

Extended Producer Responsibility

What is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?

EPR is a policy approach to handling waste in which producers (manufacturers) are responsible for the post-consumer disposal of their products – financially, physically, or both. It is a form of “product stewardship,” which refers to managing products, from design to disposal, in a way that minimizes their effect on the environment. Two main goals of EPR are to (1) shift product disposal away from the public sector and (2) incentivize redesign of products and packaging.

Does Connecticut use EPR to manage the disposal of products?

Yes. Connecticut currently has four operational statutory EPR programs that cover architectural paint, electronic devices, mattresses, and mercury thermostats. Programs for gas cylinders and tires are forthcoming.

In general, Connecticut’s EPR laws include provisions on establishing the program and providing collection services, education and outreach, and annual reporting to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), including an accounting of program costs. A non-profit organization created by each industry operates the mattress, paint, and thermostat programs. The law requires municipalities to collect the electronics for recycling. The table on the following page compares some of the principal components of these EPR programs, including any consumer fees they impose.

Each law prohibits manufacturers that do not participate in the respective program from selling their products in the state. Enforcement of the programs’ requirements is DEEP’s responsibility.

In addition to these statutory programs, the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, a non-profit product stewardship organization created by battery manufacturers, operates a [program](#) to collect and recycle dry-cell rechargeable batteries and cell phones. The program has both a retail take-back and a municipal drop-off component.

Proposals for Other EPR Programs

Since 2015, the Environment Committee has favorably voted out bills related to creating additional EPR programs for consumer packaging, nonrechargeable household batteries, and smoke detectors.

The table below provides the committee’s most recently voted on EPR-related legislation for each product type.

Product	Year	Bill #
Consumer packaging	2023	HB 6664 § 1
Household batteries	2015	HB 6957
Smoke detectors	2023	HB 6609

Connecticut's Statutory EPR Programs

Program	Covered Products	Program Description	Program Fees
Household Electronics (CGS §§ 22a-629 to -640; Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 22a-630(d)-1 & 22a-638-1)	Computers, monitors, and printers; televisions	<p>Municipalities, individually or through a regional authority, collect and transport electronics to an electronic recycler</p> <p>Manufacturers must register with DEEP and pay for the transport and recycling of the electronics</p>	Initial and renewal manufacturer registration fees to cover administrative costs that are, in part, related to the manufacturer's market share
Mattress (CGS §§ 22a-905 to -905f)	Mattresses and box springs	<p>Mattress Recycling Council provides containers for and collects units from participating transfer stations, retailers, and other facilities with large volumes of discarded mattresses (e.g., health care, lodging, correctional, educational, or military facilities) according to a DEEP-approved plan</p>	<p>Consumer fee of \$9 per unit, but not crib or bassinette mattresses, paid at purchase</p> <p>Set out in plan; covers operational and administrative expenses and a reserve</p>
Paint (CGS §§ 22a-904 & -904a)	Architectural coatings sold in containers of five gallons or less but not industrial, original equipment, or specialty coatings	<p>PaintCare Inc. collects paint from drop-off sites, which are primarily paint retailers and transfer stations, according to a DEEP-approved plan</p> <p>DEEP must provide a link to participating collection sites on its website</p>	<p>Consumer fee of up to \$1.60 per container, based on container's size, paid at purchase</p> <p>Set out in plan; covers operational and administrative expenses and a reserve</p>
Mercury Thermostat (CGS § 22a-625a)	Thermostats with a mercury switch to sense and control room temperature (but not those used as part of a manufacturing process)	<p>Thermostat Recycling Corporation collects thermostats from drop-off sites, including wholesalers, retailers, and transfer stations, and provides the collection containers</p> <p>DEEP must provide a link to participating collection sites on its website</p>	One-time administrative fee of up to \$75 for collection sites to cover container costs
Gas Cylinder (CGS §§ 22a-905h)	Cylinders with flammable pressurized gas, helium, or carbon dioxide of .5- to 50-pound water capacity	<p>These programs are not currently operational.</p> <p>Gas cylinder manufacturers submitted stewardship plans to DEEP for review in summer 2023. The cylinder program is expected to start in spring 2024. With its associated legislation passing in 2023, the expected start of the tire program is in 2025. More information about the status of these programs is available here.</p>	
Tire (PA 23-62)	Rubber tires for vehicles such as cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles, mobile homes, trailers, construction vehicles, and noncommercial aircraft		

Learn
More

[“State Product Stewardship Laws by Product,”](#)
National Conference of State Legislatures (Mar. 18, 2020)

[“U.S. State EPR Laws,”](#)
Product Stewardship Institute

[“Product Stewardship,”](#) DEEP

[“Product Stewardship,”](#) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

