimum of 5,000 pamphlets per year to consumers	Distribute minimum of 5,000 pamphlets per year to consumers and send pamphlets to commercial associations – eg BC Golf Superintendents Ass.
	Establish website for consumer information	Develop Google Maps application for Return Collection Facilities	Update and maintain website expand to fuel-powered OPEs
	Test rural guidelines prepared by the Bulkley-Nechako Regional District and adapt to other Regional Districts to ensure adequate rural service	Contact each Regional District to evaluate and change rural service	Contact each Regional District to evaluate and change rural service
Collection System and Accessibility:			
	100 Return Collection Facilities (RCFs) by end of 2013	120 RCFs by end of 2014	Evaluate need for more RCFs on annual basis

	25 events by end of 2013	40 events by end of 2014	50 events and evaluate effectiveness of event and expand or contract number of events based on that evaluation
	80% of population by end of 2013 within 25km of collection site	95% of population by 2014 within 25km of collection site	Maintain target levels
Management Systems	Establish Contracts for Administration and Service Delivery	Evaluate on Annual Basis and make changes as necessary	
	Establish Terms of Reference for Research Study on Fuel-Powered and issue RFP	Complete Research Study on Fuel Powered and integrate and amend Stewardship Plan as necessary	
		Establish DfE; ecological footprint and recycling index as environmental indicators	Track Environmental Indicators and look for trends.

In January of each year, the OPEI will develop an Annual Business Plan that will be published on the stewardship website. The Annual Business Plan will:

- summarize the information in the Annual Report submitted to the MoE;
- assess the successes and areas for improvement in the coming 12 months;
- prepare a 12 month action plan that support the implementation of the Stewardship Plan and the achievement of targets and objectives.

Appendix 1: Summary of Comments and Responses Made During Consultation Process

Regional Meetings and Webinars

Comment	Response
Will there be a "Re-Use" Option in the Stewardship Plan	Yes. OPEs that are in working order are currently sold and given away by the consumer. The life span for a premium product can approach 20 to 30 years. The communication materials will promote reuse; however, when a product is returned to a recycling centre, the expectation is that the product will be destroyed and the commodities recovered. The only exception to that will be the OPEs that are returned during events to dealers. The dealers have the professional expertise to determine if a product or its parts can be re-used.
Will commercial products be included in the Stewardship Program and how are they defined.	Some commercial products will be included in the Stewardship Plan but the boundaries of the size and weight of the products within the stewardship plan are still being negotiated with the MoE. The majority of commercial products will be fuel powered and some of those items will not be included until July 1, 2014.
Will products that have high plastic content and hence no commodity value be excluded or refused at a recycling depot	No. All OPE in the stewardship plan will be taken at a depot – even if it does not have sufficient commodity value to justify the recycling. The collection of all OPE will be a requirement of a recycler in the program and fortunately, the majority of OPEs will have sufficient metals to provide a positive value to the recycler.
As more product stewardship programs are added, there are more depots added and that may not be the same location and this is confusing to the public.	Agree; however, the Stewardship Program must provide a collection, transportation and processing network that meet the needs of the product. In many communities, the depots will be the same location. Unfortunately some of the fuel-powered products have hazardous materials and some depots will not be suitable to take OPE.

