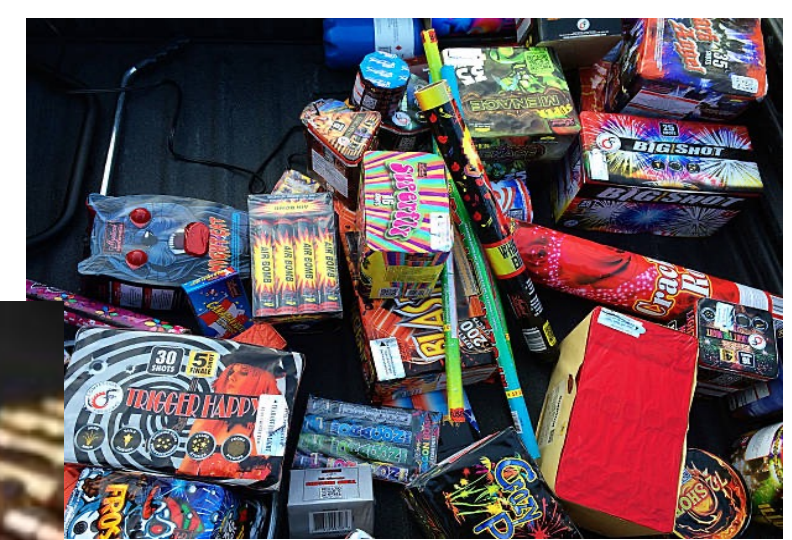




The Future of the Circular Economy: How Local Governments Can Advance & Benefit From, a Circular Economy

Heidi Sanborn, National Stewardship Action Council & Stewardship Action Foundation

NSAC'S VISION: The United States attains a circular economy.

Who Are We?



NATIONAL
STEWARDSHIP
ACTION COUNCILSM

ADVOCATING FOR A RESPONSIBLE, CIRCULAR ECONOMY

NSAC is a 501(c)4 nonprofit advocating for **producers to fairly share responsibility in a responsible, circular economy.**



STEWARDSHIP
ACTION
FOUNDATIONSM

EDUCATING FOR A RESPONSIBLE, CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Our affiliated 501(c)3 focuses on **public education, outreach, and collaboration.**

Our Unique Role

- We **bridge** policy, industry & environmental advocates at state and national levels
- We ensure **fair policy development** frameworks that reward leadership, not punish innovation
- We're **in the room** when the rules are written
- Unlike “watchdog” groups focused only on problems, we build solutions - partnering with policymakers & industry to shape laws that protect communities, support innovation and drive a just, circular economy





Success in Sponsoring Bills in California

2024: AB 863 (Aguilar-Curry): Carpet PCR content mandate & update) #3 - **1st in the US**
SB 1066 (Blakespear): Pyrotechnic Distress Flare EPR - **1st in the world – Veto**
SB 1143 (Allen): PaintCare Expansion Act- **1st in the US**



2022: SB 54 (Allen): Plastic Pollution Prevention & Packaging Producer Responsibility Act
AB 2208 (Kalra) : Mercury Lamp Pollution Prevention Act
AB 1894 (L. Rivas): Truth in Marketing & Advertising for Cannabis Vapes - **1st in the US**
AB 1793 (Quirk): Aquatic Toxicity Testing

2021: SB 343 (Allen): Truth in Recycling Labeling - **1st in the US**
AB 818 (Bloom): Truth in “Flushable” Wipes Labeling
AB 707 (Quirk): Mercury Thermostat EPR Program Update



