



City of Seattle



Product Stewardship Strategies for Local Governments

Seattle: For one city, where does product stewardship fit in?

- ▶ **Actually, we invited you all here to help us answer this question while learning a lot about product stewardship/EPR.**
- ▶ **We know product stewardship for most materials will ultimately need state-level regulation.**
- ▶ **Sometimes that looks a long way off.**
- ▶ **So we've tried a few things, not always successfully, using elements of product stewardship available to local governments.**
- ▶ **Here are a few examples.**

Disposable shopping bags

- ▶ Goal: reduce use, reduce waste.
- ▶ Options: bans, fees, just talk.
- ▶ Ban plastic and you push users to paper.
- ▶ Seattle: “Green Fee” on both.
- ▶ Product stewardship?



Actually, yes.

- ▶ We asked who really makes the decision that puts this product in the waste stream.
- ▶ Producer?
- ▶ End user?
- ▶ Deterrent had to focus on the end user, not the producer.

Single-use food service packaging

- ▶ Seattle banned “Styrofoam” food service containers and cups.
- ▶ Then, to prevent, heavier plastics from going to landfill, the City required all food service packaging to be either compostable or recyclable.



Why is this product stewardship?

- ▶ EPR assumes that producers bearing end-of-life cost will design for recycling.
- ▶ In this case, you could say Seattle legislated product design, driving a huge change toward compostable food service ware.

Yellow pages phone directories

- ▶ Goal #1 : waste prevention.
- ▶ Producer responsibility required.
 - Must honor opt-out requests – subject to fines.
 - Fund opt-out system via fees based on annual reporting.

Yellow pages phone directories

- ▶ Goal # 2: Recover recycling cost.
- ▶ Producer responsibility required.
 - Annual reporting of tonnage delivered.
 - Reimbursement to City for net recycling cost per ton (\$148).
- ▶ (This portion of the law repealed.)



Another strategy: retail take-back

- ▶ If not otherwise recyclable and in the absence of other regulation, Seattle could require sellers to take back products at end-of-life.

Possibilities:

- Household (alkaline) batteries
- Medical sharps



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Toward Zero Waste