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VTPSC NEWSLETTER

November, 2009

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Contact: Jen Holliday, VTPSC Coordinator, jholliday@cswd.net , 802-872-8100 x223

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## **Welcome to Stewardship News!**

Welcome to the first issue of the monthly publication, Stewardship News, a newsletter from the Vermont Product Stewardship Council (VTPSC).

The VTPSC was formed just over a year ago to promote shared responsibility to reduce the impact of product waste on our environment.

What is waste? To some, it's what you put in a landfill. To a rapidly increasing number of others, it's resources, and therefore opportunity, squandered. VTPSC is working to bridge the gap between those who design, manufacture, and sell products-and those charged with collecting and managing those products for reuse, recycling, or disposal.

This newsletter will keep you informed of product stewardship legislation, initiatives, and events that are happening locally in Vermont as well as globally. As a reader of the Stewardship News you will be more informed and perhaps inspired to take action on some of the initiatives or to join the VTPCSC as a member or partner. We welcome new members and partners to help strengthen our voice and our mission. Please visit our website to find out more [vtpsc.org](http://vtpsc.org).

We welcome comments and input that will make this newsletter a more useful tool for keeping each other informed in the rapidly changing world of product stewardship.

## **VT PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

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### **Paint**

The VTPSC will pursue Vermont's first manufacturer-sponsored bill for product stewardship legislation in the 2010 legislative session. Supported by the [National Paint and Coatings Association](#) (NPCA) and Vermont solid waste district managers and their lobbyist, NPCA and the VTPSC will be looking at legislation recently passed in Oregon and legislation currently active in California as starting points for drafting paint legislation in Vermont.

### **E-waste**

The VTPSC and [VPIRG](#) have been working with stakeholders and legislative council to make considerable changes to [S.77](#) that passed the Senate last year. As more states pass and implement product stewardship legislation on e-waste, more is learned on how to improve the legislation. The proposed changes are primarily related to performance goals and should result in more support from some stakeholders who were opposed to the bill last year. We expect the bill to be taken up in the House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy early on in the session.

### **Mercury-Containing Lamps**

A bill introduced last year, [H.94](#) initially required manufacturers of mercury-containing compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) to set up and finance a collection system for spent lamps in Vermont. However, the producer responsibility language was taken out of the bill prior to it [passing in the House](#). VTPSC supports the efforts of the [Mercury Policy Project](#), VPIRG and others to add language back to the bill that will provide sustainable funding and collection infrastructure of mercury containing lamps by the manufacturers. Currently CFL collection programs in Vermont are funded by solid waste districts, environmental enforcement fines, or Efficiency Vermont. None of these funding sources are secure long-term.

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## **VT Joins 17 States Asking Electronics Industry Groups to Withdraw Lawsuit against N.Y. E-Waste Law**

On Nov. 5, VTPSC joined government officials from across the country in signing [a letter](#) calling on the electronics industry to withdraw its lawsuit against the New York City e-waste recycling law, calling the lawsuit a challenge to the rights of states and cities to pass producer responsibility laws that hold manufacturers accountable for their products.

In the letter to the [Consumer Electronics Association](#) (CEA) and the [Information Technology Industry Council](#) (ITIC), who filed the lawsuit, state and local government representatives from 18 states expressed their continued support for laws that give the electronics manufacturers responsibility for financing effective takeback services for all the products they are selling in those states.

"This lawsuit isn't really about the New York City e-waste law," said Wisconsin Sen. Mark Miller, sponsor of Wisconsin's new e-waste law, which passed two weeks ago. "This is really about the rights of states and cities to say that the manufacturers of toxic products need to be responsible for their products when consumers are ready to discard them. The outcome of this case could impact producer responsibility laws in all of our states, on a whole host of products."

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NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES ENDORSES PRINCIPLES FOR PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

Policy could save millions and expand local government services

BOSTON, November 16, 2009 - In a move that could help local governments save millions of dollars, the [National League of Cities](#) (NLC) voted to endorse [Principles for Product Stewardship](#) last week at the Congress of Cities & Exposition in San Antonio. The principles, which are based on those created by the [Product Stewardship Institute](#) (PSI) of Boston, MA, form the basic building blocks for creating policy and legislation that ensures products are disposed of in a way that reduces their impact on health and the environment. As a part of its endorsement, NLC will encourage its 19,000 members to pursue product stewardship and advocate for the cause at the federal level.

"The endorsement of the NLC is a huge step forward for the product stewardship movement," said Scott Cassel, PSI's Executive Director. "Product stewardship can save millions of dollars for local governments burdened by waste management costs and help them offer more services. While everyone has a role to play in product stewardship, the primary responsibility must lie with the producer. The costs for ensuring products are properly recycled or disposed must be built into the cost of doing business," Cassel said.

