

# Trash Talk:

## What is Extended Producer Responsibility?



Connecticut River  
Conservancy

# Why is CRC Involved?

## Trash Tally 2020

This year volunteers used Ocean Conservancy's Clean Swell app as well as CRC's Trash Tally form to report trash data. Hardworking Source to Sea volunteers haul so much trash from in and around rivers and streams that it's impossible to account for everything. Actual numbers/weights are likely much higher than listed here.



- 3,036 plastic bottles
- 3,149 aluminum cans
- 2,074 glass bottles
- 2,395 nips\*



\*Data reported from CRC Trash Tally only. All other data is reported from Trash Tally + Clean Swell app.

# Contributing Factors

## Overconsumption

Easy access to throw-away items

## Lack of Producer Accountability

Waste disposal is the responsibility of individuals/ municipalities

+

## Poor Waste Management

Lack of recycling, composting programs in the USA

## Transboundary Watershed

Various state laws and practices from state- to- state



# Priority Items



Connecticut Product Stewardship Council

# Gas Cylinder

Extended Producer Responsibility



# Types of Cylinders

- **Single Use Propane** – 1lb. Camping cylinders
- **Refillable Propane at retail** – Typically 7lb. and above. Most common is the 20lb. gas grill tanks
- **Self Refillable Propane** - i.e. Flame King
- **Propane Exchange programs** – AmeriGas and Blue Rhino
- **Helium**
- **CO2** – i.e. soda stream



Single Use Soldering



Single Use Camping



Exchange Programs



Exchange CO2



Helium one use tanks



Retail Refilling Stations



1lb. Self-Refilling Kit

# Fuel Cylinders

## The Problem

- **Difficult to manage and recycle** – Must de-valve or puncture a hole before discarding into scrap metal
- **Few Outlets** – Nearly all scrap yards don't want them, pose risk and danger
- **Litter** – Thousands of cylinders are left behind in parks every year (estimated 10,000 in Connecticut State Parks)
- **Costly** – They are a cost burden on municipalities and the state
- **Dangerous** - Often are hidden in the recycling stream and are an extreme danger to Material Recovery Facilities where they can explode





**Cylinders  
Are small bombs**



This is what is left of a 20lb. tank after it has exploded inside the Hartford MIRA Facility.



Fuel Cylinder  
Explosion inside a  
Connecticut  
Material Recovery Facility

Connecticut Product Stewardship Council

# Tire

Extended Producer Responsibility



# Tires

## The Problem

- **Few Outlets** – Sterling Plant closed (burned 10 million tires annually)
- **Illegal Dumping** – Thousands of tires are pulled from Connecticut rivers each year.
- **Costly** – They are a cost burden on municipalities and the state
- **Dangerous** - Stockpiled tires can catch fire and burn indefinitely or provide breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes.<sup>1</sup>



Connecticut Product Stewardship Council

# Packaging

Extended Producer Responsibility



# Packaging The Problem

- **Cost** – Municipalities bear the risk
- **Poor Public Outreach/Education** – Inconsistent education. Greenwashing
- **Contamination** – A result of lack of education and greenwashing
- **Low Recycling Rates** - Only 9% of plastic products are recycled. Not everyone has access to recycling.
- **Litter** – Environmental impact, municipal cost burden, lack of accountability



# The Solution - Extended Producer Responsibility

- Producers share the responsibility and burden of end-of-life management
- Stewardship Program formed like Paintcare and Bye-Bye Mattress
- Design for the environment
- Performance targets
- Collection convenience standards
- Outreach and Education



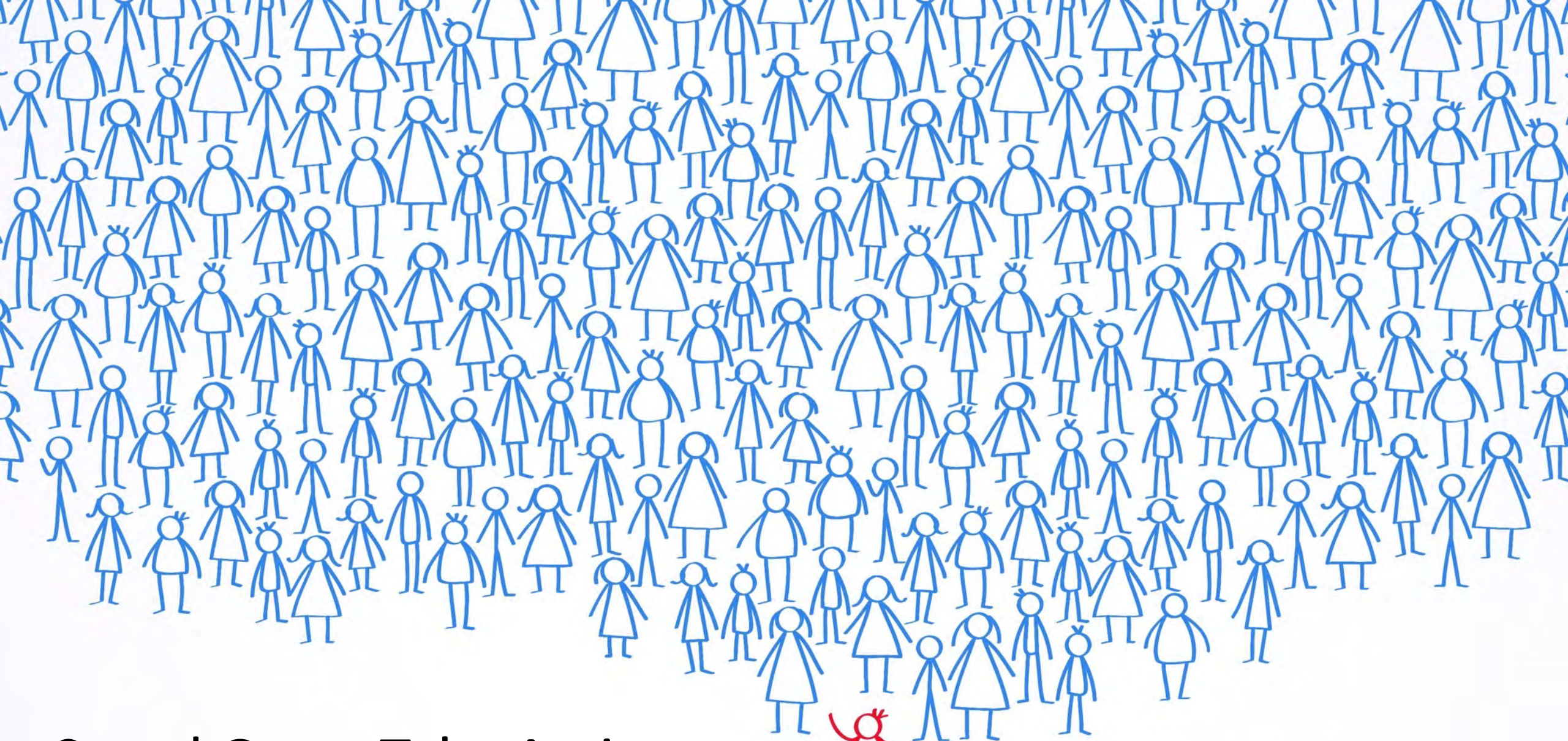


## **Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

Bill No.: HB-6386 Title:

