



Partner Pledge of Support

The **Vermont Product Stewardship Council (VTPSC)** is a coalition of cities, towns, counties and regional solid waste districts and alliances in Vermont that operates as an unincorporated association of members and is comprised of a General Council and Steering Committee.

Mission: The mission of the VTPSC is to work together and with other governments, businesses and nonprofit groups to integrate the principles of extended producer responsibility into the policy and economic structures of Vermont. The Vermont Product Stewardship Council works to shift Vermont's product waste management system from one focused on government funded and ratepayer financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.

Product Stewardship: Product Stewardship is the act of minimizing health, safety, environmental and social impacts, and maximizing economic benefits of a product and its packaging throughout all lifecycle stages. The producer of the product has the greatest ability to minimize adverse impacts, but other stakeholders, such as suppliers, retailers, and consumers, also play a role. Stewardship can be either voluntary or required by law.

Extended Producer Responsibility: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a mandatory type of product stewardship that includes, at a minimum, the requirement that the producer's responsibility for their product extends to post-consumer management of that product and its packaging. There are two related features of EPR policy: (1) shifting financial and management responsibility, with government oversight, upstream to the producer and away from the public sector; and (2) providing incentives to producers to incorporate environmental considerations in the design of their products and packaging.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the VTPSC are to:

- Develop and recommend EPR and product stewardship policies and tools to organizations, institutions, governments, state legislatures and legislators.
- Provide effective leadership on EPR and product stewardship initiatives in the region.
- Coordinate or participate in EPR and product stewardship initiatives locally, regionally and nationally.
- Educate elected officials and other decision makers on the benefits of EPR and product stewardship.
- Provide a forum for the exchange of information regarding existing and proposed EPR and product stewardship programs.

General Council Members: VTPSC Members consist of cities, towns, counties, and regional solid waste districts and alliances that provide funding and/or staff time to VTPSC activities and projects and commit staff time to attend VTPSC meetings.

Steering Committee Members: Members of the VTPSC Steering Committee are general council members that make up the voting member body of the Council. Members of the steering committee provide funding and/or staff time to VTPSC activities and projects and commit staff time to attend VTPSC meetings

Partners: VTPSC Partners are local, state, regional and federal government agencies, businesses and nonprofit groups and other associations or individuals that support the VTPSC mission and the Principles of EPR (Attachment A). Partners can participate in any of the subcommittee projects and programs.

Partner Pledge of Support

The undersigned supports the VTPSC mission and the Principles of EPR (Attachment A).

Signed:

Signature

Date

Name

Title

Organization

Mailing Address

Telephone

Email

I am signing up as an:

Individual

Organization

Please email the signed Pledge of Support to
jholliday@cswd.net

or mail to
Jen Holliday
Chittenden Solid Waste District
1021 Redmond Road
Williston, VT 05495

ATTACHMENT A



PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP AND EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

Reducing Economic, Environmental, Health, and Safety Impacts from Consumer Products

The growing product stewardship movement in the United States seeks to ensure that those who design, manufacture, sell, and use consumer products take responsibility for reducing negative impacts to the economy, environment, public health, and worker safety. These impacts can occur throughout the lifecycle of a product and its packaging, and are associated with energy and materials consumption; waste generation; toxic substances; greenhouse gases; and other air and water emissions. In a product stewardship approach, manufacturers that design products and specify packaging have the greatest ability, and therefore greatest responsibility, to reduce these impacts by attempting to incorporate the full lifecycle costs in the cost of doing business.

The terms *product stewardship* and *extended producer responsibility (EPR)* are often used differently by stakeholders involved in the product stewardship movement. The purpose of this document is to harmonize terminology in the U.S. and to guide development of policies, legislation, and other initiatives by governments, companies, and organizations. By speaking the same language, we can have a constructive public discussion.

We use the following definitions for product stewardship and EPR. Since we define EPR as a legislative approach, we believe it requires further clarification and therefore developed the subsequent *Principles of Extended Producer Responsibility*.

Product Stewardship is the act of minimizing health, safety, environmental and social impacts, and maximizing economic benefits of a product and its packaging throughout all lifecycle stages. The producer of the product has the greatest ability to minimize adverse impacts, but other stakeholders, such as suppliers, retailers, and consumers, also play a role. Stewardship can be either voluntary or required by law.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a mandatory type of product stewardship that includes, at a minimum, the requirement that the producer's responsibility for their product extends to post-consumer management of that product and its packaging. There are two related features of EPR policy: (1) shifting financial and management responsibility, with government oversight, upstream to the producer and away from the public sector; and (2) providing incentives to producers to incorporate environmental considerations in the design of their products and packaging.

PRINCIPLES OF EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

The following EPR Principles include key elements that should be included in all EPR legislation. Although these Principles will be applied differently by different jurisdictions, they are aspirational and considered best practice to achieve maximum results.

- **Producer Responsibility**

- Producers are required to design, manage, and finance programs for end-of-life management of their products and packaging as a condition of sale. These programs may or may not use existing collection and processing infrastructure. Programs should cover all products in a given category, including those from companies no longer in business and from companies that cannot be identified.

- **Level Playing Field**

- All producers within a particular product category have the same requirements, whether they choose to meet them individually or jointly with other producers.

- **Results-based**

- Producers have flexibility to design the product management system to meet the performance goals established by government, with minimum government involvement.
- Producer-managed systems must follow the resource conservation hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle, and beneficially use, as appropriate.
- Products must be managed in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment.
- Producers design and implement public education programs to ensure achievement of performance goals and standards established by government.
- All consumers have convenient access to collection opportunities without charge.

- **Transparency and Accountability**

- Government is responsible for ensuring that producer programs are transparent and accountable to the public.
- Producer programs, including their development and the fate of products managed, provide opportunity for input by all stakeholders.

- **Roles for Government, Retailers and Consumers**

- Government is responsible for ensuring a level playing field for all parties in the product value chain to maintain a competitive marketplace with open access to all, for setting and enforcing performance goals and standards, for supporting industry programs through procurement, and for helping educate the public.
- Retailers only sell brands within a covered product category that are made by producers participating in an industry program, and are responsible for providing information to consumers on how to access the programs.
- Consumers have a responsibility to reduce waste, reuse products, use take-back and other collection programs, and make appropriate purchasing decisions based on available information about product impacts and benefits.