

Principles

Extended Producer Responsibility has guiding principles to be used in the creation of product stewardship policies and legislation.

50-yard-line Principles for EPR/Product Stewardship Policy

EPR creates fair rules. Government has a primary role to ensure a **level playing field**, which refers to having the same rules apply to all producers. It also has a role to protect the public interest and the environment by **establishing performance goals and recovery rates**. Just as it is hard to imagine a ball game without players, there is no game without referees and a rule book.

Creating the "rule book" for EPR/Product Stewardship policy is easier when basic guiding principles are used. The principles below were developed by the Northwest and California Product Stewardship Councils with assistance from the Product Policy Institute. The principles have been adopted by the Northwest, California, Vermont and British Columbia Product Stewardship Councils. They 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.

Download the Principles in PDF Format: ([English](#) [1]) ([Spanish](#) [2])

Framework principles:

1. Producer Responsibility

- 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.
- Producers have flexibility to meet these responsibilities by offering their own plan or participating in a plan with others.
- 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.
- Costs for product waste management are shifted from taxpayers and ratepayers to producers and users.
- Programs are operated by producers with minimum government involvement.

2. Shared Responsibilities

- Retailers only sell covered products from producers who are in compliance with stewardship requirements.
- State and local governments work with producers and retailers on educating the public about the

stewardship programs.

- Consumers are responsible for using return systems set up by producers or their agents.

3. Governance

- 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.
- Government allows producers the flexibility to determine the most cost-effective means of achieving the goals and performance standards.
- 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.
- Product categories required to have stewardship programs are selected using the process and priorities set out in framework legislation.
- 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

- 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

- Framework legislation should address environmental product design, including source reduction, recyclability and reducing toxicity of covered products.
- Framework legislation requires that stewardship programs ensure that all products covered by the stewardship program are managed in an environmentally sound manner.
- Stewardship programs must be consistent with other State sustainability legislation, including those that address greenhouse gas reduction and the waste management hierarchy.
- 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.

The above Principles have been adopted by these local government councils:

CPSC, NWPSC, TXPSC, VTPSC, NYPSC, BCPSC Logos ganged together

- Northwest Product Stewardship Council www.productstewardship.net [3]
- California Product Stewardship Council www.calpsc.org [4]
- Vermont Product Stewardship Council www.vtpsc.org [5]
- British Columbia Product Stewardship Council www.bcproductstewardship.org [6]
- Texas Product Stewardship Council www.txpsc.org [7]
- New York Product Stewardship Council www.nypsc.org [8]
- NYS Assoc. for Solid Waste Management www.newyorkwaste.org [9]

The above Principles have been adopted by these associations:

- Reusable Packaging Association - [Framework RPA 2010](#) [10] - January 2010
- Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials - [ASTSWMO Product Stewardship Framework Policy Document](#) [11] - October 2009

See also [EPR Framework](#)[12] and [Local EPR Resolutions](#)[13].

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Links:

- [1] <http://www.productpolicy.org/ppi/attachments/JointFrameworkPrinciplesFeb2010.pdf>
- [2] <http://www.productpolicy.org/ppi/attachments/Principios-Estructurales-PPI.pdf>
- [3] <http://www.productstewardship.net/>
- [4] <http://www.calpsc.org/>
- [5] <http://www.vtpsc.org/>
- [6] <http://www.bcproductstewardship.org/>
- [7] <http://www.txpsc.org/>
- [8] <http://www.nypsc.org>
- [9] <http://www.newyorkwaste.org/>
- [10] <http://www.productpolicy.org/ppi/Framework-RPA-1-2010.pdf>
- [11] <http://www.productpolicy.org/ppi/Framework-ASTSWMO.pdf>
- [12] <http://www.productpolicy.org/content/epr-framework>
- [13] <http://www.productpolicy.org/content/adopt-epr-resolutions>