**AN ACT CONCERNING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
TIRES, SMOKE DETECTORS AND CERTAIN GAS CYLINDERS.**

**REASONS FOR BILL:** Tires, gas cylinders and smoke detectors are necessary to life but hazardous materials to the environment. These products end up in the waste stream without due proper concern. To ensure these materials are efficiently and effectively properly disposed, recycled or reclaimed the necessary regulatory frame work is required. Connecticut has a successfully extended producer responsibility programs for other items, these conditions are extended with specific instructions for tires, gas cylinders and smoke detectors. Substitute Language – LCO No. 6127



Stand Out – Take Action







**Jennifer Heaton-Jones**  
**Executive Director, HRRA**  
**Chair CT Product Stewardship Council**  
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A scenic view of a river with autumn foliage reflected in the water. The background shows a dense forest of trees with vibrant autumn colors (yellows, oranges, and reds) reflected in the calm water. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

# What Is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?

Sydney Harris

Policy and Programs Manager, PSI

*CT River Conservancy Trash Talk*

# Product Stewardship Institute

*Building capacity for product stewardship & EPR*

*Convening **public & private sectors** in dialogue for **20+ years***

## Government Members & Board:

47 **state** agencies  
& hundreds of **local** gov'ts

## Multi-Stakeholder Partners:

100+ producers, recyclers, waste management, retailers, NGOs, academics, international gov'ts