As a national environmental institute, PSI encourages manufacturers and retailers to take increasing responsibility to reduce the entire life-cycle impacts of a product and its packaging. PSI believes this is a key strategy to reduce the impact of greenhouse gases and address climate change issues. Many state and local governments have already adopted PSI's principles.

"I am pleased NLC membership voted to support the Principles for Product Stewardship, which call attention to the harmful effects of consumer waste and the need for reducing a

product's life-cycle impacts," said Claude Mattox, Council Member, Phoenix, Arizona, chair of the NLC Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee. "Promoting responsibility by manufactures and others along the product chain will not only reduce the environmental impact of products, but will also reduce the amount of trash directed to landfills, which assists local governments in their efforts to reduce waste management costs. The Principles for Product Stewardship will guide federal policy and support local governments in their efforts to ensure the protection of public health and the environment."

The Principles for Product Stewardship endorsed by the NLC are as follows:

- 1) **Producer Responsibility:** The responsibility for reducing product environmental impacts should be shared by all segments of the industry, including designers, manufacturers, importers, retailers and conveyors of products and product components. Manufacturers, however, have the greatest ability to minimize product lifecycle impacts and consequently bear the greatest responsibility for addressing those impacts.
- 2) **Internalize Costs:** All product lifecycle costs should be included in the total product cost. The environmental costs of product manufacture, use, and disposal should be minimized, to the greatest extent possible, and ultimately assumed by the manufacturers and consumers of products. Local governments and taxpayers should be relieved of the financial burden of product and packaging management.
- 3) **Incentives for Cleaner Products and Sustainable Management Practices Policies:** that promote and implement product stewardship principles should create incentives for manufacturers to design and produce "cleaner" products that are created using less energy, materials, and toxics. These policies should create incentives for the development of sustainable and environmentally-sound producer- led systems to collect, reuse, and recycle products.
- 4) **Flexible Management Strategies:** Those responsible for reducing the health and environmental impacts of products should have the flexibility to determine the most cost-effective means of doing so. Performance measures are critical to determining the success and effectiveness of these programs.
- 5) **Roles and Relationships:** Industry must take the lead in achieving these goals, but all levels of government and consumers must also play a role. Government should promote product stewardship through procurement practices, technical assistance, market development, and agency coordination. Government should also remove regulatory barriers that impede product stewardship and provide incentives and disincentives when necessary. To the greatest extent possible, these product stewardship principles should apply to those industries and vendors located in any country who sell their products in the United States. Industry and government should provide consumers with the information they need to make responsible environmental purchasing, reuse, recycling, and disposal decisions.

For more information on the Principles and PSI, please visit <http://www.productstewardship.us>

About PSI: The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is a national environmental institute with membership from 45 states, 100 local governments, and more than 50 businesses, environmental groups, and organizations that establishes cooperative agreements to

reduce the health and environmental impacts from consumer products.

About NCL: The National League of Cities is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans. For information visit <http://www.nlc.org>.

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**EPA TALKS UP PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP AT ASTSWMO ANNUAL MEETING:  
OSWER and ASTSWO'S Product Stewardship Subcommittee to work on recycling  
of packaging materials**

Mathy Stanislaus, EPA Assistant Administrator for [Solid Waste and Emergency Response \(OSWER\)](#), encouraged members of the [Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials \(ASTSWO\)](#) to participate in identifying new financing strategies for recycling in October at their annual meeting in Bethesda, Maryland. He specifically mentioned work that the ASTSWO's product stewardship subcommittee is doing on packaging materials as an example of such a strategy:

"Where EPA needs your advice, and your leadership as well, is in the identification of financing options for sustainable municipal solid waste recycling. Our nation's rate of solid waste recycling has been stagnant since about 2000, and it lags far behind recycling rates in Europe, Canada, and Japan. We've got to do better.

"But the responsibility for recycling programs falls primarily on local governments and taxpayers, two groups hard-pressed to come up with the money to pay for recycling over the long term.

"I've already heard from several states asking me to work with them on sustainable financing for recycling, and I agreed to that. OSWER is now working with those states, and with ASTSWO's product stewardship subcommittee, to shape the details of a financing strategy for the recycling of packaging materials. Beyond that, we want to bring together all the key stakeholders to define ways of financing recycling efforts on an ongoing basis across the nation as a whole. We need you at the table - in fact, at the head of the table - if we're going to be successful."

