



Product Stewardship: At Work in Washington State

Washington State continues to be a leader in product stewardship programs and policies. **The state has four legislated product stewardship programs for electronics, mercury-containing lights, solar panels and medicines.** These programs provide state residents with convenient, safe recycling or disposal solutions for toxic and hard-to-handle products. Because the programs are manufacturer-financed, they have a stable funding source that ensures the programs will be in place for years to come.

Washington's Product Stewardship Programs

E-Cycle Washington

Accepting computers, monitors and TVs, the program has created approximately 80 new recycling jobs, helping to stimulate our economy. Learn more or find a recycling location near you at ecyclewashington.org.



Launch year: 2009
Statewide locations: 300+
Pounds recycled: 385 million

LightRecycle Washington

Offers Washington residents safe recycling solutions for mercury-containing lights such as fluorescent lights and CFLs. The program is financed by manufacturers through an environmental handling charge on mercury-containing lights levied at the time of sale. To learn more or find a recycling location, visit lightrecycle.org.



Launch year: 2015
Statewide locations: 300+
Lights recycled: 4 million

Secure Drug Take-Back

Signed into law on March 22, 2018, the Secure Drug Take-Back Program requires drug manufacturers to implement a statewide program for residents to safely mail back or dispose of unused, expired, and leftover medications at secure drop-off sites. Drug manufacturers whose medicines are sold in Washington have until July 1, 2019 to submit program proposals meeting the new law's requirements. Seven Washington counties have ordinances in place with requirements similar to the state law. These programs will eventually be merged into the new statewide program, but will continue operating in the meantime. The statewide program will be implemented as early as mid-2020, depending on when program proposals are accepted by Department of Health. In the meantime, you can find a take-back location near you at takebackyourmeds.org.

Solar Panels

The Solar Panels (photovoltaic modules) Stewardship program requires solar panel manufacturers to provide the public with a convenient and environmentally sound way to recycle solar panels sold after July 1, 2017. Manufacturers will finance the program and recycle all solar modules sold in or into Washington. The program is slated to launch on January 1, 2021. Learn more at ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-recycling-waste/Solar-panels.



What's Next?

Product Stewardship continues to be a viable option for creating sustainable, convenient solutions for hard-to-handle and toxic products at their end of life. See the table at right for a snapshot of what's being done with other products in the United States and Canada.



What is Product Stewardship?

Product stewardship programs require manufacturers to be financially responsible for their products at end of life. This provides incentives for manufacturers to make products that last longer or are easier to recycle, and shifts costs off of local governments and their ratepayers. Product stewardship programs are primarily used for toxic or hard-to-handle products that are costly or difficult to dispose of or recycle.



Product:	Product stewardship program available?	
	Canadian Provinces	Some US States
Antifreeze	✓	
Agricultural bags	✓	
Automobiles	✓	
Batteries	✓	✓
Beverage containers	✓	✓
Carpet		✓
Electronics	✓	✓
Fluorescents	✓	✓
Household hazardous waste	✓	
Mercury-containing products	✓	✓
Mattresses		✓
Milk containers	✓	
Mobile phones	✓	✓
Motor oil	✓	
Organics	✓	
Packaging and printed paper	✓	
Pesticides	✓	✓
Pharmaceuticals	✓	✓
Sharps (needles)	✓	✓
Single-use retail bags	✓	
Small appliances	✓	
Solar panels		✓
Tires	✓	
Unwanted paint	✓	✓




Northwest Product Stewardship Council

Who is the NWPSC?

The NWPSC is an unincorporated association of government organizations in Washington and Oregon that is comprised of a Steering Committee, Associates and Subcommittees. The NWPSC works with public and private sector entities to develop policy approaches to safely manage products that are toxic, hazardous or difficult to manage at the end of life. The NWPSC develops policy, analyzes legislative proposals and tracks legislation, but is not a lobbying organization.

Join us!

- Join our listserv or Associates Program at productstewardship.net/join
- Follow us on Twitter  [@StewardshipNW](https://twitter.com/StewardshipNW)
- Visit our website at productstewardship.net

