



2017 In Review: Advancing Product Stewardship in New York State

A transformation in materials management is underway, one that propels us toward a sustainable system that holds manufacturers responsible for the end-of-life management of their products—particularly for goods that are tough to recycle or properly dispose because they are bulky, toxic, or otherwise challenging for municipal waste managers.

This **product stewardship** transformation is led by the New York Product Stewardship Council (NYPSC) and made possible by support from the NYS Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling; the NYS Chapter of SWANA; the Federation of NY Solid Waste Associations; the NYS Association for Solid Waste Management; Covanta Energy Corporation; and Call2Recycle, among others. NYPSC also works closely with the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), municipalities, and other partners to achieve its objectives.

Results: manufacturers of consumer electronics, rechargeable batteries, and mercury thermostats have been engaged in this innovative approach in NYS, and the groundwork has been laid for a similar approach to other products in the near future, including: paint, pharmaceuticals, alkaline batteries, solar panels, and carpet.

2017 Achievements

Paint Stewardship (A.1038/S.881)

NYPSC distributed educational materials, conducted outreach to Senate and Assembly members, and wrote a group letter of support that gained **44 signatures** from state, regional, and local governments and organizations who support the bill. NYPSC spurred 6 groups to submit their own letters, and 6 additional groups to pass resolutions.

Pharmaceuticals Stewardship

The NYPSC pharmaceuticals subcommittee worked closely with Assemblyman Englebright's office to improve his 2017 stewardship bill. NYPSC also urged the Governor to veto faulty drug take-back bill S.06750/A.387-B, which he did on December 18.

NYPSC and PSI received a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Office to run a drug take-back pilot program with five hospitals serving rural New York State.

Electronics Stewardship

Armed with extensive feedback and guidance that NYPSC provided in 2016, the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation worked to develop draft regulations, expected to be issued in 2018, that will improve the State's electronics recycling and reuse law. NYPSC will support the regulations and, if necessary, provide recommendations to address key challenges and ensure municipal e-waste collection costs are covered.

Textiles Recovery

Thanks to a New York State Pollution Prevention Institute grant, NYPSC hosted the **2017 New York Textiles Summit** in NYC. The Summit attracted over 170 attendees in-person and online — 71% higher than our original goal — bringing together a wide range of stakeholders. Post-Summit survey results indicate that 74% of respondents will definitely or likely pursue a textiles recovery initiative or participate in others' initiatives. 94% indicated that they increased their awareness of textile recovery options and pollution prevention. 94% also made useful professional connections at the Summit; these connections will help further collaborative efforts to find solutions.

NYPSC 2017 Year in Review

NYPSC's 2018 Priorities

- Improve and pass a statewide EPR bill for pharmaceuticals (S.7354/A.9576) with Senator Hannon's office and Assemblywoman Gunther's office.
- Pass legislation (A.1038 / S.881) creating a statewide paint stewardship program modeled on an approach supported by the American Coating Association (ACA) through its PaintCare program.
- Ensure development and implementation of effective regulations that will improve NY State's existing electronics EPR statute and collaborate with NYSASWM and NYS Association of Counties (NYSAC) to secure Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) grants to offset municipal e-waste collection costs.
- Seek voluntary or legislated product stewardship solutions to address alkaline batteries, household hazardous waste, and solar panels.

For more info and how you can help, go to: www.NYPSC.org