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A NATIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR THE UNITED STATES?

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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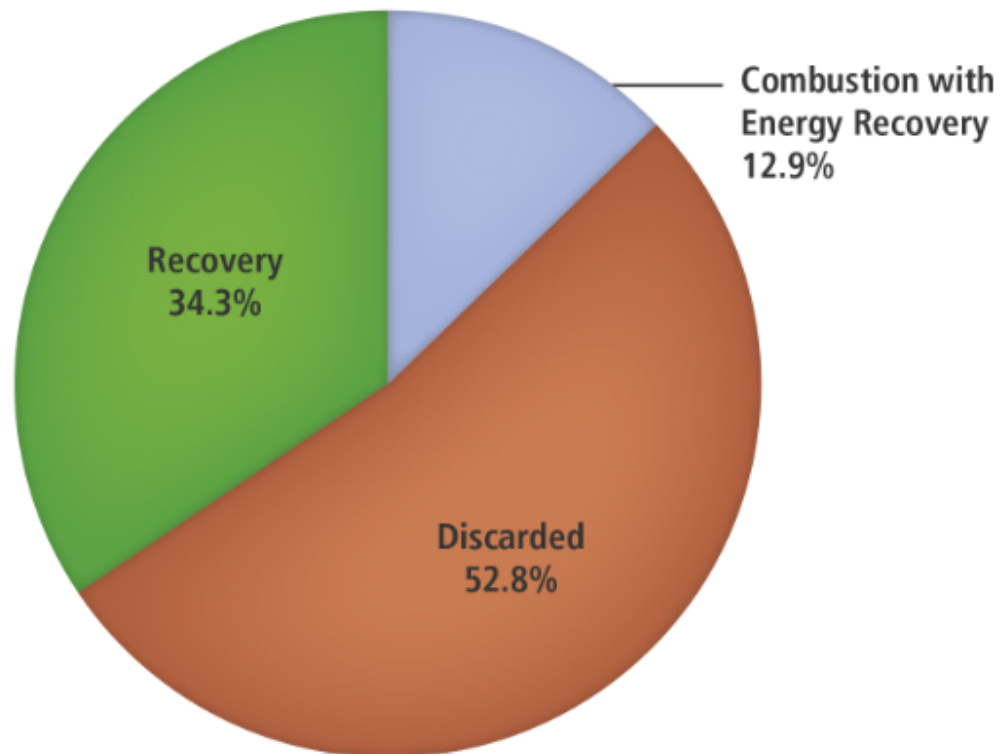
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EPA MSW Data

