

# **Summary of Facilitated Brainstorming Session & Conference Wrap Up: Priorities and Actions for the Next Five Years**

**Tuesday, May 24, 2005 – Portland, Maine**

## **Group 1: Legislation and Programs Across the Country**

**Action:** Thermostats

- Ban on Sales
- Improved Collection
- Disposal/Incineration Ban

**How:**

- Work with existing groups (technical resource)
- Model legislation
- Fact sheet & Industry rebuttal

**Who:**

- ECOS - Quicksilver Caucus
- State Leads

## **Group 2: Outreach & Education**

**Action:** National Public Awareness program focusing on health effects of Mercury

**How:**

- Basic info on mercury-free products
- Campaign
- Icon
- Logo
- Promote household collection
- Personal actions list

**Who:**

- National Coalition TBD & EPA

### **Group 3: State Collaboration and Consistency Among States**

**Action:** Develop Consensus on Mercury products that are ripe for National Action so many states act concurrently

**How:**

- Evaluate Hg Compendium
- Identify top three issues
- Show sensitivity to Regional Differences
- Review Priority Issues with States
- Develop and Implement Action Plans for Targeted Sectors

**Who:**

- Quicksilver Caucus

### **Group 4: Information & Data Management**

**Action:** National Hg Reduction Programs Database is well-populated, accessible & maintained.

**How:**

- Institutionalize gathering of program descriptions by emailing periodic reminders & making individual contacts to local programs

**Who:**

- NEWMOA (maintains as part of P2RX), EPA Regional P2 Coordinators (do outreach see “HOW”)

### **Group 5: Enforcing Existing Regulations**

**Action:** Commitment to enforce

**How:**

- Acquire additional funding focused on enforcement resources – via: fee-based, taxes, and/or shifting existing resources.

**Who:**

- States (ECOS?)

## **Group 6: Product Bans & Phase-outs**

**Action:** Critical mass of states with switch and relay phase-out  
Legislation - tipping point

**How:**

- Provide Information resources to interested states
  - Legislation Primer/outreach & education
  - Basic toolbox – network support
  - Lowell report

**Who:**

- States that have passed legislation, and other parties working toward legislation

## **Group 7: Product Stewardship**

**Action:** Phase out sales Hg thermostats and increase collection/recycling

**How:**

- Multi-state focus on big chain retailers and stakeholder dialogue
- Investigate manufacturer financed bounty
- Develop model legislation; Be persistent with legislative action sales bans
- Increase number of states in stakeholder dialogue

**Who:**

- Product Stewardship Institute and state and local members, manufacturers & retailers

## **Group 8: Relations with Manufacturers**

**Action:** Commit to open communication between stakeholders to further mercury reduction efforts

**How:**

- Identify strategies to bring reluctant participants to the table
- Invite company representatives as well as trade association staff (or lobbyist)
- When you can, shop around for the right individuals to come, to make exchanges productive and valuable for all.
- Maximize opportunities for networking (realizing as much progress can happen there as in formal sessions)
- Broaden purposes of next conference. Include industry in planning for, and participating in.
- Address realistic and tangible issues
- Set up interim opportunities BEFORE the next conference
- Include Information in IMERC alert to open early dialogue with manufacturers

**Who:**

- Task force with variety of representatives not led by anyone from table 8
- Regional
- States
- Manufacturers
- EPA HQ & Regions
- Other federal & state agencies as needed
- NGOS

## **Group 9: Waste Management & Recycling**

**Action:** Prevent Hg products and waste from going to landfills, incinerators & into wastewater

**How:**

- Model successful state/local programs that
  - Develop infrastructure
  - Education & outreach
  - Funding/resources for monitoring/ enforcement
  - Remove exemptions

**Who:**

- Regulators (State &/or Federal) requiring action from:
  - Dentists
  - Manufacturers
  - Consumers
  - Municipalities

## **Group 10: International Coordination**

**Action:** Contribute to the development of active, effective UNEP Hg Partnerships to better characterize and reduce Hg uses, releases and exposure

**How:**

- Organizations with Hg expertise commit resources to international efforts

**Who:**

- State and local governments EPA HQ/Regions (Fed Govt.) NGO's, Industry

## **Group 11: Stockpiling & Storage**

**Action:** Identify & resolve the legal, financial & sighting requirements necessary for the long term safe and secure monitored storage of surplus Hg, taking into account the need for incentives for phase outs and retirement of Hg from the private sector, while recognizing the need to curtail or eliminate trade in Mercury

**How:**

- Form a workgroup to develop a broad consensus to build a national program for long term storage of Mercury stockpiles
- Build upon ECOS resolutions, DOD, EIS and QSC reports on storage

**Who:**

- Initial group of federal & state agencies
- Broader group: all relevant NGO's Fed agencies, states, recyclers, Int. organizations, industry (C.A.)