

## Who Is PSI?

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is a national non-profit environmental institute, located in Boston, Massachusetts. Founded in 2000 by Executive Director, Scott Cassel, we work with state and local government agencies to partner with manufacturers, retailers, environmental groups, federal agencies, and other key stakeholders to reduce the health and environmental impacts of consumer products. Our unique approach pursues initiatives to ensure that all those involved in the lifecycle of a product share responsibility for reducing these hazards, with producers bearing primary responsibility.

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.



# Join PSI in the product stewardship movement

## OUR SERVICE

With membership from 47 state governments, over 200 local governments, and more than 75 corporate, organizational, academic, and non-U.S. government partners, the Product Stewardship Institute brings together parties that have diverse interests with the goal of jointly developing product stewardship solutions.



**What motivates companies is that our organization offers a national forum for the discussion of issues rather than risking piecemeal laws in multiple states and local governments that add to business cost and complexity.**

**What motivates government is that they save millions of dollars by shifting waste management costs from taxpayers to manufacturers and consumers, and by lowering overall costs by designing more efficient programs.**

## 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 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 for product stewardship programs.

### ➤ Build Product Stewardship Capacity through Education and Empowerment

PSI provides a forum to share information about product stewardship and a clearinghouse for emerging ideas.

### ➤ Legislative Tracking, Analysis, and Promotion

PSI develops effective local, state, and federal product stewardship legislation, and harmonizes legislative approaches and elements.

PSI has played a key role in 32 U.S. states, which have passed more than 70 laws that require product manufacturers to set up and pay for the collection and management of ten different product categories:

- Auto Switches
- Batteries
- Beverage Containers
- Carpet
- Cell Phones
- Electronics
- Fluorescent Lighting
- Mercury Thermostats
- Paint
- Pesticide Containers

## THE BENEFITS

Shifting long-standing government waste management obligations to the private sector gives manufacturers incentive to design products that use fewer materials, are reusable and recyclable, and are made with recycled materials. These processes also reduce overall system costs, save taxpayers money, and reduce the need for government intervention. By expanding reuse, disassembly, recycling, and waste management services, product stewardship also creates local green recycling jobs.

## A DECADE OF KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>2000</b> PSI is launched at country's first product stewardship forum.  | <b>2007</b> PSI assists U.S. EPA in establishing new program to develop non-radioactive industrial devices used in manufacturing.   |
| <b>2001</b> PSI creates the nation's first <i>Principles of Product Stewardship</i> .<br><br>PSI initiates national discussions on electronics recycling, leading to 25 state electronics stewardship laws.  | <b>2008</b> PSI initiates national dialogue on medical sharps.  |
| <b>2002</b> PSI initiates national dialogue on leftover paint, leading to model stewardship legislation supported by paint manufacturers, retailers, government agencies, and other stakeholders.  | <b>2009</b> First paint stewardship law enacted in Oregon with the PSI model being introduced in other states.<br><br>First fluorescent lamp stewardship law enacted in Maine.  |
| <b>2003</b> PSI initiates national dialogue on pressurized gas cylinders, leading to prototype device to increase recycling.   | <b>2010</b> Second paint stewardship law enacted in California.<br><br>Second lamp stewardship law enacted in Washington.   |
| <b>2004</b> First electronics stewardship law enacted in California.<br><br>PSI initiates national dialogue on mercury thermostats and expands the industry's voluntary recycling program.<br><br>PSI conducts nation's first computer take-back pilot project with Staples, leading to nationwide implementation. | <b>2011</b> First phone book law enacted in Seattle to reduce the unwanted distribution of telephone books, enabling residents to "opt out."<br><br>PSI works with Congress and federal agencies to change the federal Controlled Substances Act, which will reduce the cost of drug take-back. |
| <b>2006</b> PSI initiates national dialogue on fluorescent lamps.<br><br>PSI initiates national dialogue on phone books, leading to PSI model stewardship legislation.<br><br>PSI mediates nation's first thermostat stewardship law in Maine and develops model legislation now passed in nine states.            | <b>2011</b> First phone book law enacted in San Francisco that limits phone book distribution to only residents requesting delivery.<br><br>Third paint stewardship law passed in Connecticut.<br><br>Third lamp stewardship law enacted in Vermont.  |

## THE DECADE AHEAD

During the next decade, we will redouble our efforts to reduce product impacts throughout their lifecycle -- from mining, through consumer use, and to product end-of-life. In order to pay for this fully comprehensive approach, we must engage manufacturers and retailers to incorporate the price of worker, community, and environmental protection into their cost of doing business. Faced with having to pay the true cost of goods, we believe that over-consumption will be reduced, and that manufacturers will make products that last longer, can be repaired, and have fewer impacts when disposed.

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT PSI



*I approached PSI with an idea and they helped us design and implement the nation's first pilot computer take back program. Their detailed report on the operational, financial, and regulatory issues was key to our ability to scale the program nationally. PSI showed us how take-back could become part of our business.*

**Mark Buckley, Vice President for Environmental Affairs, Staples**



*Under the new paint product stewardship program facilitated by PSI, Oregon's Metro regional government will save about \$1 million each year. Thanks to PSI's vision, leadership and tenacity, what was once a longtime dream has become a reality. The program will save valuable resources and create jobs by enhancing our facility's capacity to manufacture and sell high-quality recycled paint.*

**Jim Quinn, Hazardous Waste Program Manager, Metro, Oregon**

For more information about the benefits of becoming a member or partner please contact:  
**Suzy Whalen**— Outreach and Communications Coordinator  
(617) 236-8293 — [suzy@productstewardship.us](mailto:suzy@productstewardship.us)