Figure ES-9. Management of MSW in the United States, 2013

254 Million Tons





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EPA Waste Hierarchy



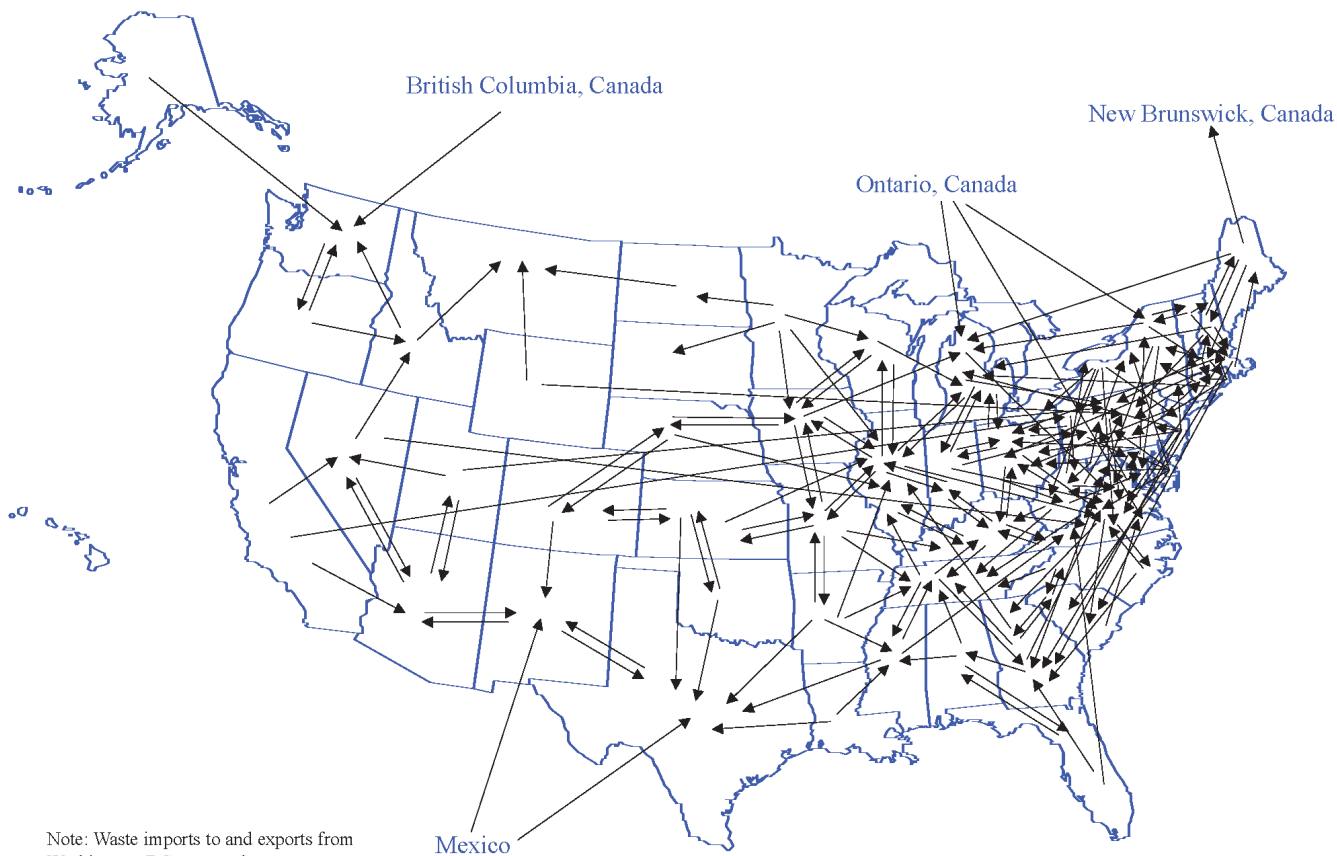


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U.S. Waste Movements

Figure 2. Interstate Waste Movements 2003



Note: Waste imports to and exports from Washington, DC are not shown.



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Waste Collection – U.S.

- **Federal/State regulatory system in United States**
 - 50 states, often with different rules
- **Traditional state/local governmental function**
 - according to the courts
- **Federal law (RCRA) confirms state/local authority**
 - States/cities increasing recycling goals

National Waste Policy?

- **America doesn't even have a national recycling goal**
- **Private and public sectors have made major investments in current structure/system**
- **SWANA's official policy supports "integrated waste management" at the local level – let local gov'ts decide what is best**
- **Would require RCRA to be amended**
 - Congress doesn't agree on anything

Some Potential Signs of Hope

U.S. is moving slowly towards Sustainable Material Management and the Circular Economy

EPA/USDA Food Waste Goal – 50% by 2030

- First federal policy goal re diversion
- Congressional hearings have taken place