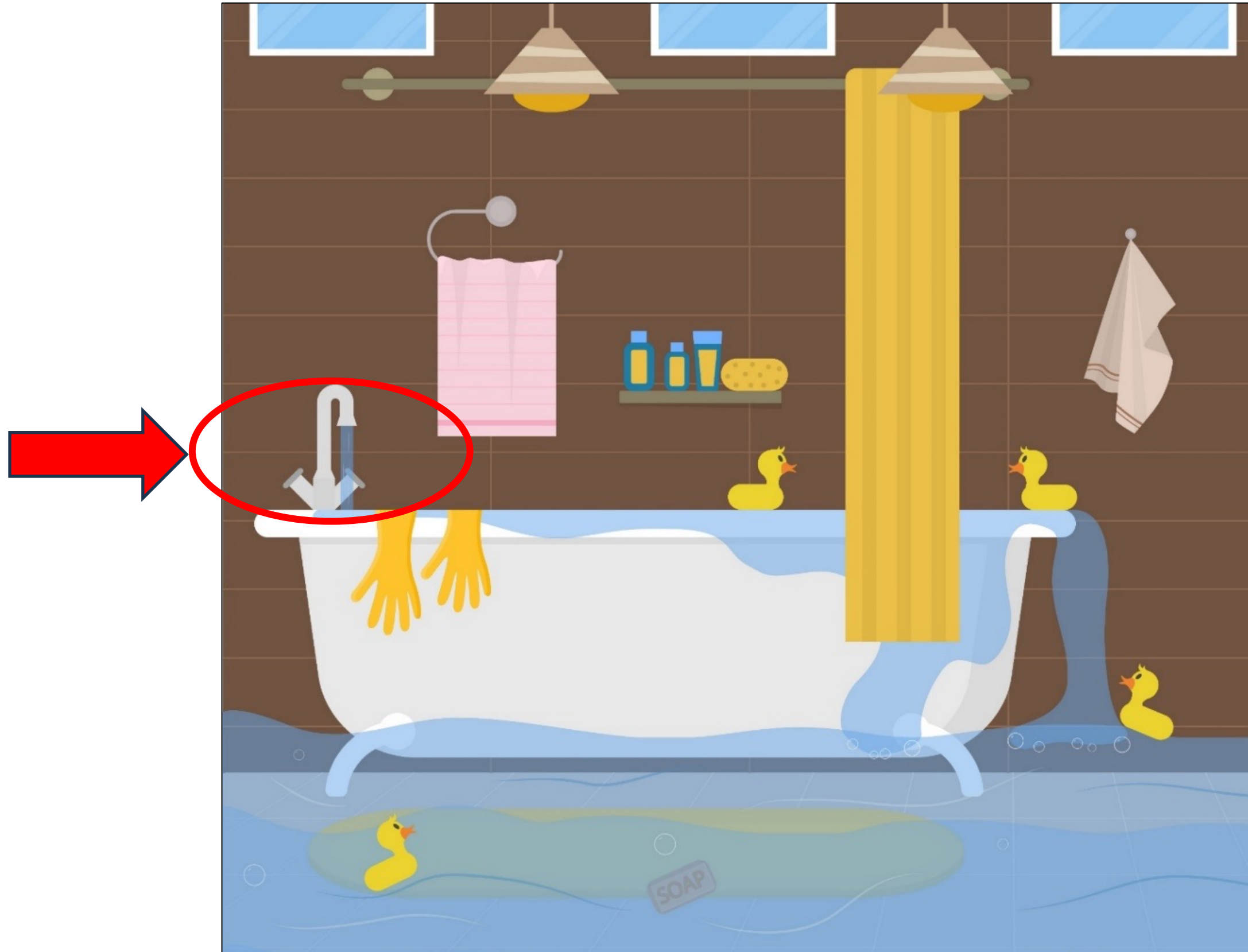
2019: SB 726 (Caballero): HHW Reuse & Exchange
AB 729 (Chu): Carpet Program Reform #2

2018: SB 212 (Jackson, Ting, Gray): Medication & Needle EPR - **1st in the US**

2017: AB 1158 (Chu): Carpet Program Reform #1



The bathtub is overflowing, what do you do?

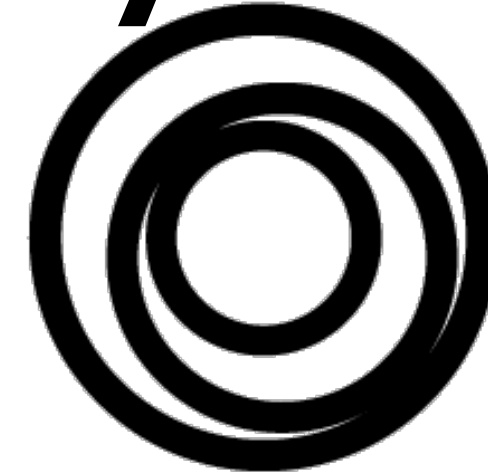


What is a Circular Economy?

