Product Stewardship
- Let's tee it up!

DMWM Training Conference
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Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Every day we each use hundreds of products

Many of these products – and their packaging – impact the environment and health in unintended ways

Many goods become obsolete in just a few years…

There is no cost to business if we continue to throw away more and more material.

There are no incentives to create products that last longer or are more easily recycled.

For one thing, this results in a lot of <u>stuff</u>…

…each American generates about 1,600 pounds of trash every year, much of it products and packaging!

In 2009, Ohio landfills accepted almost 20 million tons of waste

When we dispose of materials, instead of recycling them, we need to extract more virgin resources to make new products…which consumes energy and can cause other environmental impacts.

Improperly managed waste can result in contain toxic substances released through the waste stream…

Some products are associated with other unintended impacts, such as drug abuse or hazards to workers…

…Some products may pose operational challenges in the waste stream.

To a large degree, local governments

are responsible for managing this

increasingly complex

waste stream

Local governments deal with this "end-of-pipe" solution

In 2009, Ohio solid waste districts spent an estimated **$4.5 million** to manage household hazardous waste.

Government entities can’t solve this problem alone…

An alternate model: Product Stewardship

(aka Extended Producer Responsibility)

Producers, not government, assume responsibility for the end-of-life management of certain goods

Product stewardship directs all those involved in the life cycle of a product to take responsibility for the impacts to human health and the natural environment that result from the production, use, and end-of-life management of the product.

An alternate model: Product Stewardship

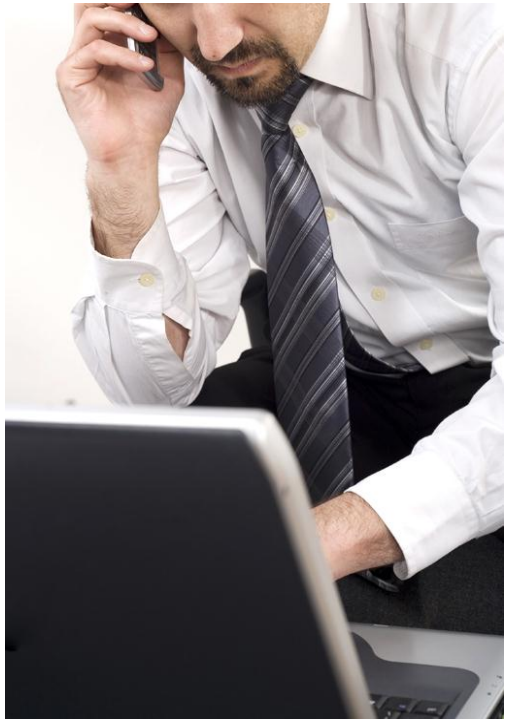
The Old Way:		**The New Way:**
Government-managed programs	→	Businesses manage costs
Government responsible	→	Businesses responsible
Visible 'fees' customers pay (for example, tires)	→	Cost of management included in price of the product

Product Stewardship asks those who

Design

Make

Sell



the **products** to take the greatest responsibility

This responsibility extends beyond the point of sale

Extended Producer Responsibility *(EPR)*

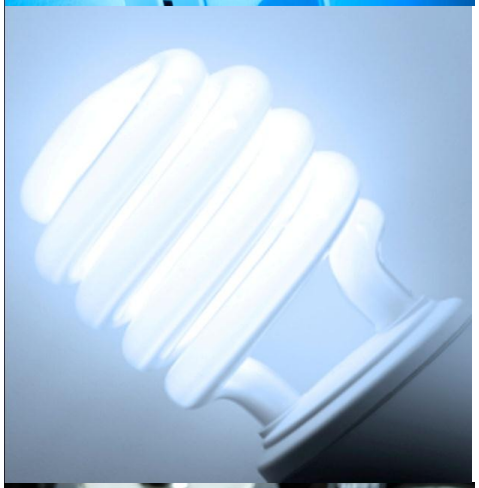
Manufacturers set up and/or pay for collection programs

Extended Producer Responsibility

- shifts the burden of collecting products off of **local governments**
- provides an incentive for manufacturers to **design products that are easier to recycle** (or have fewer impacts in the first place)
- creates more **opportunities for collection**

