

DC's Battery Producer Responsibility Law

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Overview

- Context
- Background on the law
- Highlights from the law
- Implementation status

Context

- Excerpt from the Sustainable DC 2.0 plan:

WS3.5

Expand Washington, DC's product stewardship program to include additional product streams.

Washington, DC is successfully implementing product stewardship programs for paint and electronics. The models from these programs are transferrable to other specific waste streams (e.g., pharmaceuticals, batteries, mattresses).

Background on the law

- Established by the Zero Waste Omnibus Amendment Act of 2020
 - The act was signed by the DC Mayor in December 2020; effective April 2021
 - Battery stewardship provisions became “applicable” on October 1, 2021
- First U.S. battery stewardship law applying to both single-use and rechargeable batteries



Highlights from the law

- Who does the law apply to?
 - “Producers of covered batteries and covered battery-containing products sold or offered for sale in the District of Columbia, including retail, wholesale, business-to-business, and online sales”
- Definitions
 - Covered battery: “a new or unused primary battery or rechargeable battery”
 - Primary battery: “a non-rechargeable battery that weighs 4.4 pounds (2 kilograms) or less...”
 - Rechargeable battery: “a battery ... designed to be recharged, that weighs less than 11 pounds (5 kilograms) and has a Watt-hour rating of no more than 300 Watt-hours...”
 - Covered battery-containing product: “a new or unused battery-containing product”
 - Battery-containing product: “a product that contains or is packaged with a rechargeable or primary battery”

Highlights from the law

- Key requirement? Producers meeting the criteria on the previous slide must:
 - Be a member of a battery stewardship organization and
 - “As part of a battery stewardship organization, implement a battery collection program that provides for collection of all batteries on a free, regular, convenient, and accessible basis” and recycle the collected batteries to the maximum extent economically and technically feasible

Highlights from the law

§ 8–771.09. Disposal ban.

(a) Beginning January 1, 2022, no producer shall dispose of batteries in the District except through battery recycling programs or other methods approved by the Mayor.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2023, no person in the District shall knowingly dispose of batteries in the District except through battery recycling programs or other methods approved by the Mayor.

Implementation status

- DOEE staff created website content, including an FAQ: <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1567851>

Battery stewardship: Producers

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- Have questions? Review the material below and [this FAQ](#).

Background

A new battery recycling program in development will soon provide new options for residents to safely and conveniently recycle their batteries. The [Zero Waste Omnibus Amendment Act of 2020](#), signed by the Mayor in December 2020, contained a subtitle establishing battery stewardship requirements, which are now in effect.

Who does the law apply to?

Implementation status

- One entity registered as a battery stewardship organization (BSO): Call2Recycle
- DC Council changed the deadline for the BSO to submit a battery stewardship plan from 1/1/22 to 1/1/23
- DOEE has been delegated authority to write regulations

Contact information

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THANK YOU!

