



Through a product stewardship law for containers, packaging, and paper, Massachusetts can:

**INCREASE RECYCLING,
REDUCE UNNECESSARY
PACKAGING & SAVE
MUNICIPALITIES MONEY**

A product stewardship law, such as S.471, will make it easy for all Massachusetts Residents to recycle more plastics, aluminum cans, glass bottles, cardboard, and paper. This will rapidly improve the recycling rate in Massachusetts and result in fewer greenhouse gas emissions, cleaner air and water, less waste sent to landfills and incinerators, and lower disposal costs for taxpayers.

A STEWARDSHIP LAW FOR CONTAINERS, PACKAGING, AND PAPER WILL:



Increase our recycling rate and reduce climate pollution.



Provide free recycling for all MA residents, including those living in apartments and in rural areas.



Develop a clear common list of what can be recycled statewide.



Save local governments money by reimbursing their costs to run recycling programs.



Support Mass. businesses by creating a more resilient domestic supply of raw materials to make new products.



Create financial incentives for companies to reduce unnecessary packaging and use greener, more recyclable materials.

HOW A STEWARDSHIP SYSTEM FOR PACKAGING & PRINTED PAPER WILL WORK

- Companies that sell plastic, metal, and glass containers and printed paper, including cardboard, in Massachusetts will be required to pay to recycle their products.
- The companies will form an independent non-profit organization, called a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO), to coordinate, fund, and manage a statewide recycling system.
- Companies will pay fees to the PRO based on the amount and type of material they sell in Massachusetts. The PRO will use these funds to reimburse local governments (or private haulers) to operate convenient recycling programs for residents and other entities.
- MassDEP will oversee the PRO, with input from a stakeholder advisory committee.
- The PRO will cover 100% of the costs of recycling, including consumer education and government oversight of the program.

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP IS A PROVEN SOLUTION

More than 40 countries have product stewardship laws for containers and packaging materials. And, four states (ME, OR, CA, CO) passed the first US laws for packaging since 2021.

Recycling avoids three tons of climate pollution for every ton recycled.

WILL THIS INCREASE COSTS FOR CONSUMERS?

Product stewardship programs are in place in dozens of countries and provinces, and some have been in place for nearly three decades. There is no evidence to show that product stewardship programs lead to an increase in consumer prices based on research on similar programs throughout Canada and Europe.

BUSINESSES SUPPORT PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP TO STRENGTHEN SUPPLY CHAINS

Businesses have faced massive disruptions in global supply chains and struggle to source the metal, paper, plastic, and glass needed to make new packaging and products. Meanwhile Massachusetts buries or incinerates more than 5.4 million tons of resources every year. By recycling more, we can create a reliable domestic supply of recycled materials to make new products. Over 100 global companies have publicly stated their broad support for product stewardship policies to increase recycling, reduce plastic pollution, and help strengthen local economies. Product stewardship laws are an essential component of a circular economy.

Product stewardship in Massachusetts has support from local governments, the Massachusetts Municipal Association, environmental groups, and more. For more info, please contact:

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Learn more at <https://massrecycle.org/>