

December 21, 2018

You are currently receiving PS Updates on a quarterly basis. Enjoy what you've read? [PSI Full Members](#) and [Partners](#) receive more frequent updates, along with many other benefits.



Remembering John Waffenschmidt

On Wednesday, December 5, John Waffenschmidt died peacefully, and unexpectedly, in his sleep. As the PSI team struggles with the sudden loss of a close colleague and friend, many fond memories of John have surfaced. [Read more.](#)

Left to right: Fenton Rood (Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, PSI Treasurer), Scott Cassel (PSI), and John Waffenschmidt (Covanta) enjoying PSI's 2017 Product Stewardship Forum in Boston. Photo by Robert Klein.

Product Stewardship Updates

New Report Supports Operational Feasibility of EPR for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) in Oregon

Metro, a regional government in the Portland area, has worked with PSI and the Oregon Legislature to introduce a number of EPR for HHW bills in recent years. To address questions that arose from a variety of stakeholders during the legislative process, Metro contracted and collaborated with PSI to research how an EPR system for HHW could operate with large numbers of manufacturers and products, coordinate with existing infrastructure, and ensure environmentally sound management of products.

Contact [Scott Cassel](#) to learn how PSI can support your agency's research and evaluation priorities.



PSI and New York Product Stewardship Council (NYPSC) Provide Recommendations at NY Drug Take-Back Act Implementation Workshop

On December 17, PSI's Scott Cassel and Vivian Fuhrman, along with PSI Board Member and NYPSC Chair, Andrew Radin, provided input to the NY Department of Health to advocate for strong implementation of the [Drug Take-Back Act](#). PSI, NYPSC, and Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) collaborated to help pass the Act in 2018. PSI, NYPSC, and CCE continue to work together during the implementation phase to ensure collection convenience and strong public education to make residents aware of the problem and available take-back solutions, among other things.



European Carpet Producers Support EPR to Advance Circular Economy

Zero Waste Europe, DSM-Niaga, Interface, and Tarkett have [committed to supporting the creation of strong EPR](#) programs that will bring recovered carpet materials back into the circular economy. Necessary changes include the phase out of hazardous substances and increased recycling to eliminate the need for virgin materials. The mandatory approach of EPR is needed to drive the transition across the industry at a meaningful scale.



International Paint Recycling Association (IPRA) Launches [RecycledPaint.org](#) to Promote Recycled Paint

Earlier this year, under PSI's lead, a dozen recycled paint manufacturers -- including private companies and two government agencies -- founded IPRA to promote the benefits of recycled latex paint in the U.S. and Canada. PSI provides ongoing facilitation and technical assistance for the Association to overcome barriers to increasing the market for recycled paint.

We invite you to visit www.recycledpaint.org to learn more about recycled-content paint and connect with IPRA's members. The website's content will expand over time. Recycled paint manufacturers can join IPRA by contacting [Kristin Aldred Cheek](#) at (617) 236-8293.



Stewardship Plans for Multiple Products Approved in British Columbia and Manitoba

The British Columbia Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy [approved](#), with conditions, the Product Care Association's [stewardship plan](#) for paint and HHW, which will be in effect through July 2022.

In October, Manitoba's Sustainable Development Minister [approved](#) the Electronic Products Recycling Association's five-year stewardship program plan, ensuring continued public access to electronics recycling for years to come.



New Report Challenges Conventional Assumptions about Popular "Eco-friendly" Packaging Attributes

In an ambitious [new report](#), the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (OR DEQ) examines how well four popular packaging attributes -- recycled content, recyclable, biobased, and compostable -- correlate with net environmental benefit across the full packaging life cycle. The results are not clear cut. The pros and cons for each attribute vary by material type and other factors.

OR DEQ will hold a webinar series to discuss the research - [reserve your spot today](#).



PSI Guides University of Massachusetts (UMass) School for the Environment Students to Reduce Polluting Plastics at Boston Restaurants

In September, PSI's Megan Byers joined UMass Professor Ellen Douglas to kick off the students' capstone project with a presentation on plastic reduction and tips for success. Throughout the semester, Megan advised the students to overcome obstacles, avoid pitfalls, and find cost-effective, environmentally preferable foodware options. Read more about the successful project [here](#).

