



ADVOCATING FOR A RESPONSIBLE, CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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## **LA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVES EXPLORING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE TO INCREASE SAFETY**

On Tuesday, January 14, 2025, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion to explore the feasibility of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronic waste (E-Waste). The goal is to reduce the escalating cost of managing these waste streams and protect the safety of residents and workers who may interact with these materials from waste personnel to first responders exposed in the line of duty.

HHW and E-Waste include everyday household items, such as batteries, paints, pesticides, pool cleaners, compressed gas cylinders, and electronic vaping devices. Improper disposal of HHW can lead to toxic chemicals contaminating the environment or as seen this past week exposing first responders and residents when combusted in fires. It can also expose waste workers to dangerous reactions when mixed together in the trash. Waste management collection is the fourth deadliest job in the country based on data from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“Every day, HHW is thrown in trash and recycling bins due to a lack of convenient access to proper collection, endangering residents, our workers, and our environment. If HHW management in the U.S. were to be given a grade, we would get an F. At best we are collecting 10% of HHW properly. Now is the time to come together to provide clear programs with convenient collection options for hazardous product waste” said Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director of NSAC.

### Background:

In 2023, [Vermont](#) became the first state to pass a law creating EPR for HHW, which requires the producers of covered HHW to fund and operate a convenient collection system to ensure proper management of HHW. In 2021, [California’s Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling](#), composed of 17 experts representing materials management companies, local governments, unions, and NGOs, unanimously recommended that the legislature establish EPR for HHW. In 2024, California State Senator Ben Allen of Santa Monica introduced the nation’s second HHW EPR bill, [SB 1143](#) sponsored by NSAC, a comprehensive solution for HHW that would have moved California away from its existing product-by-product approach to producer responsibility. However, SB 1143 was ultimately narrowed to the PaintCare Expansion Act which added specialty paints such as furniture and marine paints to the existing program, which was signed into law in September 2024. California and several other states are looking to introduce

EPR bills for HHW in 2025, and several local governments are considering and drafting local HHW EPR ordinances.

The [National Stewardship Action Council \(NSAC\)](#) has established a national roundtable for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) comprised of local and state governments and advocates to help communities around the country grappling with how to fund and achieve successful HHW management. NSAC's Roundtable will serve as a platform for government agencies, environmental advocates, and community stakeholders to collaborate on policy solutions and practical strategies for managing HHW. The Roundtable and subcommittees will convene virtually each month. Participation is eligible for NSAC Bronze funders - email [Victoria@nsaction.us](mailto:Victoria@nsaction.us) to request participation.

### **About NSAC – [www.nsaction.us](http://www.nsaction.us)**

National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization that advocates and provides consulting services to advance a responsible, circular economy, anywhere in the U.S., and at any level of government. NSAC has been instrumental in the passage of several first-in-the-nation laws such as the EPR for medicines and needles and was a key negotiator of the packaging law in California, SB 54 passed in 2022. You can follow us on social media via [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [You Tube](#) and to join go to [www.nsaction.us/donate](http://www.nsaction.us/donate).