***Our mission:** Reduce the health and environmental impacts of products across their life cycle*

**20+**  
**Products:**

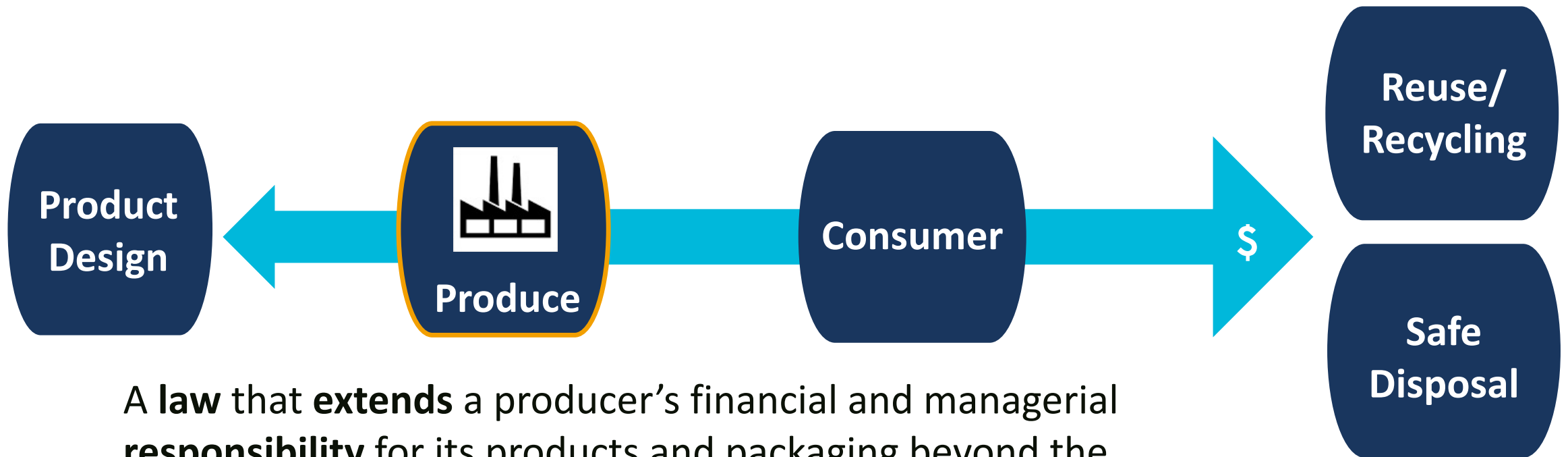


**&**  
**more...**

# **EPR is the Centerpiece of the Circular Economy**

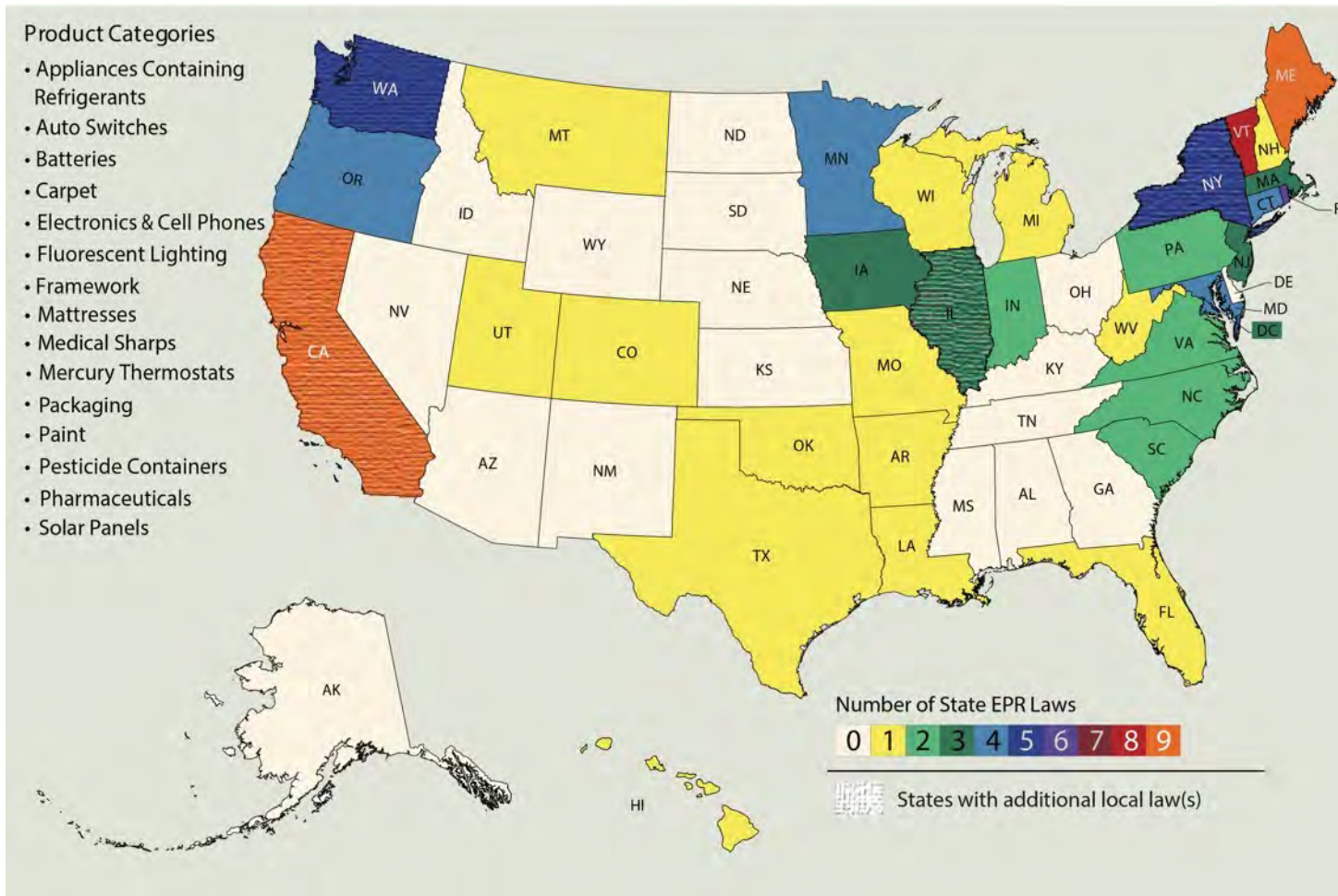


# Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



A **law** that **extends** a producer's financial and managerial **responsibility** for its products and packaging beyond the manufacturing stage — both **upstream** to product design and **downstream** to **postconsumer** reuse, recycling, or safe disposal.

# EPR in the United States – 2021



124 Laws

15 Products

33 States + D.C.

# Current Regional EPR



- Mercury Auto Switches, Lights, Thermostats
- Dry-Cell and Primary Batteries
- Electronics
- Paint
- Pharmaceuticals



- Mercury Auto Switches, Lighting, Thermostats
- Pharmaceuticals

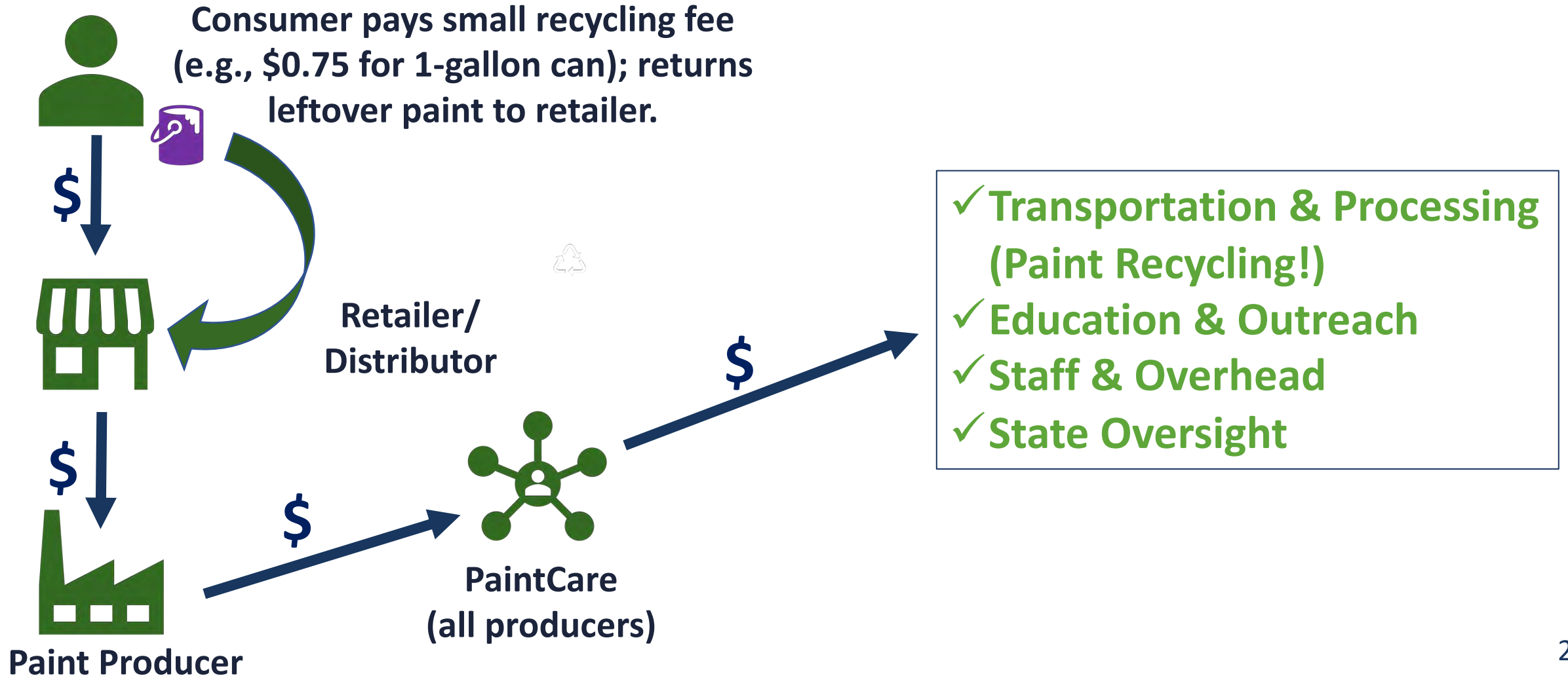


- Electronics
- Paint
- Mercury Thermostats
- Mattresses



- Mercury Thermostats

# PaintCare in CT: EPR for Consumer Paint





# Key Elements of (most) EPR

1. **Legislation:** levels the playing field
2. **Producers** responsible for financing and managing programs
3. **Stewardship organization(s)** manage program
4. **Retailers** voluntarily collect products
5. **Performance** goals/convenience standards
6. **Government oversight** of industry's plan



