

Manufacturer-Funded Product Stewardship for Rechargeable Batteries

A Go-To 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.

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. The “end-of-life” management for certain products is of particular concern, whether it's because they are toxic, bulky, and/or particularly costly to manage. Fortunately, product stewardship solutions for these once problematic categories of goods are beginning to emerge, with many manufacturers stepping in to provide affordable solutions for managing consumer products along their lifecycle.

This fact sheet is part of a go-to guide for local government on manufacturer-funded product stewardship programs, designed to provide a starting point for local recycling coordinators and household hazardous waste (HHW) managers as they seek to introduce new opportunities into their communities.

Program Spotlight: Call2Recycle®



Products: Rechargeable Batteries & Cell Phones

Who can participate?

- Municipal and county recyclers such as HHW facilities, recycling depots or other resource recovery agencies
- Retailers
- Businesses

Which specific products are covered?

- Nickel cadmium (Ni-Cd), lithium ion (Li-Ion), small sealed lead acid (SSLA/Pb), nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH), and nickel zinc (Ni-Zn) batteries
- Cell phones

How does it work?

- Eligible organizations sign up online to become a collection site: <http://www.call2recycle.org/site-participation-inquiry/>.
- Organizations may select to receive collection boxes, or to use bulk shipping.
- In sites with collection boxes, individuals place batteries or cell phones first in provided plastic bags, and then in the box. Once full, collection sites secure the box and send it using pre-paid shipping labels.
- To use the bulk shipping option (recommended for sites collecting shipments of 500 lbs or more), sites collect and bag/tape batteries in larger containers, such as drums. Call2Recycle will pay shipping costs, set up through a freight carrier.
- Call2Recycle sorts, processes, and recycles the collected batteries and cell phones. Cell phones are either refurbished or recycled. Processors extract chemicals and metals from batteries for use in the manufacturing of new products, while waste products are safely disposed. R2 certification ensures battery collection program complies with regulations.

How can local governments access the program?

- Local governments can sign up as a collection site online.

What are the costs?

- Participation is **free** for collection sites.
- Call2Recycle covers collection kit, shipping, and processing costs.
- Participating sites receive a free recycling report and certification.



Sign up and learn more!

www.productstewardship.us/?page=2015_USDA5