



Product Stewardship Programs: A Guide for Local Government

Product Stewardship is a policy that ensures that all those involved in the lifecycle of a product share responsibility for reducing its health and environmental impacts, with producers bearing primary financial responsibility. Product stewardship can be mandatory or voluntary.

For more information about product stewardship, visit www.productstewardship.us.

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The U.S. generates more than 164 million tons of waste annually, at high costs to local government programs. Fortunately, product stewardship solutions for many problem products are beginning to emerge, with many manufacturers stepping in to provide affordable solutions for recycling and properly disposing of consumer products. Read below to learn how you can **bring these manufacturer-funded programs to your community and give your residents new recycling opportunities.**

Rechargeable Batteries: Call2Recycle

What is it? *Call2Recycle allows eligible organizations to collect rechargeable batteries and cell phones free of charge!*
Who can participate? *Local government sites, retailers, & businesses*
How does it work? *Organizations sign up online to receive a collection box or to use bulk shipping. Participants collect batteries and cell phones, placing them first in provided plastic bags. Once the box is full, use pre-paid shipping labels or subsidized bulk shipping to ship materials to Call2Recycle for recycling. A new box is then sent to the site.*



Mercury Thermostats: Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC)

What is it? *TRC allows eligible organizations to collect and recycle mercury thermostats free of charge (PSI will cover the sign-up fee).*
Who can participate? *Local government sites, retailers, contractors, and heating and cooling wholesale distributors*
How does it work? *Organizations sign up for a collection bin online or by mail. Once the bin is full, or at least once per year, use pre-paid shipping labels and provided packaging instructions to ship materials to TRC for recycling. The empty bin is then returned to the site.*



Mercury Auto Switches End-of-Life Vehicle Solutions

What is it? *ELVS allows eligible organizations to collect and recycle mercury auto switches free of charge!*
Who can participate? *Auto recyclers, salvage yards, & scrap processors (local government can help promote, though!)*
How does it work? *Organizations sign up for a collection box online or by phone. Once the box is full of complete assemblies and/or dismantled switches, or at least once per year, use pre-paid shipping labels and provided packaging instructions to ship materials to ELVS for recycling. The empty box is then returned to the site.*



Tires: Bridgestone Tires4Ward

What is it? *Bridgestone Tires4Ward provides support and free spent tire recycling for **community cleanups of rivers and other waterways.***
Who can participate? *Community organizations, including local government*
How does it work? *Organizations apply online for Bridgestone support at least one month prior to their waterway cleanup event. Bridgestone will collect the spent tires from the event for recycling, either at a retail location or through partnerships with a tire recycler.*



Sign up and learn more!
www.productstewardship.us/?page=2015_USDA5