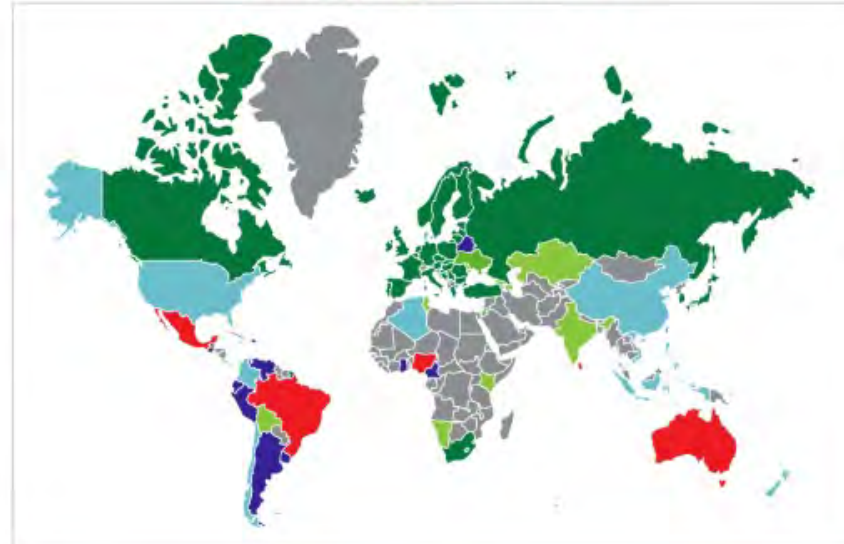
# EPR LANDSCAPE EVOLVING AT FAST PACE

UPDATED JUNE 2021

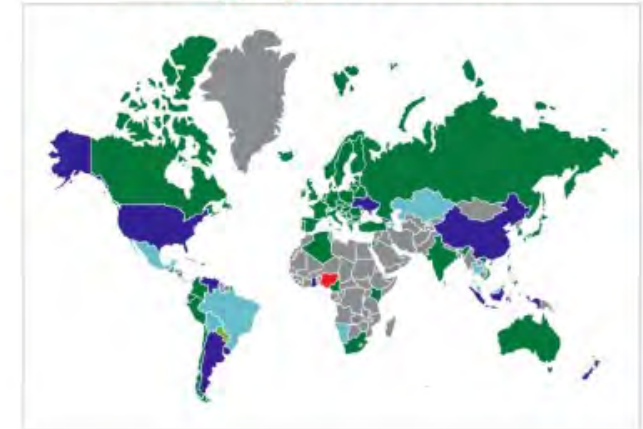
Packaging EPR in 2000








Packaging EPR in 2021



Packaging EPR in 2025



-  Mandatory EPR: Specific legislation in place for packaging
-  Voluntary EPR: Subset of businesses engaged in a scheme not mandated by law
-  Limited EPR: EPR limited in geographical/packaging type scope; in some cases, may not apply to consumer packaging
-  Framework EPR: Draft regulations exist calling for packaging EPR to be developed
-  Emerging/Under Implementation: Expected to deliver EPR legislation shortly or have passed EPR legislation that has not yet come into effect

# Increased Recycling; Reduced Contamination

- **Belgium:** since 1994; PPP recycling rate **92%**; contamination <10%
- **British Columbia:** since 2014; PPP recycling rate **90%**; contamination <10%
- **US:** avg. PPP recycling rate **50%**; contamination >25%



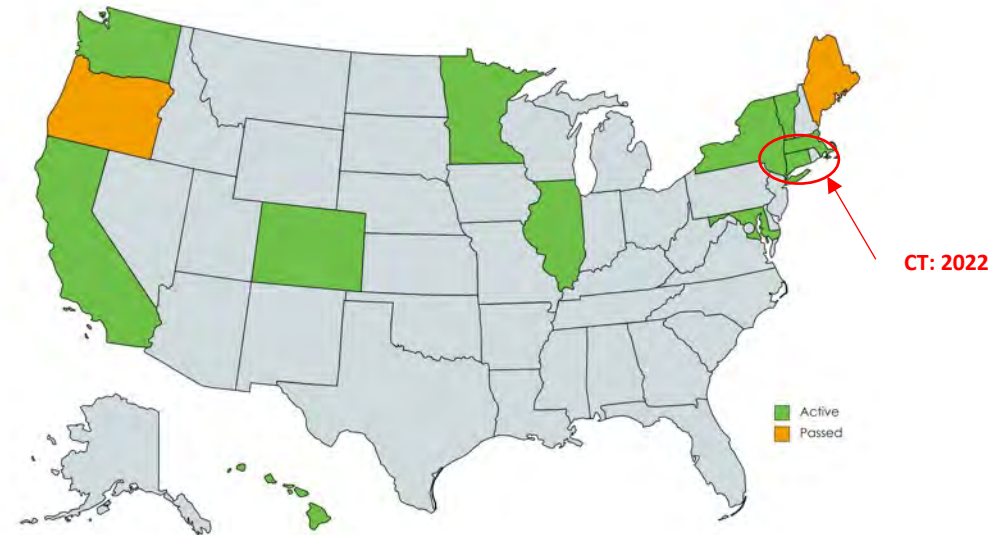
# Legislative Momentum in the U.S.

