

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

December 19, 2011

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NEWTON SUPPORTING EXTENDED  
PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)

WHEREAS, manufactured goods and packaging constitute nearly three quarters of the materials managed by U.S municipalities at considerable costs; and

WHEREAS, there are significant environmental and human health impacts associated with improper management of hazardous products; and

WHEREAS, products and packaging are often toxic or disposable by design, and local governments have no input into the design or marketing of products, make no profit from the products, and do not have the resources to adequately address the rising volume of discarded products and associated packaging; and

WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy approach in which producers (brand owners or first importers into the State) accept responsibility for management of their discarded products, so that those who produce and use products bear the costs of recycling and responsible disposal; and

WHEREAS, when producers are responsible for ensuring that their products are reused or recycled responsibly, and when health and environmental costs are included in the product price, there is an incentive to design products that are more durable, easier to repair and recycle, and less toxic; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Draft Solid Waste Master Plan: Pathway to Zero Waste, 2010-20 includes producer responsibility as one of five major components of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts legislature has enacted producer responsibility programs for certain mercury-containing products; and

WHEREAS, 32 of the states in the US have EPR laws; and

WHEREAS, jobs in disassembly, reuse, repair and recycling are generated by EPR, offering significant local economic development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newton supports statewide legislation to hold producers responsible for product discard management and other product waste management costs,

WHEREAS, Framework EPR codifies the EPR principle and would give the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection the authority to address multiple products over time; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newton supports the mission of the Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council, working with other Massachusetts municipalities and other states to move EPR policy forward, and supports the *Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy* adopted by seven Product Stewardship Councils in North America, including the Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, and New York Councils and appended below;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF NEWTON gives notice to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to manufacturers and distributors of products and packaging sold in the Commonwealth, that it supports the transfer of responsibility for the costs of managing discarded products to producers (brand owners and first importers), under oversight of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Newton departments be authorized to send letters to the State legislature and State associations and to use other advocacy methods to support EPR legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Newton urges the Massachusetts legislature to enact EPR legislation for discarded electronic waste this year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Newton urges the Massachusetts legislature to enact comprehensive EPR legislation based on the *Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Newton will work with the Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to enact EPR legislation and regulation.

Under Suspension of Rules

Readings Waived and RESOLUTION Approved Unanimously

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON, CITY CLERK