	Further, it will be equally confusing to the public if they have to take an electrical-powered OPE to one location and a fuel-powered OPE to another location.
Some Regional Districts currently collect OPE and they generate money from the commodity value of the recovered product. How will the program work with the different regional districts to maintain the current infrastructure and avoid any conflicts?	The OPEI will be in contact with each Regional District to ensure that the existing recycling network is utilized and enhanced where needed. It is the expectations of the OPEI to enhance the existing recycling system not disrupt the existing recycling system. If the regional districts have an profitable steel recycling system, then they can expect to continue to recycle for OPEs.
There are many sites already accepting OPEs. Will they be excluded from the program and the OPE currently collected be given to a competitor?	No. There are no plans to exclude recyclers from collecting OPEs. Rather the goal of the OPEI program is to preserve the market conditions and promote participation by consumers. Sites currently accepting OPEs can continue to collect OPEs assuming they meet all regulatory requirements.
Will there be Operational Controls and inspections of the facilities removing hazardous materials – will there be a level playing field between recyclers?	Yes. The OPEI recognizes the importance of the management of hazardous wastes and the depots will be required to recover, store and transport the hazardous materials in a manner that is compliant with the Hazardous Waste Regulation (HWR). In addition, depots will be required to demonstrate compliance to the HWR.
Eco-fees are too low	The OPEI is very conscious of the eco-fee problems experienced in Ontario last year and the public outcry against excessive eco-fees. The OPEI recognizes that there are limits to what the public will tolerate and the OPEI has tried to minimize the impact on consumers by: 1) utilizing and enhancing the existing network of steel and other recyclers that are current collect and recycle OPEs; 2) capitalizing on the commodity value in the residual metals to cover the cost of the collection, transportation and recycling; 3) minimizing the overhead of the Stewardship Program by contracting out the administration of the program.

Reporting will be a challenge	Agreed. The OPEI recognizes that imposing reporting requirements on recyclers that are currently collection and recycling OPEs will be a challenge. Further, because of the positive commodity value of the larger OPE, there will be many OPEs that are not reported to program and this "leakage" around the program is inevitable. The goal of the program is to ensure that OPEs do not end up in municipal landfills and other types of surveys may be utilized by the OPEI to demonstrate that OPEs are being recycled appropriately and not landfilled.

Written Comments Received by OPEI-CTF

Comments	Response
The OPEI Plan is insufficiently detailed – stewardship plans should provide firm details on program governance, collection systems, recovery rates and program monitoring – cannot provide meaningful comments on a plan that provides few concrete commitments.	The OPEI recognizes that it is difficult for a Regional District to assess the impact of a stewardship plan without sufficient detail. However, the OPEI cannot enter into commitments with recyclers prior to the completion of consultation and there is some indication from the regulatory authorities that the approach will be approved by the Director.
The approach to stakeholder consultation is inadequate and there is only 5 days for the OPEI to review and meaningfully consider stakeholder comments.	The OPEI followed the MoE Consultation Guidelines and provided a similar level of consultation as the other stewardship programs. Further, the OPEI has been compiling and evaluating the stakeholder comments throughout the 45 days of consultation and making adjustments as necessary.
The OPEI plan describes a problematic approach to product stewardship in BC for rural areas for the following reasons: • Too few collection facilities leaving many communities without service; • Complicated return system that is difficult for consumers to understand; • Inadequate promotion of the program	The OPEI acknowledges that the servicing of rural communities is a challenge. On the one hand the stewardship program is expected to provide province wide service for rural programs and on the other hand, new programs are expected to achieve high recovery rates.

by producers and product stewards	The OPEI will evaluate the Position Paper on Implementation of EPR by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and test is suitability for other Regional Districts. The OPEI also acknowledges that as more product stewardship programs are designated in the Recycling Regulation, the return collection systems will get more complicated. That is one of the reasons why the OPEI choose to work with the steel recyclers that are already recycling OPEs in the communities. The OPEI is confident that after several years of program delivery, consumers will be well informed about the recycling options for Outdoor Power Equipment.
The OPEI program relies on local government to fulfill some of the responsibility of the product stewards.	Where possible, the OPEI will use commercial operations as return collection facility and any transactions with Regional Districts will be on a business-to-business relationship.
Not including gas powered system is going to make it difficult to educate residents on the program	The OPEI has made a commitment to include gas powered systems after a two year research period. In the interim, the OPEI will encourage the consumer to re-use and recycle all unwanted products. There should be no confusion or impact on the consumer other than an Environmental Handling Fee on certain products.
By applying an eco-fee to non-gas powered equipment there is a financial incentive to use gas powered equipment vs human powered and electric powered.	The OPEI understands this concern but believes that, on average, an electric powered product will be priced around the $50 to $70 price range while a fuel powered product will be start at a $200. A small eco-fee on an electric product should not influence the consumer choice because of the large price difference between the two product categories.
Consumer awareness is totally unacceptable.	The OPEI will contract out the consumer awareness part of the program. To date, the OPEI has discussed the program