## 2 New Laws

First two PPP laws passed in 2021: **OR, ME**

## A Dozen State Bills

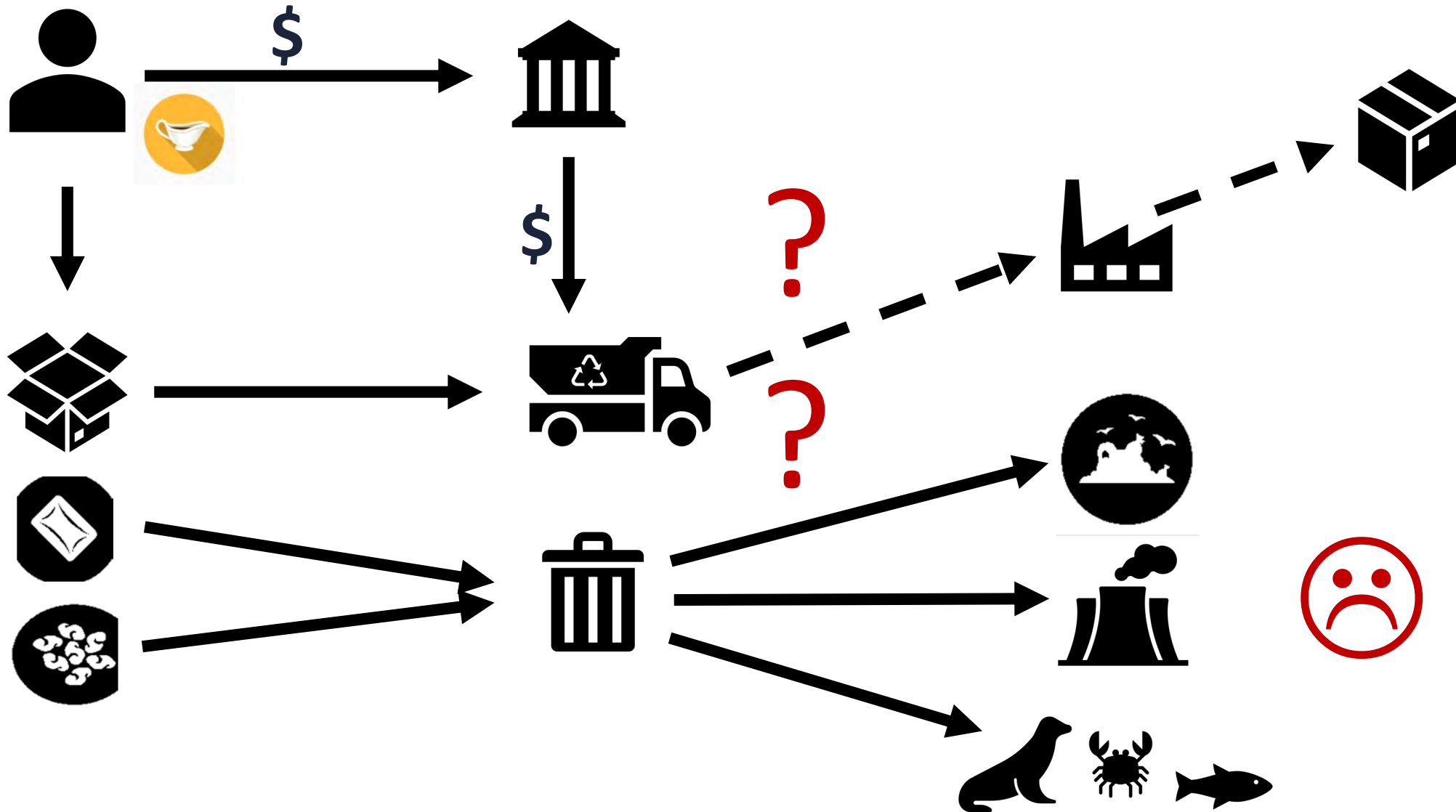
At least **9 state bills** expected 2022 & beyond



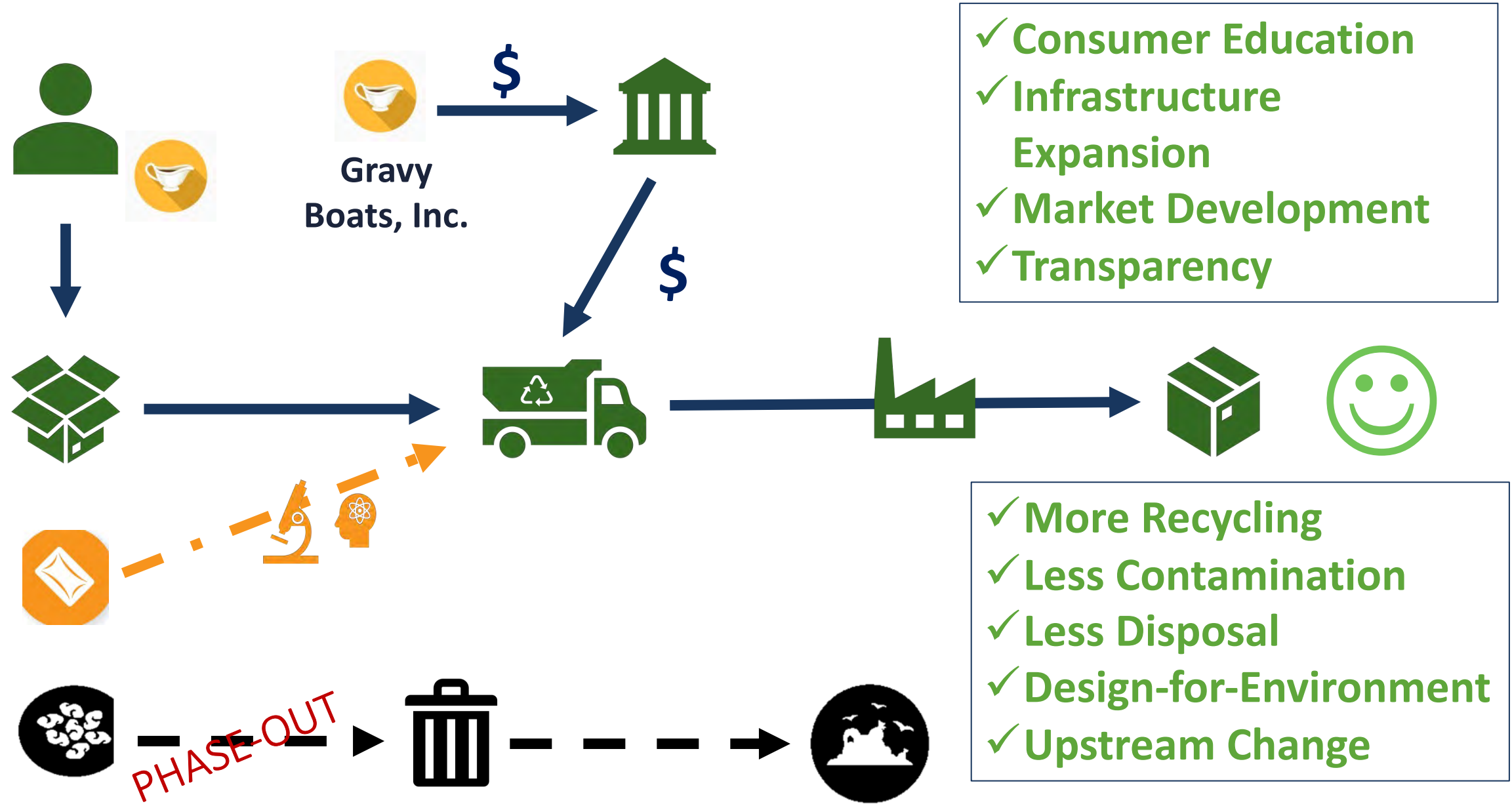
## Federal Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act

- **EPR** for packaging
- national bottle bill
- bag ban + fee
- other single-use plastics bans

# U.S. Waste Management



# EPR for PPP



# Achieving Circularity

## EPR

- ✓ Systemic economic change
- ✓ Upstream waste reduction
- ✓ Improved recycling
- ✓ Lifecycle impact reduction (toxics, GHG)