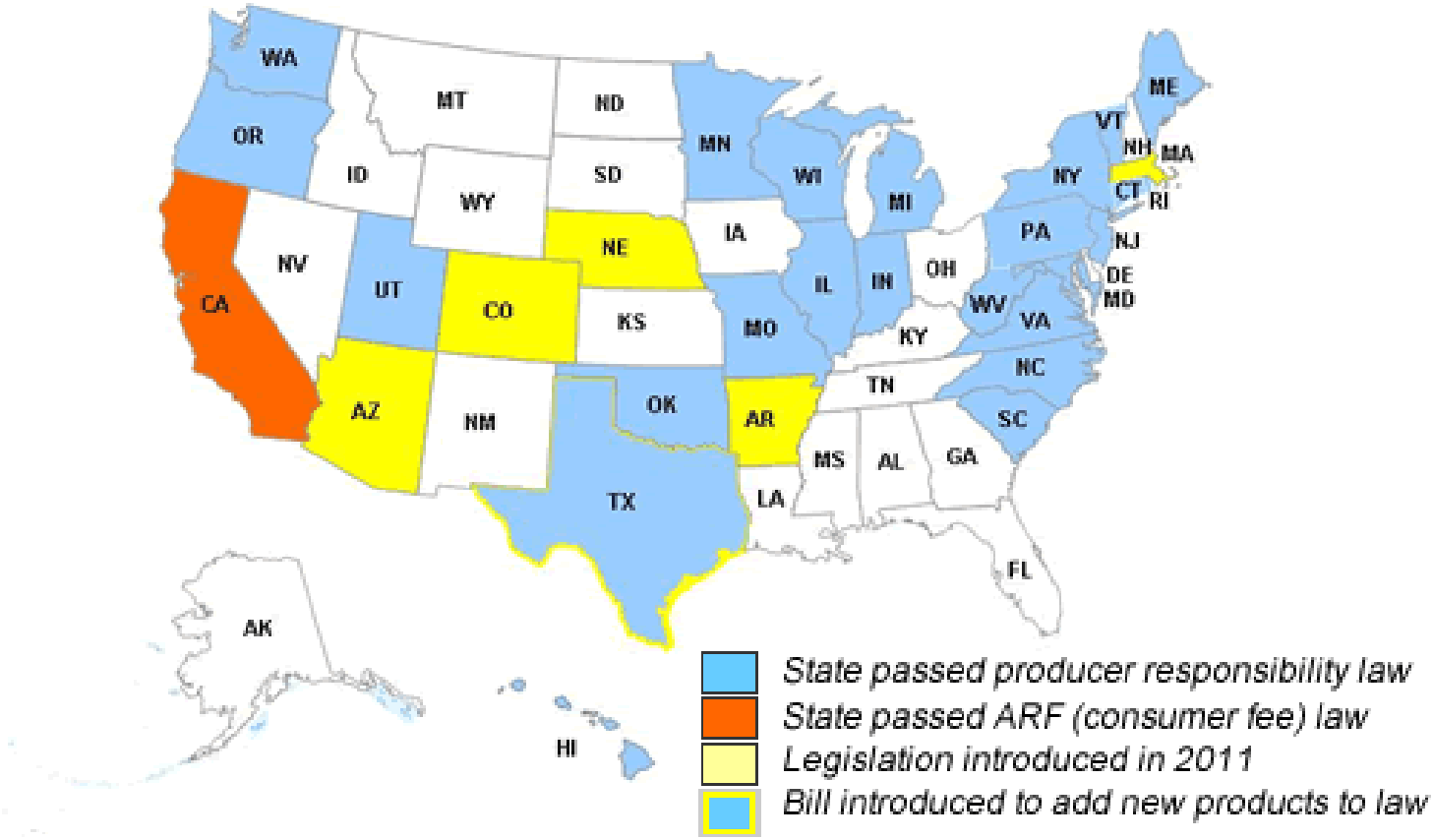
EPR is not happening directly in Ohio, although an E-waste bill was introduced last year