	implementation with StewardEdge, Product Care and Waste Management Inc. The consumer awareness portion of the program will be launched prior to the implementation of the stewardship program on July 1, 2012.
Stewards should rely more on waste composition data and studies for evaluating their programs. Recovery rates are not a reliable measure of evaluating and are too easy to manipulate.	The OPEI agrees that waste composition studies can provide useful information and demonstrate that OPEs are being recycled by steel recyclers and being diverted from landfills.
Does the program include parts from outdoor power equipment or equipment that is fully intact.	The OPEI will accept OPE parts from the public as they will have a metal content and a commodity value. The challenge will be to track these parts and incorporate the parts in the recovery rates.

International Webinar Held September 27th, 2011

The ISO has developed guidelines for the standardization of terminology for OPE. The guidelines may help the OPEI-CTF better define the products that are covered by the Recycling Regulation. Specifically, the ISO guidelines provide clear definitions for garden, forestry and farming OPE.	The OPEI-CTF will obtain and review the ISO documents developed for the EU and use these guidelines to better define the products included in Recycling Regulation.
The European Union has debated whether or not fuel powered OPEs should be recycled with electrical powered OPEs. The EU concluded that fuel powered OPEs should be in a separate recycling stream because of the hazardous materials within the fuel powered. The EU decided to include the fuel powered OPEs within the same recycling stream as vehicles.	The OPEI-CTF was not aware of the EU's decision; however, the OPEI-CTF has come to the same conclusion. Because the steel recycling industry represented by CARI-BC processes end-of-life vehicles, the OPEI-CTF believes that the proposed approach is consistent with the approach in the EU. The OPEI-CTF will review the conclusions of the EU and adopt policies and procedures where appropriate.
There is a gray area with respect to the definition of commercial products within the stewardship program. ESABC will face this dilemma when implementing Phase 4 products come July 1, 2012. The Phase 4 products include more commercial printers and the gray area is whether or not large commercial printing presses are included or	The OPEI-CTF will continue to work with the Ministry of Environment to clearly identify the commercial products that are to be included in the stewardship plan. The OPEI-CTF hopes that the ISO guidelines mentioned earlier in the webinar to provide clarity to the discussion.

excluded from the stewardship program.	
The Mow Down Pollution program operated by Summerhill Impact and Home Depot have used the steel recyclers in BC to assist with the collection and processing of OPEs. The Mow Down Pollution program has been working across Canada for the past 11 years and the steel recyclers have provided the service to the program at no charge because there is a residual value for the metals in the OPE.	The OPEI-CTF has been in discussions with the steel recyclers through CARI-BC. The CARI-BC recyclers have been supportive of the Mow Dow Pollution Program for the past 11 years and the OPEI-CTF will discuss the expansion of the program where possible.
Will there be any special consideration for batteries in the OPE program. Most of the batteries used in electrical OPEs are Lithium Ion. Lithium ion batteries over 100 Watt hours are considered to be a Class 9 TDG.	Based on discussions with manufacturers, the majority of battery operated OPEs are Lithium ion although there remain some small sealed lead-acid batteries within that product category. A 100 Watt hour Lithium battery will weigh approximately 1.8kg and hence will qualify for stewardship under the Call2Recycle program. The operational controls for batteries collected under the OPEI program will be developed to ensure regulatory compliance and partnerships will be sought with the Call2Recycle Stewardship Program for the recycling of small rechargeable batteries.
The supply distribution chain for OPEs will pose challenges for the collection of eco-fees at the manufacturer level.	The OPEI-CTF recognizes that there remain some important challenges as the implementation details are being finalized. However, these internal issues do not require consultation with stakeholders nor do these operational issues require regulatory approval. As such, the OPEI-CTF's first priority is to complete the consultation and submit the stewardship plan on October 1, 2011 for regulatory approval. Once the OPEI-CTF gets confirmation that the basic approach proposed to use the existing steel recycling infrastructure will be accepted by the regulatory agencies, then the implementation issues will be tackled by the OPEI-CTF team.

