

March 7, 2019

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.



### EPR in Focus at SWANApalooza

The national conference of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) was held last week in Boston. On February 27, Scott Cassel, PSI's CEO and Founder, spoke on [charting a path forward](#) for extended producer responsibility (EPR) as the centerpiece of the circular economy.

The following day, Scott explained the challenges and opportunities to passing EPR laws in Massachusetts at the [EPR Summit](#) organized by the Southern New England Chapter of SWANA.

On both days, Scott was joined by PSI Partner Allen Langdon -- President and CEO of Encorp Pacific -- who shared his vast experience operating packaging EPR programs in British Columbia, Canada.

## Product Stewardship Updates

### New Report: EPR for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Could Save Vermont Governments Millions

Last year, an EPR bill for HHW ([H.560](#)) passed the Vermont House but failed to pass the Senate. The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation hired PSI to answer key stakeholder questions arising from the legislative process. PSI's [report](#) analyzes the potential impacts of the program described in the bill and provides recommendations for effective implementation.

A similar bill ([H 75](#)) is in play this year. PSI and the Vermont Product Stewardship Council are working together to improve the bill and support its passage.



### In the News: Carpet Recycling Op-ed Highlights PSI's Carpet Expertise

Increased carpet recycling is desperately needed. We know that stewardship programs work, and what key elements are needed for strong carpet EPR laws. So, why has EPR for carpet been slow to gain steam? A recent [Waste Advantage article](#) dives into the history of carpet stewardship in the U.S. and what PSI is doing to advance it in spite of staunch industry opposition.



### PSI Offers Recommendations for Implementation of California's EPR Law for Drugs and Sharps

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) has held two informal workshops to solicit stakeholder feedback on [SB 212](#). PSI provided [recommendations](#) to strengthen key areas where the law is not consistent with national best practices, including providing on-site sharps collection options instead of a program limited to mail-back, more inclusive definitions, more detailed reporting, and measuring public awareness over time.



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## Education and Convenient Access to Drug Disposal Kiosks Critical for Effective Drug Take-Back

A new [study](#) published in the Journal of Pain Research shows that opioid-prescribed patients who receive information on the importance of drug disposal are [three times more likely](#) to dispose of unused drugs rather than keep them in home medicine cabinets where they can be a gateway for abuse. Most significantly, 84 percent of patients said they would use a drug disposal kiosk if one were located at a place they frequently visit.



Educate your residents about drug disposal with PSI's [free outreach tools](#).

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## Scott Cassel Delivers Lecture at Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College

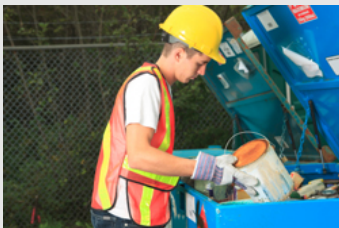
In a lecture to MBA students, Scott explained the differences between EPR policies in the U.S. and Europe. The lecture prepared the students for a learning expedition to Belgium and Germany, where they will explore the impacts of European EPR legislation on supply chains for electronics and end of life vehicles. Scott also spoke about governance structures for producer responsibility organizations, including the role of advisory committees.



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## Vermont Continues to Lead U.S. Battery Recycling

In 2014, Vermont [passed the first](#) -- and still, the only -- EPR law in the U.S. that covers household primary batteries of multiple chemistries. When the program began in 2016, Vermont saw a 187 percent increase in all battery collections (including both primary and rechargeable) and has since [topped the charts](#) for per capita battery collection performance.



### Do you recycle with TerraCycle?

TerraCycle rewards its customers with points that can be redeemed as a donation to select nonprofits, including PSI. Every 100 points you redeem supports PSI research and programs that reduce waste, create jobs, and save tax dollars. [Redeem your TerraCycle points](#) today!

## EPR Program Implementation

### California (mattresses, carpet, pharmaceuticals, sharps)

On February 11, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) [approved](#) the Mattress Recycling Council's 2017 Annual Report.

On February 20, CalRecycle [approved](#) the Carpet America Recovery Effort's Five-Year Stewardship Plan.

On February 27, CalRecycle conducted an informal rulemaking workshop for the Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship Law to solicit stakeholder feedback on draft regulatory concepts. CalRecycle will [accept](#) input on the [discussion document](#) through March 22.



## Events & Webinars

- **International Product Stewardship Forum** | Global Product Stewardship Council and DASTRI | July 2-3 | Paris, France | [Register](#)
- **Packaging Waste and Sustainability Forum: Achieving a Circular Economy through Packaging and Packaging Waste** | April 1 - 3 | Brussels, Belgium | [Register](#)
- **International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy** | Spanish Marine Litter Association (AEBAM) | April 10 – 12 | Seville, Spain | [Register](#)
- **Save the date | 26th Annual Maine Recycling and Solid Waste Conference & Trade Show** | Maine Resource Recovery Association | April 29-30 | Northport, ME | [Learn more](#)
- **Strive For Sustainability Solid Waste & Recycling Conference** | Federation of New York Solid Waste Associations | May 19 - 22 | Bolton Landing, NY | [Register](#)

## PSI in the News

- [Washington state bill would make manufacturers responsible for plastic waste](#) | Food Dive | March 1
- [SDG Knowledge Weekly: Transitioning to a Circular Economy, Sustainable Consumption and Production](#) | SDG Knowledge Hub | February 28
- [Packaging stewardship bills hit states](#) | Resource Recycling | February 19
- [How to repackage packaging](#) | GreenBiz | February 16
- [Amazon's streamlined plastic packaging is jamming up recycling centers](#) | Los Angeles Times | February 13
- [Why Amazon's new streamlined packaging is jamming up recycling centers](#) | Washington Post | February 11
- [Carpet Recycling Op-ed and Analysis](#) | Waste Advantage | February 11
- [New book addresses excess waste through packaging redesign](#) | Recycling Today | February 7

## What We're Reading

- [CRI's "Duty to Warn" Webinar Debunks Recycling Myths](#) | Waste360 | March 4
- [New York's Drug Take Back Act Starts Slowly](#) | Lexology | February 27
- [UK Lawmakers Take Aim at Fast Fashion](#) | Care2 | February 25
- [Thermostat Recycling Corp. Recycles 140,993 Mercury Containing Thermostats in 2018](#) | PR Newswire | February 22
- [Amid opioid crisis, Google Maps will show where to dispose drugs](#) | CNN | February 21
- [DEFRA 'developing plans' on extended producer responsibility for textiles](#) | The Ends Report | February 19
- [Plastic Threatens Human Health at a Global Scale – New Report](#) | Center for International Environmental Law | February 19
- [Who is responsible for waste management?](#) | At. Albert Gazette | February 13
- [EU Publishes Updated Draft of Single-Use Plastics Directive](#) | The National Law Review | February 11

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