



Northwest Product Stewardship Council

NWPSC ASSOCIATES Pledge of Support

The **Northwest Product Stewardship Council (NWPSC)** is a coalition of government organizations in Washington and Oregon that operates as an unincorporated association of members and is comprised of a Steering Committee, Associates and Subcommittees.

Mission: The mission of the NWPSC is to work together and with other governments, businesses and nonprofit groups to integrate product stewardship (producer responsibility) principles into the policy and economic structures of the Pacific Northwest.

The Council is working to shift Washington and Oregon's product waste management system from one focused on government funded and ratepayer financed waste disposal and waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs, increase accessibility to services, attain higher environmental benefits and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.

Product Stewardship: Product Stewardship is an environmental management strategy that means whoever designs, produces, sells, or uses a product takes responsibility for minimizing the product's environmental impact throughout all stages of the products' life cycle, including end of life management. The greatest responsibility lies with whoever has the most ability to affect the full life cycle environmental impacts of the product. This is most often the producer of the product, though all within the product chain of commerce have roles.

Product Stewardship (PS) and Producer Responsibility (PR) are terms used interchangeably to describe a long-term solution to manage waste products by shifting the responsibility for collection, transportation, and management of products away from local governments to the manufacturers. (taken from the Sonoma County Extended Producer Responsibility Implementation Plan, R3 Consulting Group, Inc., Jan 26, 2007)

Objectives:

The objectives of the Northwest Product Stewardship Council are to:

- Develop and recommend product stewardship policies to organizations, institutions and governments
- Provide effective leadership on product stewardship initiatives in the region
- Assist in coordinating product stewardship efforts in the Northwest and with national product stewardship initiatives whenever possible
- Educate elected officials and other decision makers on the benefits to local government of product stewardship

Steering Committee: Members of the Steering Committee are representatives of government agencies and associations that provide funding and/or staff time to NWPSC product stewardship activities and projects. Members of the 2008 Steering Committee are City of Tacoma, Wa, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Wa, Kitsap County Solid Waste Division, Wa, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, Wa, Metro Solid Waste and Recycling Department, Or, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Seattle Public Utilities, Wa, Snohomish

County Solid Waste Division, Wa, Thurston County Department of Water and Waste Management, Wa, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department, Wa, Washington State Department of Ecology, Yakima County Public Services, Wa.

Associates: Associates are local, state, regional and federal government agencies, businesses and nonprofit groups and other associations that support the NWPSC mission and product stewardship principles. Associates have access to a NWPSC list serve discussion group and can participate in any of the subcommittee projects and programs.

Through participation in the List Serve, Associates will:

- Be provided with opportunities to become involved in NWPSC subcommittee activities.
- Be informed of news and information about product stewardship policies and programs.
- Have access to individuals that have product stewardship expertise.
- Have a forum to share information about their local product stewardship activities.
- Be able to share reports and other pertinent documents with other Associates.

Subcommittees: The 2008 Subcommittees are: Electronics, Mercury, Paint, Beverage Containers/Packaging, Pharmaceuticals, Tires, Chemicals Policy and Policy Subcommittees.



Northwest Product Stewardship Council

Associate Pledge of Support

The undersigned supports the NWPSC mission and the Product Stewardship Principles (Appendix A). Upon submittal of this Pledge of Support the Associate will be contacted by the NWPSC and will be placed on the Associates List Serve.

Signed:

Signature **Date**

Name **Title**

Organization / Department **Jurisdiction**

Mailing Address

Telephone **Email**

I am signing up as an: Individual Organization

What do you hope to gain/learn/accomplish as a NWPSC Associate?

Please mail or fax the signed Pledge of Support to

FAX: 206 296-4475
Mail: Attention: Megan Sety
King County Solid Waste Division
201 S Jackson St, Rm 701
Seattle, Wa 98104



Northwest Product Stewardship Council

APPENDIX A. Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy

The following principles are intended to guide development of product stewardship policies and legislation that governs multiple products. It is primarily aimed at state legislation but is also intended as a guide for local and federal policy.

1. Producer Responsibility

- 1.1 All producers selling a covered product into the State are responsible for designing managing, and financing a stewardship program that addresses the lifecycle impacts of their products including end-of-life management.
- 1.2 Producers have flexibility to meet these responsibilities by offering their own plan or participating in a plan with others.
- 1.3 In addressing end-of-life management, all stewardship programs must finance the collection, transportation, and responsible reuse, recycling or disposition of covered products. Stewardship programs must:
 - Cover the costs of new, historic and orphan covered products.
 - Provide convenient collection for consumers throughout the State.
- 1.4 Costs for product waste management are shifted from taxpayers and ratepayers to producers and users.
- 1.5 Programs are operated by producers with minimum government involvement.

2. Shared Responsibilities

- 2.1 Retailers only sell covered products from producers who are in compliance with stewardship requirements.
- 2.2 State and local governments work with producers and retailers on educating the public about the stewardship programs.
- 2.3 Consumers are responsible for using return systems set up by producers or their agents.

3. Governance

- 3.1 Government sets goals and performance standards following consultation with stakeholders. All programs within a product category are accountable to the same goals and performance standards.
- 3.2 Government allows producers the flexibility to determine the most cost-effective means of achieving the goals and performance standards.
- 3.3 Government is responsible for ensuring a level playing field by enforcing requirements that all producers in a product category participate in a stewardship program as a condition for selling their product in the jurisdiction.
- 3.4 Product categories required to have stewardship programs are selected using the process and priorities set out in framework legislation.
- 3.5 Government is responsible for ensuring transparency and accountability of stewardship programs. Producers are accountable to both government and consumers for disclosing environmental outcomes.

4. Financing

- 4.1 Producers finance their stewardship programs as a general cost of doing business, through cost internalization or by recovering costs through arrangements with their distributors and retailers. End of life fees are not allowed.

5. Environmental Protection

- 5.1 Framework legislation should address environmental product design, including source reduction, recyclability and reducing toxicity of covered products.
- 5.2 Framework legislation requires that stewardship programs ensure that all products covered by the stewardship program are managed in an environmentally sound manner.
- 5.3 Stewardship programs must be consistent with other State sustainability legislation, including those that address greenhouse gas reduction and the waste management hierarchy.
- 5.4 Stewardship programs include reporting on the final disposition, (i.e., reuse, recycling, disposal) of products handled by the stewardship program, including any products or materials exported for processing.