

# 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](http://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: 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](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](mailto: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!**

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