

THE CITY OF WARWICK  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NO.....R-11-94..... DATE.....9/13/11.....

APPROVED.....*Mrs. Ambrosia*.....MAYOR

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

Resolved that,

1 WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Warwick are  
2 matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and  
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4 WHEREAS, Manufactured goods and packaging constitute approximately 75% of the  
5 materials managed by U.S municipalities, based on figures reported by the U.S. Environmental  
6 Protection Agency; and  
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8 WHEREAS, The municipal waste management system was established a century ago to  
9 manage far simpler and more homogeneous wastes like ashes, food scraps and horse manure,  
10 rather than the manufactured goods and packaging which dominate today's municipal waste; and  
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12 WHEREAS, Hazardous and hard-to-recycle product management costs are expected to  
13 increase substantially in the near future unless policy changes are made; and  
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15 WHEREAS, There are significant environmental and human health impacts associated  
16 with improper management of hazardous products; and  
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18 WHEREAS, Costs paid by citizens and local governments to manage discarded products  
19 are in effect subsidies to producers that enable and encourage producers to design products for  
20 disposal without regard to end-of-life product- management costs and hazards; and  
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22 WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy  
23 approach in which producers accept responsibility for the end-of-life management of their  
24 products, so that those who produce and use products bear the costs of recycling and responsible  
25 disposal; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, When producers are responsible for ensuring that their products are reused  
28 or recycled responsibly, and when health and environmental costs are included in the product  
29 price, there is an incentive to design products that are more durable, easier to repair and recycle,  
30 and less toxic; and  
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32 WHEREAS, Jobs in disassembly, reuse, repair and recycling are generated by EPR,  
33 offering significant local economic development opportunities; and  
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35 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island legislature has committed to achieving greenhouse gas  
36 emissions reductions, and EPR policies are important strategies for achieving this goal through  
37 reduction of manufacturing and disposal emissions; and  
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39 WHEREAS, the Warwick City Council supports statewide legislation to hold producers  
40 responsible for hazardous product discard management and other product waste management  
41 costs; and  
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43 WHEREAS, EPR legislation for discarded electronic waste has been passed in 18 states  
44 and New York City; and

1  
2 WHEREAS, State law established a manufacturer financed system, similar to EPR, for  
3 the collection, recycling, and reuse of certain electronic products; and  
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5 WHEREAS, Earlier this year, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed a joint  
6 resolution requesting the Department of Environmental Management to develop  
7 recommendations for establishing an EPR program.  
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9 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Warwick City Council urges the  
10 Rhode Island General Assembly to enact comprehensive EPR legislation based on the  
11 *Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy*; and does hereby request that the  
12 Department of Public Works develop recommendations for establishing an EPR program in the  
13 City of Warwick; and hereby requests that preferential producer take-back language be placed in  
14 purchasing contracts where feasible.  
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17 The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Senators and  
18 Representatives from the City of Warwick, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of  
19 Representatives, the Director of Public Works and the Purchasing Agent.  
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21 This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.  
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SPONSORED BY: COUNCIL MAN COLANTUONO

COMMITTEE: INTERGOVERNMENTAL