## Complementary Policies

- ✓ Bans
- ✓ Phase outs/ins
- ✓ Reuse directives
- ✓ Tax incentives

# What PSI Can Do for You

## Partnership

*For producers, recyclers, retailers, NGOs, academics, international governments*



Market intelligence, legislative tracking, newsletters



Business development, webinar sponsorships, promotion



Strategic alliances, policy analysis, briefing calls



Recognition as a leader in product stewardship

## Membership

*For state and local government agencies*



Policy strategy calls, legislative updates and tracking



Free webinars, newsletters, and alerts



Curated resources and content



Networking, conference discounts, and more

## Consulting

*Customizable projects*



Research, pilot programs, evaluation



Facilitation and consensus building



Education



Policy development



# Thank You!

**Sydney Harris**

Policy and Programs Manager,  
Product Stewardship Institute

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**[productstewardship.us](http://productstewardship.us)**

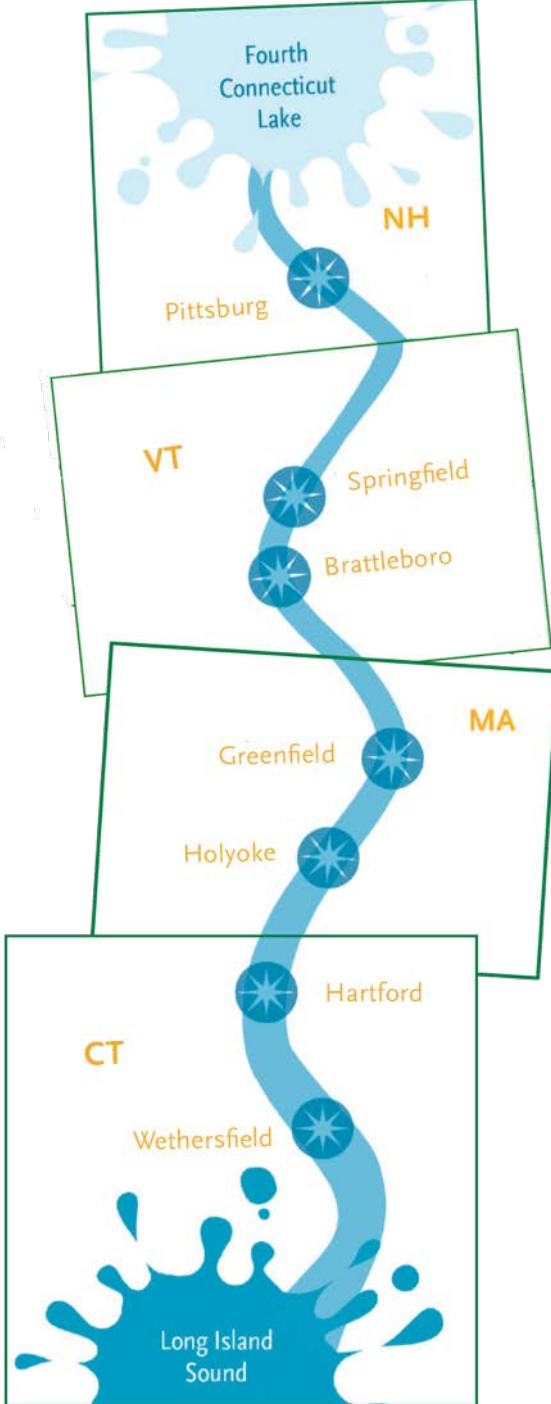
# State-by-State: New Hampshire

## What EPR bills exists now?

- Mercury thermostat take-back program established in 2008 (RSA 149-M:58-a)

## Potential EPR legislation?

- None that we know of currently



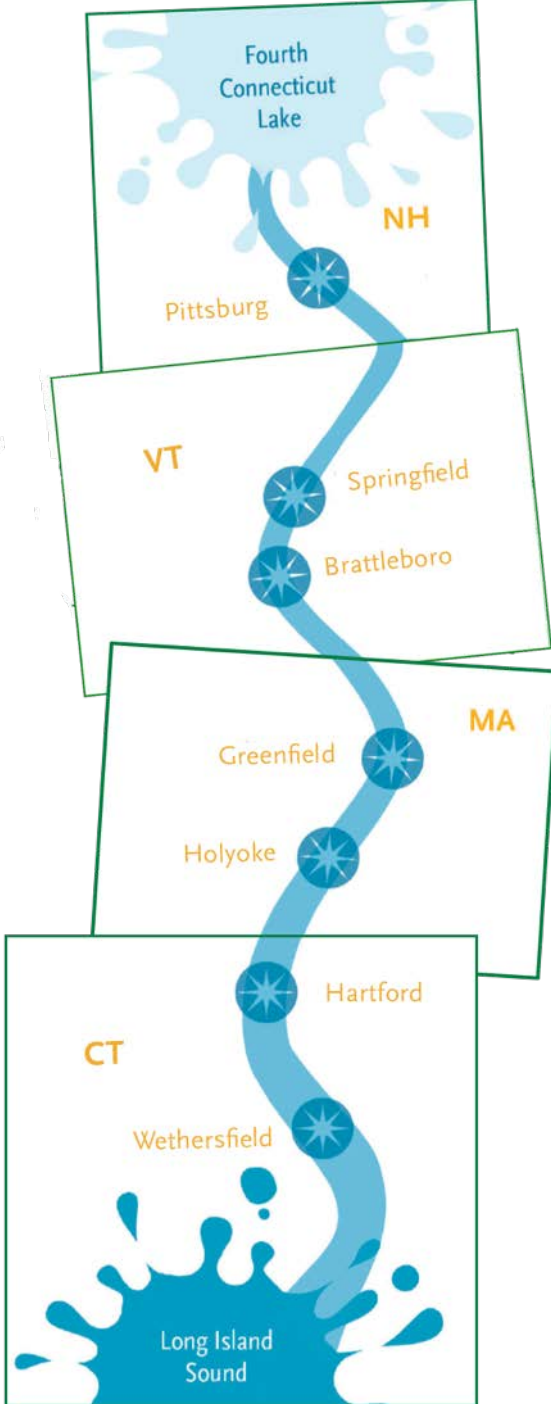
# State-by-State: Vermont

## What EPR bills exists now?

- [Certain Dry-Cell Batteries](#): effective 1992
- [Lead-acid Batteries](#): effective 1993
- [Automobile Switches](#): effective 2006
- [Mercury Thermostats](#): effective 2008
- [Electronic Waste](#): effective 2011
- [Mercury Lamps](#): effective 2011
- [Architectural Paint](#): effective 2013
- [Primary Batteries](#): effective 2016
  - Plus bottle bill

