

Clean Water Action's Statement of Interest in Retail Waste Issues

CWA is a national organization of over 1 million members, with approximately 50,000 in California. We are concerned with the health of our waterways, drinking water sources, as well as overall public health and environmental justice. While our diverse programs address existing pollution and toxic issues, we cannot reasonably expect to continue to contaminate ourselves or our environment and treat our way out of these problems. Such a model is not technologically feasible and creates an undue economic burden on consumers, government, and business. Consequently, we need to address the problem at the source.

CWA's "upstream" preventative approach focuses on:

1. promoting the development of non-toxic products and processes through the use of green chemistry-based solutions and non-chemical alternatives in order to prevent hazardous materials from entering the environment;
2. reducing the generation of waste;
3. ensuring that products with toxic or hazardous properties are disposed of properly at the end of their useful lives to ensure that they do not enter the environment.

All of these strategies constitute a shared responsibility between the public, regulators, and businesses, including the retail sector. This is why CWA is eager to participate as a member of this steering committee and work with our partners in the commercial and governmental community to find the best solutions for addressing retail waste in order to protect the environment and the public.

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