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Vermont Product Stewardship Council Celebrates 10 Years of Success

Vermont — The Vermont Product Stewardship Council (VTPSC) recently celebrated its anniversary and a decade of impressive accomplishments. The group was founded in September 2008 by Vermont local governments, the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), and Upstream to jointly solve problems related to the management of problematic consumer products and packaging.

VTPSC's successes include the passage of five of the state's eight "extended producer responsibility" (EPR) laws, including those for primary batteries, electronics, paint, mercury lamps, and thermostats. EPR laws require product manufacturers to finance and manage the recycling or safe disposal of their products when consumers are done with them, taking the burden off taxpayers and governments.

Vermont leads the nation in per capita collection rates for many of these products, recycling or safely disposing of millions of pounds of material and creating recycling jobs throughout the state and the northeast. This year, the group is turning its attention to household hazardous waste and packaging.

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (BCSWA) has been a member of the Vermont Product Stewardship Council for the past three years. "The programs for paint have dramatically reduced the costs of our household hazardous waste events and provided greater convenience for residents and businesses who can now take paint, electronics, fluorescent bulbs, and thermostats to many retail stores and transfer stations for free," said Michael Batcher, regional planner with the Bennington County Regional Commission. "We hope that VTPSC will help pass additional EPR laws for the people of Vermont."

Jennifer Holliday, Founder and Chair of VTPSC and Director of Public Policy and Diversion Facilities for the Chittenden County Solid Waste District, estimates that EPR laws are saving local governments and taxpayers millions of dollars statewide. "The strong EPR laws we've passed in Vermont really make a difference for our residents and the environment. None of it would have been possible without the support of forward-thinking legislators who saw beyond the challenges that always lie in the path of progress."

PSI provides ongoing technical assistance to the group and facilitates group meetings. "It's powerful when local governments unify and collaborate with state agencies and businesses to jointly solve problems that reduce waste," said Scott Cassel, Chief Executive Officer and

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Founder of PSI. “The Vermont PSC is a national leader and model for effective government that has saved money for its taxpayers while reducing waste and creating jobs.”

To join VTPSC or learn about starting a Product Stewardship Council in your state, contact PSI’s [Megan Byers](#).

About the [Vermont Product Stewardship Council \(VTPSC\)](#)

VTPSC works to integrate the principles of product stewardship into the policy and economic structures of Vermont.

About the [Product Stewardship Institute \(PSI\)](#)

PSI is a national nonprofit that reduces the health, safety, and environmental impacts of consumer products with a strong focus on sustainable end-of-life management.

The Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and provider. Persons with disabilities who require alternatively formatted materials to ensure effective communication should contact Amanda Nicholson at amanda@productstewardship.us or (617) 236-4833. For TTY, please dial 711 or 800-439-2370; [MassRelay](#).