

Manufacturer-Funded Product Stewardship for Mercury Auto Switches

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, and how PSI is working to bring these programs to your state, visit www.productstewardship.us.

PSI is an equal opportunity employer and provider. Persons with disabilities who require alternatively formatted materials or other special accommodations to ensure effective communication and access to this flyer should contact Amanda Nicholson at amanda@productstewardship.us or at (617) 236-4833. Please allow at least 10 business days to arrange for accommodations.

This material is based upon work supported under a grant by the Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Rural Utilities Service.



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: End-of-Life Vehicle Solutions (ELVS)



Product: Mercury auto switches

Who can participate?

- Auto recyclers and salvage yards
- Scrap processors/shredders and vehicle crushers

Which specific products are covered?

- Hood/truck convenience light switches
- Anti-lock brake system (ABS) sensor modules
- Air bag crash sensor switches

How does it work?

- Recyclers can sign up online to become a collection site at: http://elvsolutions.org/?page_id=12, or by phone at (877) 225-3587
- Select bucket size (large = 3.5 gallon/130-150 assemblies, small = 1.25 gallon/30 assemblies or 450 switches). Note: per Universal Waste Regulations, sites can only collect up to 450 assemblies or switches at a time
- EQ will ship a box with collection bucket and educational materials to the recycler (keep the box to return the collection bucket).
- Dismantlers collect the switches and place them in the bucket. Send in the whole assembly for ABS modules. For other assemblies send in the whole assembly or just the mercury switch.
- Just before the bucket is full, contact EQ at elvsbuckets@usecology.com or call 1-800-495-6059 to receive a replacement bucket. **Buckets must be returned each year, full or not, to fulfill Universal Waste requirements.**
- Contact UPS for a bucket pickup using prepaid label.
- EQ will receive the bucket, manage the mercury, and track collections.

How can local governments access the program?

- Promote the program to potential participants in service area
- Use ELVS database to monitor participation, encourage sign up, and recognize top performers

What are the costs?

- Participation is **free** for collection sites
- ELVS covers bin, transportation, shipping, and processing costs



Sign up and learn more!

www.productstewardship.us/?page=2015_USDA5