

CASE STUDIES OF COST SAVINGS FOLLOWING ENACTMENT OF EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) LAWS¹

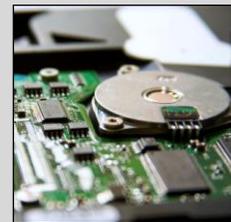


Paint Stewardship in the Portland Metropolitan Area

Launched on July 1, 2010, Oregon became the first state in the country to implement a paint stewardship program managed by the paint industry. The law was based on a model negotiated by the Product Stewardship Institute and allows residents to return unused paint for reuse, recycling, or proper disposal. ***In its inaugural year, the program saved the Portland Metropolitan area about \$1 million as paint manufacturers took over management of latex and oil-based paint.*** With additional supply of high-quality leftover paint, Metro (1.5 million people) also increased the quantity of recycled paint that its government plant could manufacture. As of August 1 2011, 93 statewide collection sites were in operation, including retail (the majority), government, and other venues. PSI is involved in introducing the model paint legislation in other states.

Electronics Stewardship in Snohomish County, Washington

The Snohomish County Solid Waste Division (SCSWD) serves more than 680,000 people in western Washington. In 2002, the County established electronics collection at three public transfer stations, funded by end-of-life fees charged to customers. In 2006, state legislators passed a law requiring the 2009 implementation of an extended producer responsibility program for electronic waste. Electronics producers agreed to pay Snohomish County \$.09 per pound of e-waste collected at county-operated sites. ***During the first 6 months of 2009, manufacturers paid the County \$170,000 to collect 1.9 million pounds of electronics. Manufacturers also paid for transportation and processing, which previously cost the County \$336,000.*** Despite the significant savings, the economic recession forced staff layoffs in the County's solid waste division, and the County ceased collecting electronics at the three public transfer stations. The collection system remained robust, however, due to 17 other manufacturer-established collection sites in Snohomish County. ***Under such EPR systems, local governments can eliminate significant costs, as well as cut local government-provided services if necessary.***



¹ 1 Cost savings detailed here, which are based on local cost information, may differ from PSI's estimates of average costs to collect, transport, and recycle products, which are based on national information. To be useful to local governments throughout the country, PSI has used national cost information in the *Financial Benefits to Local Governments from Product Stewardship* fact sheet and *Financial Benefits Calculator*.

Mercury Thermostat Stewardship in Maine



In 2006, Maine became the first state to require that manufacturers pay for the collection and recycling of mercury thermostats, in a law mediated by PSI. Beginning January 1, 2007, manufacturers of mercury-containing thermostats sold in the state have paid \$5 for each thermostat brought to a state-approved collection site. **Since the law's passage, over 11,000 mercury thermostats have been collected. In its first two years, the program saved Maine's local governments more than \$28,000 as recycling costs shifted from municipalities to manufacturers.** PSI used the Maine law as the basis to develop a model thermostat EPR bill, and nine states have now passed a law based on the model.

Electronics Stewardship in Hennepin and St. Louis Counties, Minnesota

Hennepin County, Minnesota serves a population of more than 1.1 million people. Since 1992, Hennepin has offered a municipal collection program for the recycling of electronic waste. Under the Minnesota Electronics Recycling Act (May 2007), Minnesota became the fourth state in the country to require a producer-funded e-waste collection system. **During the first year of the program, Hennepin County realized cost savings of more than \$680,000, allowing the local government to allocate additional funds to other critical government functions.**



Similarly, St. Louis County in Minnesota serves a population of just under 200,000. The county operates 10 household electronic waste collection sites. **During the first year of the manufacturer-financed program, St. Louis County saved approximately \$90,000 in e-waste management costs.**

Fluorescent Lamps Stewardship in Chittenden County, Vermont



The Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) was the first solid waste district to collect mercury-containing light bulbs in Vermont. It has collected mercury bulbs since 1995 at each of its seven drop-off centers, as well as at its permanent and mobile hazardous waste collection facilities. **With the passage of Vermont's 2011 fluorescent lamps EPR law (which will become active July 1, 2012), the County will save over \$65,000 each year for the safe collection and processing of mercury-containing lamps.** The law will allow the County to apply funds currently used to recycle lamps for other County needs.