	Finally, the approach proposed in the draft OPEI stewardship plan is consistent with the approach used by other stewardship programs. The other stewards on the webinar noted that they use the term Environmental Handling Fee instead of eco-fees.

List of Participants in the Consultation Process

Jay Aarsen	Interior Freight and Bottle
Stephanie Afoakwah	EECOL ELECTRIC
Meegan Armstrong	Ministry of Environment
Corinne Atwood	BC Bottle Depot Association
John Bailie	Electro-Federation Canada
Basil Batten	Wide Sky Disposal 1989 Ltd
Cameron Baughen	RDOS
Tanya Begin	The Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society
Keith Bell	Keith Bell and Associates Ltd
Wendy Bennett	RDOS
Marla Bondar	Metro Vancouver
David Bromley	RDCK
Grace Brouwer	RDCK
Jeremy Buttery	MTD Southwest Ltd
Blake Clarke	Honda Canada
Neil Cook	Kootenays WM
Gerry Coons	Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Vaughn Crofford	CHHMA
Steve Crossman	RDKB
Jason Dault	Regional Recycling
Angelo DeThomasis	Stihl Limited
Terry Ditch	Echo Limited
Andrew Doi	Metro Vancouver
Janine Dougall	RDBN
Loree Duczek	RDEK
Tim Dueck	RDKB
Glen Farrow	City of Kamloops
Carmen Fennell	CSRD
Krista Friesen	Sumerhill Impact

Don Hamilton	RDOS
Kevin Hodgins	Pacific Metals Ltd.
Sharon Horsburgh	Regional District of Nanaimo
Tammy Hrab	Northern Environmental Action Team
Reid Hudson	Schnitzer Steel
Peter Hughes	TNRD
Jay Illingworth	eStewardship.ca (ACES, ESABC & SWEEP)
Tracey Jones	Home Hardware Stores Limited
John Kendler	Urban Impact Recycling Ltd.
Austin (You seung) Kim	BBK Holdings Inc.
Dennis Kinsey	BFI Canada
Kris Kiser	Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Nicole Kohnert	NORD
Emy Lai	City of Richmond
Lauren Lee	Sears Canada
Alex Limongelli	WM
Holger Lochmann	Stihl Limited
Craig Lorch	Total Reclaim inc
Mark Lotzkar	Pacific Metals Ltd.
Ela Lukowska	City of Surrey
Eve‐Lyn Wolters	CORD
Adriana Mailloux	TNRD
Karen Mason-Bennett	NEAT
Grant Matichuk	Battery Doctor
Maury McCausland	London Drugs
Brock Macdonald	RCBC
Terri McClymont	The Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society
Rob McGregor	RDKB
Kathleen Milward	Cowichan Valley Regional District
Ken Muller	City of Kelowna
Walter Muller	BMR Quality Coordinator
Janis Netzel	SLRD
Martin O’Connor	Newalta
Kevin Paterson	RDEK
Jim Penson	RDEK
Daniel Reshef	Canadian Tire
Frank Rhebergen	BC Ministry of Environment
Dave Ross	Emterra Environmental
Rachael Ryder	Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
Paul Shorting	Nanaimo Bottle Depot
Lyn Smirl	BC Ministry of Environment

Alan Stanley	RDKB
Rae Stewart	CORD
Bryan Teasdale RDKB	RDKB
Ben Van Nostrand	CSRD
Jamie Vieira	TNRD
Isaac Walker	CSRD
Tracey Weldon	City of Burnaby
Craig Wisehart	ESABC
Grace Wong	Canadian Tire Corporation
Rey Yapyuco	Urban Impact Recycling Ltd.