



## 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 product stewardship 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 or Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a product-centered approach to environmental protection that calls on all those in the product life cycle – designers, manufacturers, retailers, users and waste managers to share responsibility and costs for reducing the adverse environmental impacts of products. The greatest responsibility lies with the producers who have the most ability to affect the lifecycle environmental impacts of the product through product design and marketing. Product stewardship holds producers liable for the costs of responsibly managing their products at end of life.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the VTPSC are to:

- Develop and recommend product stewardship policies and educational tools to organizations, institutions, governments, state legislatures and legislators.
- Provide effective leadership on product stewardship initiatives in the region.
- Coordinate or participate in product stewardship initiatives locally, regionally and nationally.
- Educate elected officials and other decision makers on the benefits of product stewardship
- Provide a forum for the exchange of information regarding existing and proposed EPR 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 Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy (appendix A). Partners can participate in any of the subcommittee projects and programs.

## Partner Pledge of Support

The undersigned supports the VTPSC mission and the Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy (appendix A).

**Signed:**

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**Signature**

**Date**

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**Name**

**Title**

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**Organization**

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**Mailing Address**

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**Telephone**

**Email**

I am signing up as an:

Individual

Organization

**Please mail or fax the signed Pledge of Support to**

**FAX:** 802-878-5787

**Mail:** Attention: Jen Holliday  
Chittenden Solid Waste District  
1021 Redmond Road  
Williston, VT 05495

Email: [jholliday@cswd.net](mailto:jholliday@cswd.net)



# Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy

The following principles are intended to guide development of product stewardship policies and legislation that governs multiple products. It is primarily aimed at state legislation but is also intended as a guide for local and federal policy.

## 1. Producer Responsibility

- 1.1 All producers selling a covered product into the State are responsible for designing managing, and financing a stewardship program that addresses the lifecycle impacts of their products including end-of-life management.
- 1.2 Producers have flexibility to meet these responsibilities by offering their own plan or participating in a plan with others.
- 1.3 In addressing end-of-life management, all stewardship programs must finance the collection, transportation, and responsible reuse, recycling or disposition of covered products. Stewardship programs must:
  - Cover the costs of new, historic and orphan covered products.
  - Provide convenient collection for consumers throughout the State.
- 1.4 Costs for product waste management are shifted from taxpayers and ratepayers to producers and users.
- 1.5 Programs are operated by producers with minimum government involvement.

## 2. Shared Responsibilities

- 2.1 Retailers only sell covered products from producers who are in compliance with stewardship requirements.
- 2.2 State and local governments work with producers and retailers on educating the public about the stewardship programs.
- 2.3 Consumers are responsible for using return systems set up by producers or their agents.

### 3. Governance

- 3.1 Government sets goals and performance standards following consultation with stakeholders. All programs within a product category are accountable to the same goals and performance standards.
- 3.2 Government allows producers the flexibility to determine the most cost-effective means of achieving the goals and performance standards.
- 3.3 Government is responsible for ensuring a level playing field by enforcing requirements that all producers in a product category participate in a stewardship program as a condition for selling their product in the jurisdiction.
- 3.4 Product categories required to have stewardship programs are selected using the process and priorities set out in framework legislation.
- 3.5 Government is responsible for ensuring transparency and accountability of stewardship programs. Producers are accountable to both government and consumers for disclosing environmental outcomes.

### 4. Financing

- 4.1 Producers finance their stewardship programs as a general cost of doing business, through cost internalization or by recovering costs through arrangements with their distributors and retailers. End of life fees are not allowed.

### 5. Environmental Protection

- 5.1 Framework legislation should address environmental product design, including source reduction, recyclability and reducing toxicity of covered products.
- 5.2 Framework legislation requires that stewardship programs ensure that all products covered by the stewardship program are managed in an environmentally sound manner.
- 5.3 Stewardship programs must be consistent with other State sustainability legislation, including those that address greenhouse gas reduction and the waste management hierarchy.
- 5.4 Stewardship programs include reporting on the final disposition, (i.e., reuse, recycling, disposal) of products handled by the stewardship program, including any products or materials exported for processing.

Northwest Product Stewardship Council [www.productstewardship.net](http://www.productstewardship.net) Adopted May 19, 2008  
California Product Stewardship Council [www.calpsc.org](http://www.calpsc.org) Adopted June 4, 2008  
Vermont Product Stewardship Council [www.vtpsc.org](http://www.vtpsc.org) Adopted November 6, 2008  
British Columbia Product Stewardship Council [www.bcproductstewardship.org](http://www.bcproductstewardship.org) Adopted Dec. 9, 2008  
Texas Product Stewardship Council [www.txpsc.org](http://www.txpsc.org) Adopted January 30, 2009  
NYS Assoc. for Solid Waste Management [www.newyorkwaste.org](http://www.newyorkwaste.org) Adopted March 11, 2009



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