



Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council

WHY SUPPORT EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)?

What is it?

EPR laws require producers of designated products to plan for and pay for the costs of recycling these products.

How will EPR benefit your municipality?

- ⇒ Reduces municipal costs of recycling and disposal.
- ⇒ Increases the volume of products that get recycled instead of trashed.
- ⇒ Gives brand owners an incentive to design products that are durable and recyclable.
- ⇒ Increases MA business and jobs related to reuse and recycling.

How does it work?

Producers (brand owners, first importers) submit a plan for approval to MassDEP detailing how their products will be collected and processed. MassDEP will follow up with monitoring, for accountability and transparency.

Is EPR working anywhere else?

Thirty-two states have EPR laws, for a total of 72 laws in the US. Twenty-four states have EPR laws for electronic waste. Thirty-three countries in the world have EPR laws. Every New England state has at least one EPR law and some have several.

How does industry feel about this?

Increasingly favorably! Now that a number of programs have been implemented, many manufacturers and retailers support EPR as beneficial—and inevitable. For example, Dell testified in support of an e-waste bill for Massachusetts.

Why support the Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council (MAPSC)?

EPR is a solution to the waste problem that is being promoted by MassDEP and by states throughout the Northeast. It's coming to Massachusetts. MA municipalities must work together to ensure that EPR laws and regulations serve the interests of local government. MAPSC will allow our cities and towns to speak with one voice.

How can our municipality participate in the MAPSC? Are there dues or obligations?

To join MAPSC, a municipality must publicly support EPR and designate a contact person for from your municipality. There are no dues. For representation on the Steering Committee, some time to participate is required. * While only cities and towns can join, individuals, businesses, state agencies, and non-profit organizations can become MAPSC partners.

How will EPR affect our current recycling program?

As more and more product categories are covered under EPR, municipal programs will save current costs, and may receive reimbursement from brand owners for continuing to collect designated products. This is happening now in other states. Our cities and towns should have these benefits as well.

* For a form to join the Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council or more information, contact Lynne Pledger, MAPSC Coordinator, at lpledger@cleanwater.org.