

Give it Back!

EPR and Purchasing

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My Background/Expertise

- **Green Purchasing Institute**
(Executive Director)



- **Product Policy Institute**
(Board Member)

- **CA Product Stewardship Council**
(Consultant)



- **Author: Contracting for**
Producer Responsibility
www.productpolicy.org/resources

What is EPR?



Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach in which manufacturers take physical and/or financial responsibility for their products at the end of their useful life.



Why Add EPR Language to Contracts?

- **Uses market incentives to jump-start EPR**
- **Creates private-sector recycling infrastructure**
- **Saves government agencies time and money**
- **Stimulates product (and packaging) redesign**



How Do Municipalities Recycle Universal Waste Now?

- **Some don't**
- **Some pay for recycling a la carte**
- **Some use HHW program**
- **Some negotiate contracts**
 - ◆ **Product specific**
 - ◆ **Category specific**
 - ◆ **All hazardous materials**
 - ◆ **All recyclables**



Contracting for Producer Responsibility Options

GOOD: Require **VENDORS** to collect and recycle products/packaging they sell you.

Make sure vendors give proof they are recycling responsibly.

First step: links recycling to product purchase.

No assurance it will influence brand owners.



Fluorescent Lamp Recycling in the US

- **EXPENSIVE:** Agencies pay >\$4 to recycle some fluorescent lamps
- **INEFFICIENT:** Infrastructure spotty and confusing
- **INEFFECTIVE:** National lamp recycling rates low (~ 30% for commercially generated lamps)





Fluorescent Lamp Recycling and EPR



- **“Under the European Union’s WEE Directive, the European lamp industry has established an EU-wide infrastructure for recycling energy saving lamps.”**
- **EPR could spur long-lasting, mercury- and lead-free lighting technologies (such as LEDs)**



Vendor Recycling Requirements for Lamps

CASE STUDY:

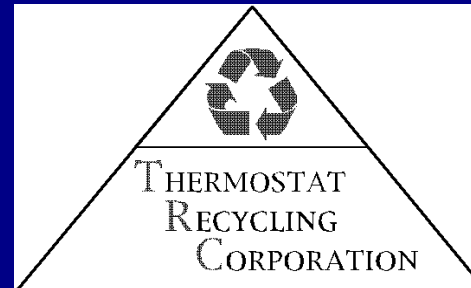
The State of California requires its vendors of fluorescent lamps and other mercury-containing lighting equipment to offer recycling services (for a charge) on their contract.

The cost of recycling was included in the bid evaluation.



Contracting for Producer Responsibility Options

BETTER: Require VENDORS to participate in manufacturer-financed recycling program



Vendor Recycling Requirements for Batteries

CASE STUDY:



San Francisco requires vendors to offer rechargeable batteries in a wide range of sizes (and battery rechargers) AND recycling services on contracts for hardware and office supplies.



Contracting for Producer Responsibility Options

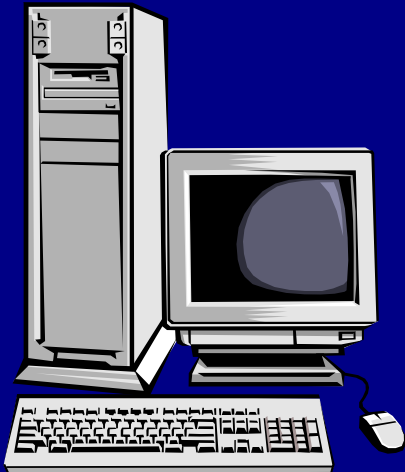
BEST: Buy products made by **MANUFACTURERS** that offer collection and recycling systems they operate or finance



Electronics



New certification for “green” CPUs, monitors and laptops



- **EPEAT: Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool**
- **Manufacturers of certified products must offer recycling program**
- **Purchasers do not need to use it; but they can**
- **UC contract requires takeback (model)**



Computer "Take-Back"

CASE STUDY

Portland, OR saved \$9,000 using Dell's recycling service in its computer contract

- ◆ **800 units recycled**
- ◆ **Recyclers must sign "Pledge of True Stewardship"**
- ◆ **Addressing polystyrene packaging**



Actions and Next Steps

- **Adopt ZW/EPR policy that includes EPP**
- **Integrate EPR into your EPP policy**
- **Include EPP in Zero Waste (and Climate Protection) Action Plans**
- **Adopt reduction goals for specific goods**
- **Partner with GPI to add “take-back” requirements to contracts**



San Francisco's Producer Responsibility Resolution

2006 Board of Supervisors passed resolution that directs SF Department of Environment to help add “product takeback” requirements to contracts

[www.productpolicy.org/
assets/pdf/SF_Resolution
PASSED - EPR_universal_waste.pdf](http://www.productpolicy.org/assets/pdf/SF_Resolution_PASSED_-_EPR_universal_waste.pdf)



How to Incorporate Take-back into Contracts

- **Require/give preference to vendors that will collect and recycle goods**
 - ◆ **Require recycling plan, cost info with bid**
 - ◆ **Include recycling in bid evaluation**
- **Set strong standards on recycling services**
 - ◆ **Require verification of recycling/recovery**
 - ◆ ***Electronics Recycler's Pledge of True Stewardship* (avoid “exporting harm”)**



Contracts to Target

■ IT Equipment

- ◆ CPUs, monitors, laptops, cell phones, copiers

■ Hardware supplies

- ◆ Lamps, batteries, thermostats, power tools, paint

■ Office Supplies

- ◆ Toner/ink cartridges, batteries, furniture

■ Fleet maintenance products

- ◆ Tires, vehicular batteries, motor oil

■ Medical Supplies

- ◆ Pharmaceuticals, sharps, medical equipment



EPR & Purchasing Resources



Purchasing Best Practices: Contracting for Producer Responsibility,

[www.productpolicy.org/assets/resources/
PPI_EPR_for_Purchasing.pdf](http://www.productpolicy.org/assets/resources/PPI_EPR_for_Purchasing.pdf)

Electronics Take←Back Coalition

www.computertakeback.com/purchasing/index.cfm



Questions? Comments?



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