## Potential EPR legislation?

- H. 142 An act relating to extended producer responsibility for **packaging and paper products** (Jan. '21)
- H. 269 An act relating to the collection of recycling of waste **motor vehicle tires** (Feb. '17)
- H. 588 An act relating to an extended producer responsibility program for unused **prescription drugs** (Jan. '16)



# State-by-State: Massachusetts

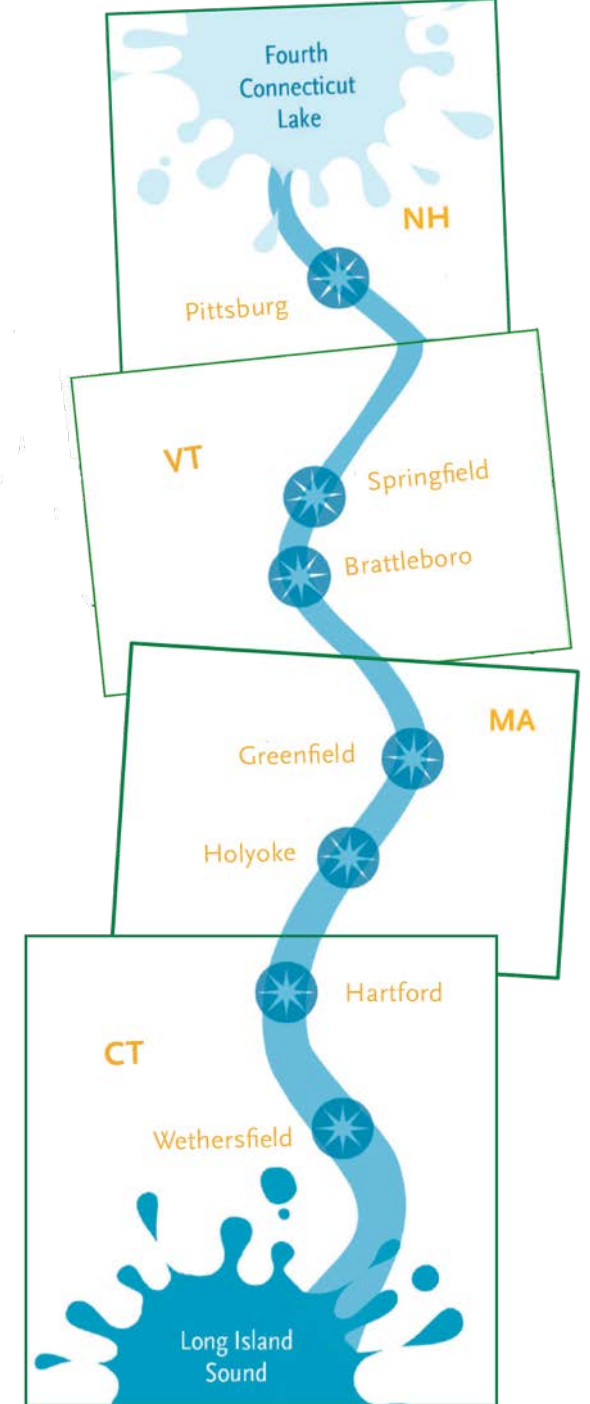
## What EPR bills exist now?

- Mercury Management Act (2006)
- MA waste ban items but no EPR:
  - Recyclable Paper and Cardboard
  - Glass/Aluminum/Metal/Plastic Containers
  - Leaf and Yard Waste
  - Commercial Organics
  - Mattresses (effective 11/01/2022)
  - Textiles (effective 11/01/2022)
  - Cathode Ray Tubes (TV's and Computer Monitors)
  - White Goods (Major Appliances)
  - Asphalt Pavement, Brick, Concrete, Wood, Metal and Clean Gypsum Wallboard – often referred to as Construction/Demolition Materials (C&D)
  - Tires
  - Lead Acid Batteries

## Potential EPR legislation?

MA has current bills for:

- Mattresses (H.988)
- Paint (H.938)
- Smoke detectors (S.500)
- Packaging (H.878, An Act reducing recycling costs in the Commonwealth)



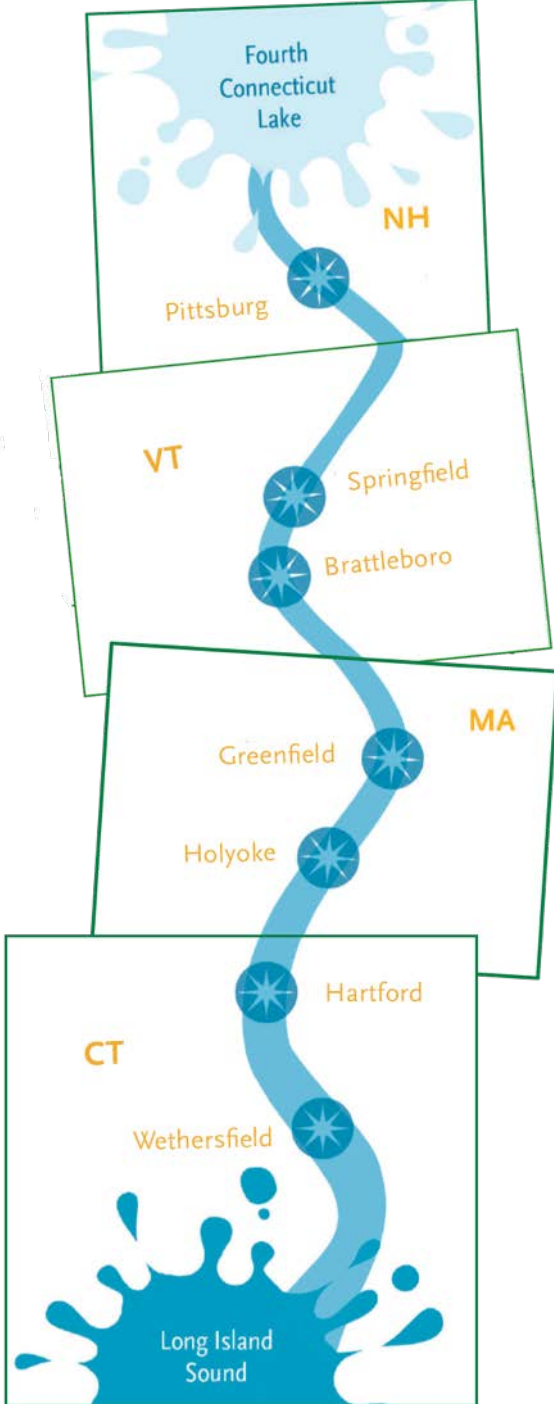
# State-by-State: Connecticut

## What EPR bills exists now?

- Electronics
- Mattresses
- Paint
- Mercury thermostats

## Potential EPR legislation

- Packaging
- Tires
- Gas cylinders
- Batteries





# Take Action!

## You Are Powerful

Elected officials work for you.  
Business wants your mighty dollar.  
Friends & family look up to you.

