

# Product Stewardship Protects the Environment and Taxpayers

Minnesota residents and communities are forced to figure out how best to manage a wide range of products and avoid threats to the environment, public health and our waste management systems. And they are left to cover the costs on their own.

Product stewardship policies that rely on an extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework engage manufacturers, suppliers, retailers and consumers to manage products in a safe, cost-effective and fair manner.

## Better environmental outcomes, reduced financial impacts

Well-designed product stewardship and EPR approaches create producer-led partnerships to:

- Reduce impacts of products during and after use.
- Encourage product and packaging redesign to reduce waste and toxicity.
- Increase reuse and recycling.
- Achieve public health and environmental protection.
- Offer consumers fair, convenient management options that are better for the environment.
- Establish measurable and enforceable goals.
- Provide funding relief to local programs and taxpayers.

## Better resource management, building a circular economy

Product stewardship and EPR policies can effectively address problem materials, especially the following:

- Packaging for food, beverages and consumer products
- Mattresses
- Carpet
- Prescription and over-the-counter drugs
- Medical sharps
- Electronic devices
- Lithium-ion batteries
- Solar panels

**\$18 million annually** spent by Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties to properly manage recyclable, hazardous and problem materials.

## Need more information?

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**The Partnership on Waste and Energy**—a collaboration between Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties—seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.