

What is...

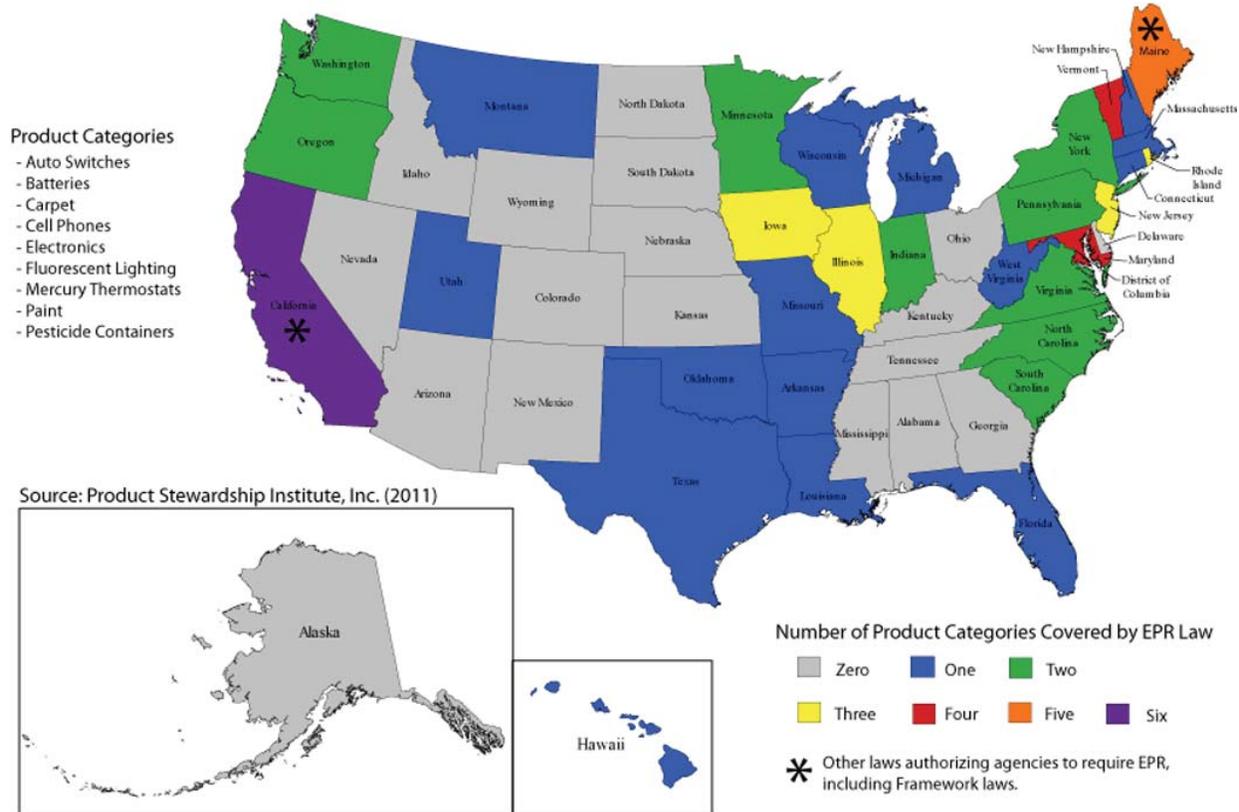
Product Stewardship?

Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) are terms used interchangeably to describe strategies to reallocate financial responsibility for product and packaging waste management.

EPR has been increasingly applied as a policy approach throughout Europe and Canada since the early 1990s. Over the past five years, the U.S. has adopted the principles of EPR largely through state-level action; nearly half of U.S. states now require product stewardship for outdated electronic equipment. EPR can be applied to many products that are toxic or costly to manage; most commonly electronics, packaging, carpet, and household hazardous wastes such as paint, batteries, pesticides, and fluorescent lighting.

Product Stewardship is “a strategy that places a shared responsibility for end-of-life management of consumer products on the manufacturers of the products, while encouraging product design that minimizes negative impacts on human health and the environment at every stage of the product’s lifecycle.”¹

While manufacturers have the greatest responsibility, because they have the greatest ability to influence the life-cycle impacts of a product or its packaging, the broader goal of Product Stewardship is to change the waste management system from one focused on government-funded and citizen-financed waste diversion, to one that relies on manufacturer, retailer, and consumer stewardship.



¹ San Francisco in their proposed EPR ordinance on pharmaceuticals: http://www.calpsc.org/products/docs/2010-pharma_2010-11-23_SF%20drug%20disposal%20ordinance.pdf

Colorado



Product Stewardship Council

Statement of Purpose

The Colorado Product Stewardship Council (CoPSC) was formed in July 2010 to promote and advocate for product stewardship in Colorado. CoPSC operates as a council of the Colorado Association for Recycling (CAFR), Colorado's leading independent, non-profit organization working to promote and encourage recycling. CoPSC is one of CAFR's three councils, which also include the Electronics Recycling and Reuse Council (ERRC) and the Rocky Mountain Organics Council (RMOC). Each council focuses on a distinct aspect of recycling in the state.

CoPSC's main objectives for 2011/2012

- Provide effective leadership on product stewardship in Colorado
- Educate state and local officials, private organizations, and waste haulers on the concept and benefits of product stewardship
- Improve communication about this issue within the recycling, solid waste, and household hazardous waste management communities, other interested parties, and relevant government agencies and departments
- Raise awareness of existing, voluntary product stewardship programs with household hazardous waste management agencies and other applicable programs and parties
- Help CAFR formulate policy positions related to product stewardship legislation and actively support those positions and strategies

Vision Statement

CoPSC's vision is that the producers of products and packaging sold in Colorado have the primary responsibility to establish, fund, and manage responsible end-of-life diversion systems for their products and packaging, according to measurable performance goals and methods based on infrastructure and best practices to ensure accountability and transparency.

Council Mission

The Council works to integrate the principles of product stewardship into the policy and economic structures of Colorado's waste management system in order to:

- Promote waste minimization, reuse, recycling, and sustainable recovery
- Drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability
- Increase convenience and accessibility to recycling and other waste diversion services
- Support local, responsible recycling solutions
- Achieve economic benefits through local economic development and job creation
- Attain higher environmental benefits and prevent pollution through increased waste diversion and less landfill disposal
- Reduce public costs associated with waste collection and disposal, recycling, and household hazardous waste management

Who We Are

We are a diverse group of interested parties representing local governments, non-profits organizations, large and small businesses, including recyclers and waste hauling companies, schools, universities, and individuals.

Colorado

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