But EPR is happening in other parts of the country…



Electronics EPR

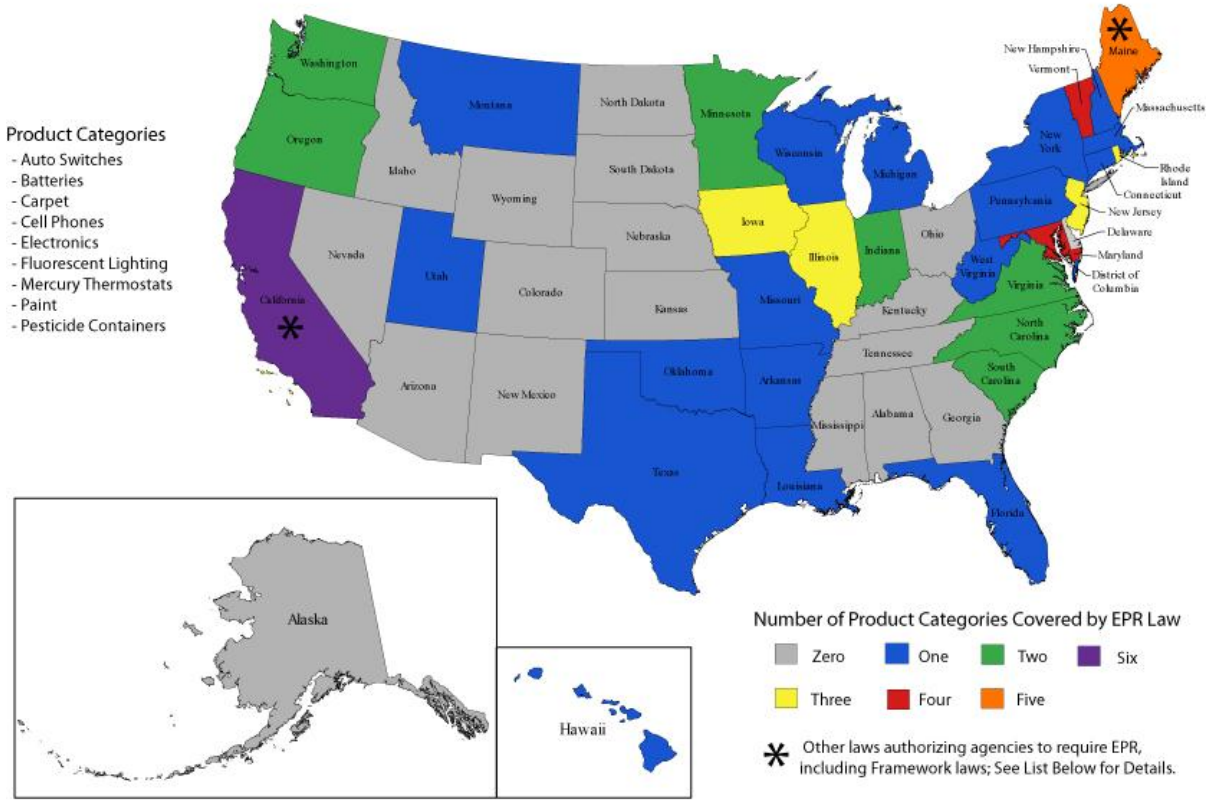
25 states have e-waste legislation (as of 2011)



Common products covered by EPR legislation

- Auto switches (mercury)
- Batteries
- Carpet
- Cell Phones
- Electronics
- Fluorescent lighting
- Mercury thermostats
- Paint
- Pesticide containers

Some states are passing laws to require manufacturers to collect their products

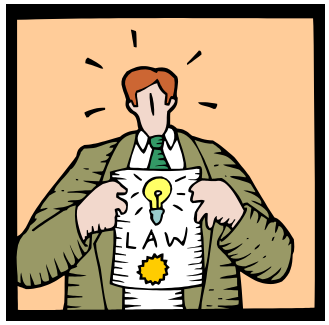


As of October 2010, there are more than 60 state laws mandating EPR

Midwest Product Stewardship Council

- Minnesota
- Wisconsin
- Iowa
- Michigan
- Indiana
- Illinois
- Missouri
- US EPA Region 5

Moving forward…



- **Additional states adopting legislation and more products covered**
- **More voluntary industry initiatives to manage their products at end-of-life**

Two Concepts to Remember:

- **Product Stewardship**

  Broad concept of **Increased Producer Responsibility** for environmental impacts of design, use, and end-of-life management of the products they produce

- **Extended Producer Responsibility**

  Often used interchangeably, can refer to manufacturer **take-back programs**.

Questions?
Ohio
Environmental
Protection Agency

Resources

- Product Stewardship Institute

  www.productstewardship.us
- Product Policy Institute

  www.productpolicy.org
- Electronics Take-back Coalition

  www.electronicstakeback.com