Advancing Product Stewardship to Address Illegal Dumping

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Product Stewardship Institute

Building the capacity for product stewardship and EPR in the U.S. for 20+ years

Government Members & Board
47 state government agencies
hundreds of local governments

Many individual donors

100+ Partners
(industry, NGOs, international governments)
Our Mission

Reduce the health and environmental impacts of products across their life cycle

20+ product categories
Product Stewardship vs. EPR

Product stewardship

Manufacturer ("producer") responsibility

Other government regulatory programs

Voluntary programs

Mandatory programs (e.g., EPR)
A **law** that **extends** a producer’s financial and managerial **responsibility** for its products and packaging beyond the manufacturing stage — both **upstream** to product design and **downstream** to **postconsumer** reuse, recycling, or safe disposal.
Key Elements of Effective EPR Laws

- Producers share responsibility and burden of end-of-life management
- Stewardship program
- Sustainable funding
- Performance targets
- Collection convenience standards
- Outreach and education
- Annual reporting
- Government Oversight and Enforcement
EPR in the United States | Today

125 Laws
15 Products
33 States + D.C.
EPR in California

- Carpet
- Mattresses
- Paint
- Rechargeable Batteries
- Pharmaceuticals and medical sharps
- Pesticide Containers
- Mercury thermostats
- Cell Phones
Why is EPR Helpful in Reducing Illegal Dumping?

➢ EPR can reduce illegal dumping by:
  • Providing sustainable funding for end-of-life management of products
  • Increasing education and awareness
  • Increasing collection convenience

➢ Effective EPR laws can also:
  • Incentivize reduction of toxics in products
  • Establish performance standards to promote higher end uses (reuse/recycling) also creating green jobs
EPR in CA: Successes and Lessons Learned

Collection/Recycling
- 8.5 million mattresses collected (since 2016)
- 30 million gallons of paint collected (since 2012)
- Annual carpet recycling rate - 21% (2020), > 3x national average

Convenience:
- 98% of residents < 15 miles from a mattress collection site
- 99% of residents < 15 miles from paint collection site

Illegal Dumping: >250K mattresses removed from alleys, sidewalks, public spaces

A few lessons...
- Strong performance goals, including for reducing illegal dumping
- Broad product scope
- Government oversight and enforcement
- Plan renewal
EPR as a potential solution for illegal dumping of other products in California
How to Advance Product Stewardship to Reduce Illegal Dumping in CA

• Education and awareness
• Connections and coalitions
• Advocate and provide support for CA EPR bills that are effective models
• Use available resources/tools to develop a bill
Laying the Groundwork with Education

Recyclamps Initiative: Safe Management of Fluorescent Lights

- Educational flyers for residents/business
- Educational *worker safety* poster
- Multilingual educational materials
- Outreach to EJ communities through IVAN network and Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
- Property management association newsletter articles
- How-To Guide to advance safe lights recycling

bit.ly/recyclamps
How PSI Can Help

- Educational Resources & Opportunities
- Legislative Assistance
- Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Meetings & Facilitation
- Research, Pilot Projects, & Evaluation
Thank You!

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