



Who Is PSI?

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is a national non-profit environmental institute with membership from 45 states, over 125 local governments, tribes, and more than 55 businesses, organizations and universities that establishes cooperative agreements to reduce the health and environmental impacts from consumer products. We work with state, local, and tribal governments to partner with waste management firms, manufacturers, retailers, environmental groups, federal agencies, and other key stakeholders. PSI's mission is to pursue initiatives to ensure that all those involved in the lifecycle of a product share responsibility for reducing its health and environmental impacts, with producers bearing primary financial responsibility.

Product Stewardship

Product stewardship encourages all participants in the lifecycle of a product to take responsibility for reducing the impacts to the environment and human health caused by the production, use, and end-of-life management of that product.

What We Do

Using the *Principles of Product Stewardship* as its guide, the Product Stewardship Institute provides the following services:



Research, Pilot Projects, and Evaluation

PSI provides clear, factual analysis and practical recommendations to inform and shape product stewardship policy, focusing on specific products as well as framework approaches. PSI designs, implements, and evaluates pilot projects, and includes recommendations for next steps and the potential for a national roll-out.



Facilitation and Consensus Building

PSI helps groups share information, identify common interests, reach agreement, and develop and implement priority strategies to promote and implement product stewardship.



Legislative Tracking, Analysis, and Promotion

PSI develops effective local, state, and federal product stewardship legislation, and harmonizes legislative approaches and elements. Coordinated state laws have the potential to create the foundation for future federal product stewardship legislation. Local legislation is also emerging as a potent force for change.



Build Product Stewardship Capacity through Education and Empowerment

PSI staff and members provide a powerful source of information about all aspects of product stewardship for “beginners” as well as seasoned product stewardship professionals. PSI provides a forum to share information about product stewardship and a clearinghouse for emerging ideas.

PSI's Approach

PSI's projects take a product stewardship approach. "Product stewardship" means that all those involved in the lifecycle of a product share responsibility for reducing its health and environmental impacts, with producers bearing responsibility for financing collection and recycling or safe disposal. PSI shares knowledge about environmental, regulatory, market-based, and technological solutions that shape product policy; develops trust among participants; honors existing partnerships; and negotiates each participant's role within the context of an overall solution. Working with stakeholders, PSI identifies areas where innovation is most needed and develops plans to fill the void with pilot projects and new policy approaches.

Stakeholders

PSI directly engages a wide range of stakeholders throughout the process. Participants typically include representatives of state, local, and tribal governments, federal officials, manufacturers, retailers, waste management/recycling industry, and environmental or public health organizations. Stakeholder groups may be represented by industry associations or other coalitions.



PSI PROJECT AREAS:

BATTERIES

www.productstewardship.us/batteries

ELECTRONICS

www.productstewardship.us/electronics

FLUORESCENT LIGHTING

www.productstewardship.us/fluorescentlighting

GAS CYLINDERS

www.productstewardship.us/gascylinders

MEDICAL SHARPS

www.productstewardship.us/medicalsharps

PAINT

www.productstewardship.us/paint

PHARMACEUTICALS

www.productstewardship.us/pharmaceuticals

PHONEBOOKS

www.productstewardship.us/phonebooks

RADIOACTIVE DEVICES

www.productstewardship.us/radioactive

THERMOSTATS

www.productstewardship.us/thermostats

TIRES

www.productstewardship.us/tires

PSI Work Highlights

- Facilitated an historic multi-stakeholder agreement in which paint manufacturers agreed to take responsibility for financing and managing leftover paint through a nationally coordinated system. Paint stewardship will begin in Oregon in 2010 and soon after in eight other states.
- Held two major multi-stakeholder meetings on waste pharmaceuticals in 2008 to change federal regulations to make take-back programs more cost-effective and provide a clear message to the public about how to dispose of leftover drugs.
- Reached consensus on the need for more laws that ban disposal of fluorescent lamps and greater enforcement of existing laws. Proved that retail lamps collection works, and developed hands-on guidance for retailers seeking to establish lamps collection programs.
- Developed model comprehensive mercury thermostat legislation in 2007 based on producer responsibility. Seven states have used the model as the basis for their laws.
- PSI's pilot computer take-back program with Staples Inc. led the company to institute a permanent national computer take-back program in 2007.

PSI initiatives include work on the following products: batteries, electronics, fluorescent lamps, gas cylinders, medical sharps, radioactive devices, paint, pharmaceuticals, phone books, thermostats, and tires. Other products are in development.