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COLE HARDWARE RECEIVES STATEWIDE AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sacramento, CA – August 4, 2015. Cole Hardware is one of four companies operating in California who will be honored by the **California Product Stewardship Council** (CPSC) during the organization's 6th Annual Arrow Awards ceremony held at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles on August 6, 2015 at the **California Resource Recovery Association's** 39th annual conference and tradeshow.

Cole Hardware is the winner of the Infinity Arrow Award for Service & Take-Back. This award is given to a retail business, group of businesses, or chain that has initiated an outstanding take-back program for one or more products as an additional service to their customers, and works with the producers of those products in developing safe storage and recovery of used products and packages.

A local hardware store with four locations in San Francisco and one in Oakland, Cole Hardware was one of the two original retailers that partnered with the San Francisco Retail Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program (Retail Program), which started in 1997. **"All Cole Hardware locations operate under the founder Dave's guiding premise: There are no strangers here, just friends we haven't met,"** says Dave's son Rick Karp, who now serves as president. Their participation in the program allowed customers to conveniently drop off their household batteries, and their take-back services have since expanded to all of their locations, collecting batteries, paint, fluorescent lights, and empty camp-size propane cylinders. **"Cole Hardware is truly a leader in the retail industry by providing take-back services for such a large number of products,"** said Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director of CPSC. In addition to the Retail Program Cole Hardware also partners with other organizations to accept electronic waste, scrap metal, old keys, printer cartridges, soft plastic, Brita products, and spent holiday lights for recycling. **"Cole Hardware is honored and thrilled to receive this award. We appreciate**

working with such a vibrant Department of the Environment as San Francisco’s and we realize how providing this service to City residents makes us an integral part of the community,” said Julia Strzesieski, Marketing Coordinator for Cole Hardware, when she was notified the company had won the award.

All of Cole Hardware’s San Francisco locations are certified with the San Francisco Green Business Program, and it is one of the few partners in the San Francisco Retail Program that volunteer to provide take-back for all waste types in the program and collect at all their locations. In fact, their four locations in San Francisco have collected 24 percent of the total waste by the Retail Program last fiscal year, including 1,500 pounds of household batteries. **“I want to thank and congratulate Cole Hardware for helping the City reach Zero Waste. Cole Hardware was one of the first retailers to serve as a collection partner for San Francisco’s Retail Program. Their commitment to serving the community and environment started back in 1997, and they have continued to expand on this commitment for almost 20 years,”** said Debbie Raphael, Director of San Francisco Department of the Environment.



Photo Courtesy of Cole Hardware

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California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) educates both the public and private sectors about Product Stewardship and closely partners with business, jurisdictions, waste and recycling companies, manufacturers and others to promote and encourage sustainable practices and to recognize those companies who are taking a leadership role in participating in waste reduction and recycling. For more information, please go to: www.CalPSC.org.

Cole Hardware - Locally owned and San Francisco-based, Cole Hardware was founded in 1961 when Dave Karp bought the flagship store that had been in Cole Valley since the 1920s. Expansions over the years include stores downtown, in the Mission, and in the Russian Hill neighborhood in San Francisco, as well as a Commercial Supply division and Repair Referral Service. The newest store opened in Oakland’s Rockridge neighborhood in January 2015. For more information, please go to www.colehardware.com.

San Francisco Department of the Environment creates visionary policies and innovative programs that promote social equity, protect human health, and lead the way toward a sustainable future. We put our mission into action by mobilizing communities and providing the resources needed to safeguard our homes, our city, and ultimately our planet. For more information, please go to: www.sfenvironment.org.