## Use Your Power For Good For Our Rivers



Connecticut River  
Conservancy



- Sign up for Action Alerts: <https://www.ctriver.org/email-sign-up/>
- Support legislation in your state

# Presenters

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Chair of the CT Product Stewardship Council

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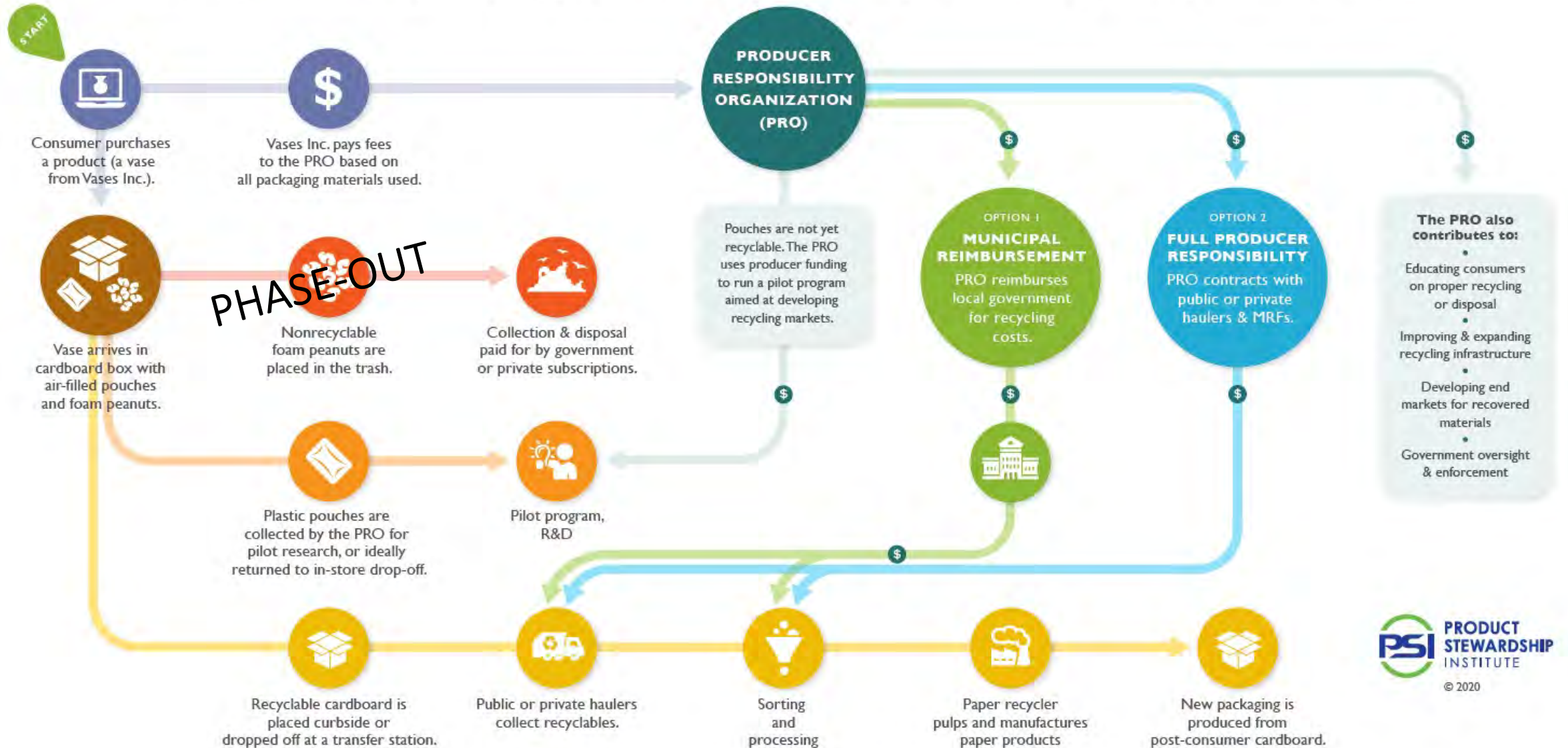
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**Connecticut River  
Conservancy**

# EPR FOR PPP: TWO BASIC MODELS

**Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and printed paper (PPP)** shifts responsibility for post-consumer management to producers. EPR can shift both financial and management responsibility to producers, with government oversight, and provide incentives to design PPP for improved environmental outcomes.





# EPR for PPP in the U.S. – 2021



- Reimbursement (up to **100%** system costs)
- Packaging **only**
- Substantive state rulemaking



- Reimbursement (~**28%** system costs)
- Packaging, food service ware, & paper products
- Some state rulemaking
- **Environmental justice** provisions

**Both: incentives for recyclability & PCR content**

# EPR for Tires

- U.S. residents scrap **255 million tires annually.**
- **Only ~40% are recycled.**
- No tire EPR laws yet in U.S.
- Potential to create jobs, save govt + taxpayer \$, and reduce tire dumping.
- Tire EPR in Canada since 2007:
  - Recover 84%-100% of tires
- In Europe since 1995: Programs over 10 years old successfully reuse, retread, and recycle 100% of tires and have eliminated stockpiles.



# PSI EPR Policy Model

Covered Materials/ Products	Governance	Performance Standards	Stewardship Plan Contents
Covered Entities	Funding Inputs	Outreach & Education Requirements	Annual Report Contents
Collection & Convenience	Funding Allocation	Equity & Environmental Justice	Implementation Timeline
Responsible Party ("Producer")	Design for Environment	Enforcement & Penalties for Violation	Additional Components & Definitions

# Key Stakeholders

- Municipalities
- Producers
- Haulers
- Recyclers
- Retailers
- Environmental groups
- Others (by product): e.g., pharmacists, HVAC contractors
- **Facilitator, like PSI**



# PSI Resources

## Packaging EPR Toolkit

[productstewardship.us/page/PackagingEPR](https://productstewardship.us/page/PackagingEPR)

## EPR for PPP Report

[productstewardship.us/page/epr-for-ppp-policies-practices-performance](https://productstewardship.us/page/epr-for-ppp-policies-practices-performance)

