A GREENPRINT FOR SUSTAINABLE CONTRACEPTIVE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

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OVERVIEW

- Background
- What is green contraception?
- The green contraception life cycle
- Challenges
- Next Steps
BACKGROUND

- November 2011 meeting convened by Reproductive Health Technologies Project and Population Council

- Working Group also includes NIH, EPA, USAID, PATH, an Academic, Environmental Advocate, Health Provider, Philanthropist

- The greenprint – A conceptual framework for a green contraceptive research and development (R&D) agenda
WHAT IS GREEN CONTRACEPTION?

Safe and Effective Methods

Eco-Friendly Processes

Green Contraception
GREEN CONTRACEPTION LIFE CYCLE

- Concept & Design
- Resources & Materials
- Manufacturing
- Packaging & Transport
- Consumer Utilization
- Waste & Disposal

Green Contraception
Can products be designed to:

- Minimize the number of times a client needs to use the product?
- Enable the reuse of the materials, use of biodegradable applicators or minimal consumables?
- Increase bodily absorption of API?
- Meet regulatory requirements for safety, efficacy and quality
RESOURCES & MATERIALS

- Innovation in material design and production
- Efficient use of resources
- Creation and use of biodegradable and eco-friendly materials
MANUFACTURING

- Processes manufacturers could adopt to reduce the environmental impact of production, e.g. water, energy, bi-products
- Regulatory requirements for safety and quality
- Manufacturer incentives to adopt greener practices
PACKAGING & TRANSPORT

- Environmentally-friendly shipping, storage and shelf life
- Change the packaging or “final product”
  - Less packaging
  - Easily recyclable or biodegradable
- Mitigate the effects of supply chain elements on the environment and product waste
CONSUMER UTILIZATION

- Expectations
- Purchasing power: procurement systems as well as end clients
- Willingness to pay
- Ability and interest to use
WASTE & DISPOSAL

- Unused products
- Disposal or reuse of product packaging
- Device disposal
- Pharmaceutical compounds
CHALLENGES

- Cost
- Sustainable financing
- Regulatory requirements
- Knowledge and expertise
NEXT STEPS

- Expand the Circle: *Contraception, 2013*
- Cost-benefit Landscape Analysis
- Green chemistry and manufacturing
- Understand incentive structures
- Influence current Research & Development
- Seek quick wins and long-term impacts for sustainability