Focus on GHG Emissions May Require Nationwide Rules

Frustration with patchwork approach to solid waste regulation



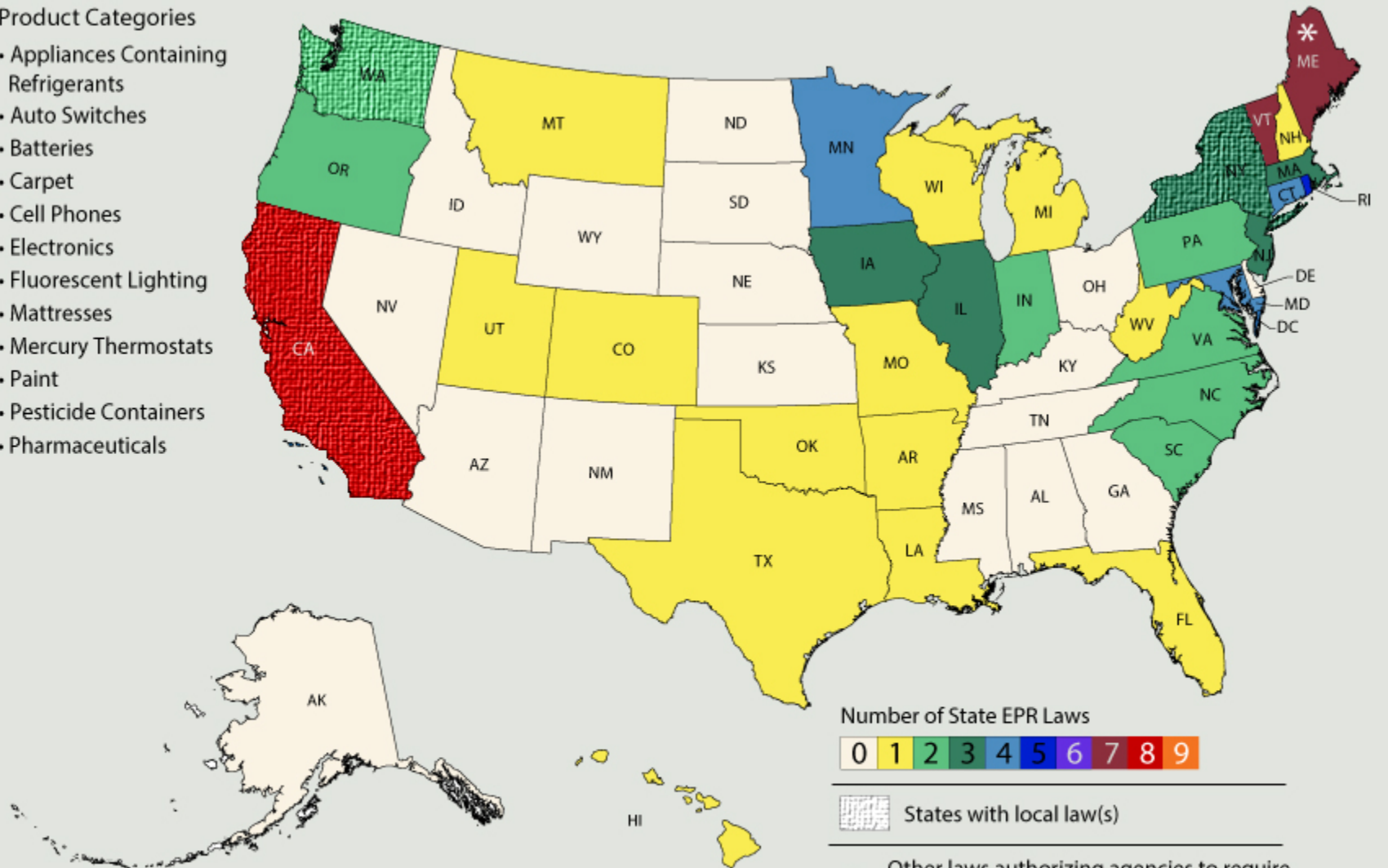
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Product Stewardship/EPR

Product Categories

- Appliances Containing Refrigerants
- Auto Switches
- Batteries
- Carpet
- Cell Phones
- Electronics
- Fluorescent Lighting
- Mattresses
- Mercury Thermostats
- Paint
- Pesticide Containers
- Pharmaceuticals



Things to Watch For

- **A national waste policy probably requires D's to control White House and Congress**
 - EPA may not have authority to issue
- **Likely to be driven by recycling/diversion, not energy recovery**
- **Local events could increase interest**
 - NYC/Fresh Kills 1997-2005
 - Love Canal led to Superfund
 - Garbage Barge -- Recycling



Conclusions

- **Unlikely to have national waste policy soon**
- **Some trends provide basis for hope**
- **Terrific opportunity to compare European and American model at ISWA World Congress in Baltimore on Sept 25-27, 2017.**





Questions?

Thank you!

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