The businesses used PSI's [Plastic Reduction Guide for Restaurants](#) to measure their plastic footprint and evaluate alternatives to plastic.

Image: Window decal designed by student Samantha Pham for participating restaurants to advertise their environmental efforts.



Partner Spotlight



St. Vincent de Paul – Sustaining Partner

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County has found that product stewardship laws, when properly crafted, serve multiple community purposes. Three states have mattress EPR laws. St. Vinnie's looks forward to seeing more states consider EPR for mattresses.

St. Vinnie's operates three mattress recycling facilities in support of California's EPR law. Last year, St. Vinnie's diverted more than 300,000 mattresses. This year, they are on track to process half a million. Each warehouse employs 15 to 20 people, many with employment challenges like prior incarceration. The revenue generated supports St. Vinnie's homeless shelters, emergency services, and other programs for those living in its 1400 units of affordable housing. The agency has a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help mentor other nonprofits in the development of waste-based businesses. They currently work closely with mattress recyclers in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Florida.

Left to right: Art Taylor and Jason Prasad, who oversee all three operations, at St. Vinnie's Woodland, CA mattress recycling warehouse. There, 19 employees deconstruct about 500 mattresses a day as part of the state's mattress stewardship program.



Covanta – Sustaining Partner

By Michael E. Van Brunt, P.E., Sr. Sustainability Director, Covanta

Waste-to-energy, Covanta's core business, plays a key role in sustainable waste management by reducing GHG emissions relative to landfilling and recovering energy from waste remaining after recycling. Through multiple community programs, waste-to-energy has also become an important tool for the secure destruction of pharmaceuticals. Four years ago, we set a sustainability goal to expand our reuse and recycling efforts by 25% by 2020. Through enhanced metal recovery and an expanded suite of services, we recycled or reused over one million tons of waste in 2017, an 80% increase far surpassing our original goal. Globally, expanded recycling, composting, and waste-to-energy capacity could be as environmentally effective as closing 1,000 large coal-fired power plants or building two million 1 MW wind turbines.

Events & Webinars

- **Free webinar recording:** Global Best Practices: Packaging EPR's Role in Advancing the Circular Economy | Product Stewardship Institute | [Download](#)
- **Free webinar recording:** Paint Stewardship 101 | Product Stewardship Institute | [Download](#)
- **Free webinar recording:** Global Best Practices for Sharps Take-Back Programs | Product Stewardship

- **Free webinar recording: Advanced Paint Stewardship** | Product Stewardship Institute | [Download](#)
- **SWANApalooza** | Solid Waste Association of North America | February 25–28, 2019 | Boston, MA | [Register](#)

PSI in the News

- [Policy Plays Pivotal Role in Textiles as Sustainability Movement Swells](#) | WWD | September 19
- [Recycling's costs expected to grow as demand for materials eases](#) | Albany Times Union | November 7
- [Recycling ideas of a different sort](#) | WRAL | November 8
- [O'Mara pushes product stewardship bills](#) | The Evening Tribune | December 14
- [School for the Environment Students Work with Restaurants on Alternatives to Plastic](#) | UMass Boston News | December 17

What We're Reading

- [Battery Recycling Benefits and Challenges: Q&A with Call2Recycle's Carl Smith](#) | Environmental Leader | December 3
- [States struggle to keep growing their diversion rates](#) | Resource Recycling | December 4
- [127 countries are now working to ban single-use plastic](#) | Fast Company | December 6
- [Michigan's deposit system for bottles and cans could end](#) | Tri-County Times | December 8
- [Boston plastic bag ban starts Friday](#) | Boston Herald | December 8
- [Covanta Recognized for Environmental Achievement and Sustainability Leadership with 2018 SEAL Award](#) | PR Newswire | December 10
- [Prince Edward Island Approves Call2Recycle Canada, Inc. As Its Official Single-Use and Rechargeable Battery Stewardship Program](#) | Call2Recycle | December 12
- [Brands Called On to See Discarded Clothes Find Second Home](#) | Waste360 | December 13
- [Manufacturers to Pay Full Cost for Recycling UK Packaging](#) | Waste Management World | December 18

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