**For more information, contact:**  
Christine Beling, USEPA-New England  
Assistance and Pollution Prevention-SPP  
phone: 617-918-1792  
e-mail: [beling.christine@epa.gov](mailto:beling.christine@epa.gov)  
[www.epa.gov/region1/solidwaste/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region1/solidwaste/index.html)

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ONTARIO RECYCLING TO GO 100 PERCENT EPR!

A week after outlining it in a speech, Ontario Environment Minister John Gerretsen released a draft report on his plans **to make recycling in the Canadian province 100-**

percent EPR-based.

"Moving to a full producer-responsibility model in Ontario would shift the full cost of waste diversion from municipal taxpayers and businesses, to producers of products and packaging that end up as waste," according to the report. Currently, producers pay 50 percent of the costs of managing their materials covered under Ontario's blue box curbside recycling program.

According to the report, producers would have to either join a materials-management program with other companies or use their own waste diversion plan, reporting annually on their results to the government.

The [Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#) (AMO) applauded the plans, which would shift the remaining costs for recycling to product producers and first-importers. The [Canadian Federation of Independent Business](#) said that they were surprised by the move, complaining that businesses already pay "quite dearly" for materials collection via their property taxes.

Entitled [Waste to Worth: The Role of Waste Diversion in the Green Economy, A Minister's Report on the Review of Ontario's Waste Diversion Act, 2002](#), the report is available for reading and public comment. All statements submitted before January 10, 2010 to be considered as part of the Ministry's decision-making process.

Article courtesy of Product Stewardship Institute's Product Stewardship Updates, November 13, 2009, Volume 3, Series 21 www.productstewardship.us

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**WISCONSIN PASSES E-WASTE LEGISLATION**

On October 23rd, Wisconsin became the 19th state to pass extended producer responsibility legislation for the safe end-of-life management of consumer electronics when Governor Jim Doyle signed into law Senate Bill 107, entitled the Wisconsin Electronics Recycling Bill. Beginning January 1, 2010, manufacturers of computers, printers, fax machines, and televisions sold in Wisconsin will be required to assume responsibility for the proper collection and recycling of these products. A ban on the disposal of certain electronic devices in landfills or incinerators will go into effect in September of next year. The bill is based on legislation from Minnesota that was passed in March of 2007. Along with New Jersey and Indiana, Wisconsin is now the third state to pass EPR legislation for electronics waste in 2009.

**[Click here for more information.](#)**

Article courtesy of Product Stewardship Institute's Product Stewardship Updates, November 13, 2009, Volume 3, Series 21 [www.productstewardship.us](http://www.productstewardship.us)

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EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE INFORMATIONAL NETWORKING CONFERENCE CALLS- Fall Series

Interested in receiving in-depth information on cutting edge issues in the product stewardship field? PSI networking conference calls offer a carbon-free alternative to in-person workshops and meetings. PSI networking call participants can listen to expert presentations and ask questions on timely product stewardship issues from the comfort of the home or office. Join us this season for yet another stimulating networking call series!

Register Here:

<http://www.productstewardship.us/cde.cfm?event=27659>

Our Next Calls:

Boosting Battery Recycling in the US: Setting Goals and Measuring Progress Wednesday, December 2nd, 2009, 2:00-3:30 PM EST

Learn how battery recycling can be increased, ways to measure recycling performance, and the challenges encountered along the way from Carl Smith (Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation), a government representative, and PSI.

Economic and Environmental Benefits of EPR: Making the Case for Product Stewardship Tuesday, December 15th, 2009, 2:00-3:30 PM EST

Hear from Jen Holliday (Chittenden County Solid Waste District, VT) and Cynthia Dunn (CA Integrated Waste Management Board) about product stewardship's financial and environmental benefits. Learn about PSI's new Financial Benefits Calculator and series of case studies and factsheets about product stewardship's bottom line benefits.

Check out our previous calls in this series:

<http://www.productstewardship.us/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=577>

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### **PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP KEYNOTE PRESENTATION at SWANA**

Heidi Sanborn, National Outreach Director of the [Product Policy Institute](#) will be giving the keynote address at this year's [Solid Waste Association of North America](#) (SWANA) annual meeting February 8-9 in Charlotte, N.C. Heidi is also the Executive Director of the [California Product Stewardship Council](#) (CPSC). She speaks nationally on the transition to Product Stewardship and public policy.

**For more info:**

<http://www.thinkingoutsidethebluebox.org/>

**Contact Information**

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Jen Holliday, VTPSC Coordinator
Chittenden Solid Waste District
1021 Redmond Road
Williston, VT 05495
Tel: 802-872-8100 x223
Fax: 802-878-5787
Email: jholliday@cswd.net

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