



In Support of New York's Proposed E-Waste Legislation (A.9049/S.6047A)

The New York Product Stewardship Council (NYPSC) believes that the enactment of well crafted and workable electronic waste (e-waste) take-back legislation during this legislative session is critically important. E-waste legislation represents an important step for New York State by advancing true product stewardship; shifting primary responsibility for e-waste management at the end of a product's useful life from local taxpayers (or solid waste system ratepayers) to manufacturers. This shift in responsibility ultimately results in product design changes that reduce toxicity and enhance future reuse and recycling. Also important in today's economic climate, real jobs are created by harvesting electronics from the trash.

Last year, the State Assembly passed an e-waste recycling bill (A.9049) that incorporates the principles of product stewardship. In April, the State Senate passed a virtually identical bill (S.6047). The sole difference between these bills is the extent to which manufacturers would be permitted to charge for-profit and not-for-profit entities for collection of e-waste. NYPSC believes that the adoption of e-waste product stewardship legislation would be a big step in the right direction for all New Yorkers and for the environment. **Please contact your local legislators in both houses to strongly urge them to pass a reconciled bill this session.**

Several of the NYPSC's position points regarding e-waste are set forth below:

- Product Stewardship properly shifts the burden of handling waste from local governments and taxpayers to those who produce it. By requiring manufacturers to recognize the costs of handling their products at end-of-life, they are encouraged to design products that are easier to recycle, more durable, less toxic, and use more reusable parts and less virgin resources. The NYPSC supports legislation providing no fee collections to residents, schools, local governments, and charitable organizations that utilize the recycling program.
- We support legislation with a broad product scope. A wide variety of consumer electronics products contain the same toxic components as TVs and computers. All combined, e-waste is one of the fastest growing segments of New York's trash. The life cycle for electronics grows ever shorter as better products are always on the horizon. The same tremendous design effort invested by manufacturers in these new applications, and new product adaptations, recognizes that the technology sector would create equally powerful

solutions for recycling and recovery of their equipment if all manufacturers were fully engaged in end-of-life considerations.

- The collection infrastructure necessary to recycle TVs and computers can also handle the many different electronic products. A legislative solution with a broad product scope will create economies of scale that allow for a lower cost per item and greater system efficiency. Piecemeal solutions and voluntary take back programs are shown to be ineffective.
- The results, so far, from the states that have already passed e-waste laws show that the e-waste legislation improves recycling and also creates jobs. Minnesota, Oregon, West Virginia, Washington, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, and thirteen other states in the nation have already recognized that product stewardship legislation is the right approach to reduce the burden on the local taxpayers and harvest additional jobs from the trash currently going to a landfill.
- The proposed legislation sets realistic recovery goals for readily achievable levels of participation already achieved in other states. There are well thought out collection benchmarks to enable the manufacturers to build the same successful programs already in place elsewhere across the country.
- An important goal of the legislation is to ensure that all New Yorkers have convenient access to e-waste recycling programs without a fee to the user. The convenience standard requires that all counties, and large communities, have some manner of handy recovery available, while allowing manufacturers' flexibility in determining what collection methods make sense for their business model.
- As proposed in the legislation supported, great product stewardship is about allowing the industry to design the most effective collection and recycling solutions, not government mandated bureaucracy. The role of the legislation the NYPSC supports is to set reasonable effective standards, relying on the electronics industry's demonstrated ability to meet these standards.
- Today, the typical best in class manufacturer recognizes the importance of sustainability initiatives and product stewardship. The NYPSC supports a legislative solution to level the playing field by sensibly expecting all manufacturers to be held to a common standard of environmental protection and recycling convenience for their customers.

Your help and support for this important e-waste legislation is needed today. Let your legislators know that A.9049 and S.6047A need to be approved this year.