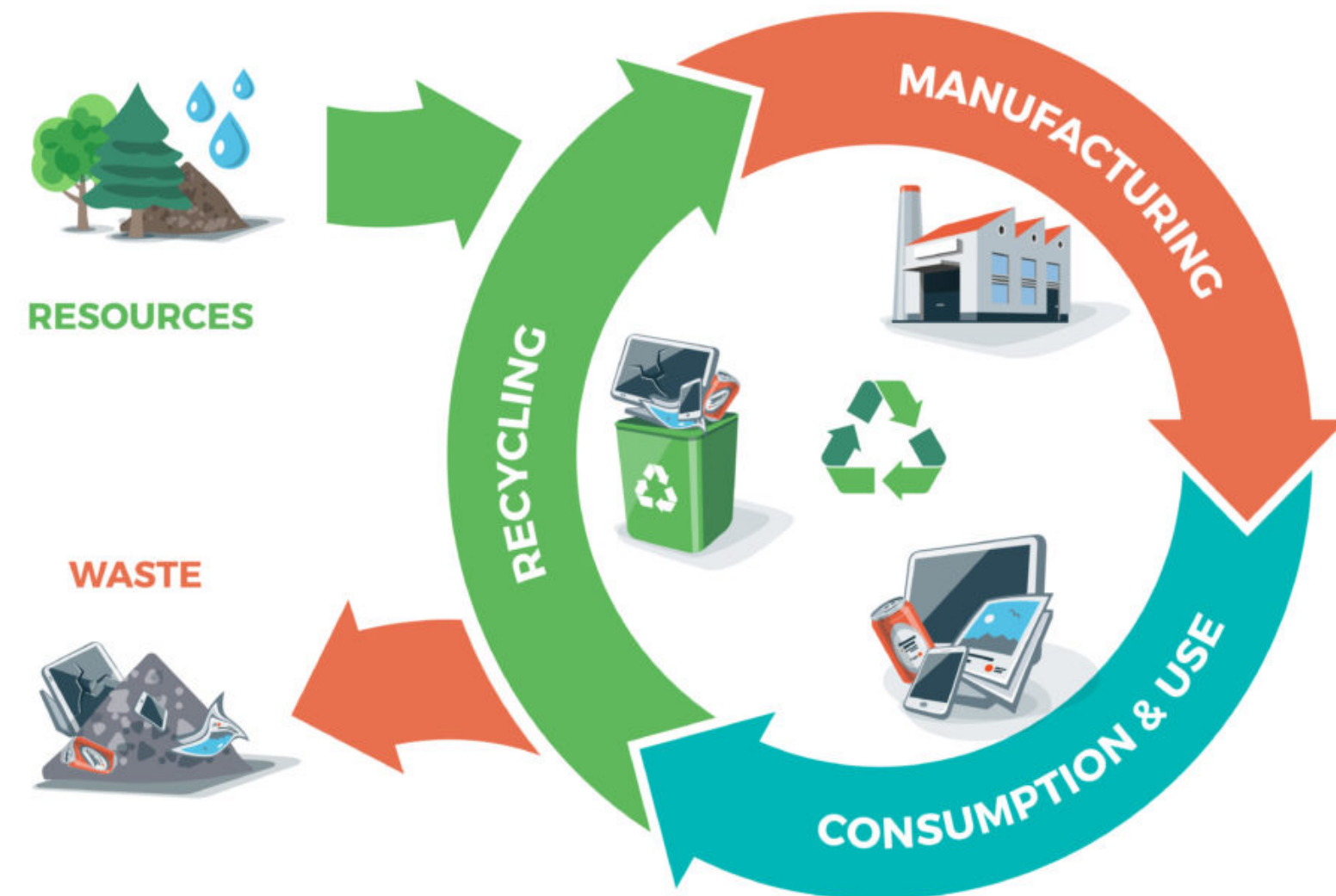
It is based on three principles:

1. Design out waste and pollution.
2. Keep products and materials in use.
3. Regenerate natural systems.

**Decouples economic activity
from the consumption of
finite resources.**



**ELLEN
MACARTHUR
FOUNDATION**



Policy Tools

1. Sales Ban (products or chemicals)
2. Truth in Labeling
3. Right to Repair
4. Product Stewardship
- 5. Extended Producer Responsibility**
6. Deposits to Increase Collection

Questions to Ask Before Choosing a Tool:

- 1) How toxic is it?
- 2) Are there safer alternatives on the market, or coming?
- 3) What have other states or countries done with the product/chemical?
- 4) Is the international community limiting shipping/disposal?
- 5) How is the state determining the product to be hazardous? Is that causing problems?



**EPR is a key policy tool to drive
a circular economy**



DIVE BRIEF

Waste and recycling collection was fourth deadliest occupation in 2023: BLS

The latest Bureau of Labor Statistics data showed an increase in the rate of fatalities for the refuse and recyclable materials collection occupation. The number of fatalities in MRFs also increased.

Published Dec. 19, 2024 • Updated Dec. 20, 2024

“Waste worker’s close call with exploding flare a helpful reminder of what can't be recycled”



<https://youtu.be/cR8mrDPXiMg?si=pXoezvJmAVFEPZHx>

Trash collectors escape disaster as oxygen tank explodes in garbage truck

by WSYX Staff | Thu, January 30th 2025 at 1:25 PM

Updated Fri, January 31st 2025 at 2:14 PM



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0VbUvk_BKE

Statement on Product Safety Emergency



Statement urges brands & policymakers to take quick and decisive action to prevent fires.

Stop adding new products to the market that pose a danger of fire or explosion if they do not have an EOL plan that works.

THE HILL

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

Lithium batteries are bursting into flames, starting dangerous, toxic trash fires

BY AMY LESTITION BURKE AND HEIDI SANBORN, OPINION CONTRIBUTORS - 06/03/25 7:00 AM ET

FOLLOW ON Google News



Adobe Images

Turning Off the Tap – Sales Bans With a Plan

ReFuel Your Fun PSA featuring then, California Secretary for Natural Resources, John Laird, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts at Natural Bridges State Beach Park, CA in July 2015.



Senator John Laird (Santa Cruz) discussing authoring SB 1280 which requires one-pound propane cylinders sold in California to be reusable or refillable starting January 1, 2028.

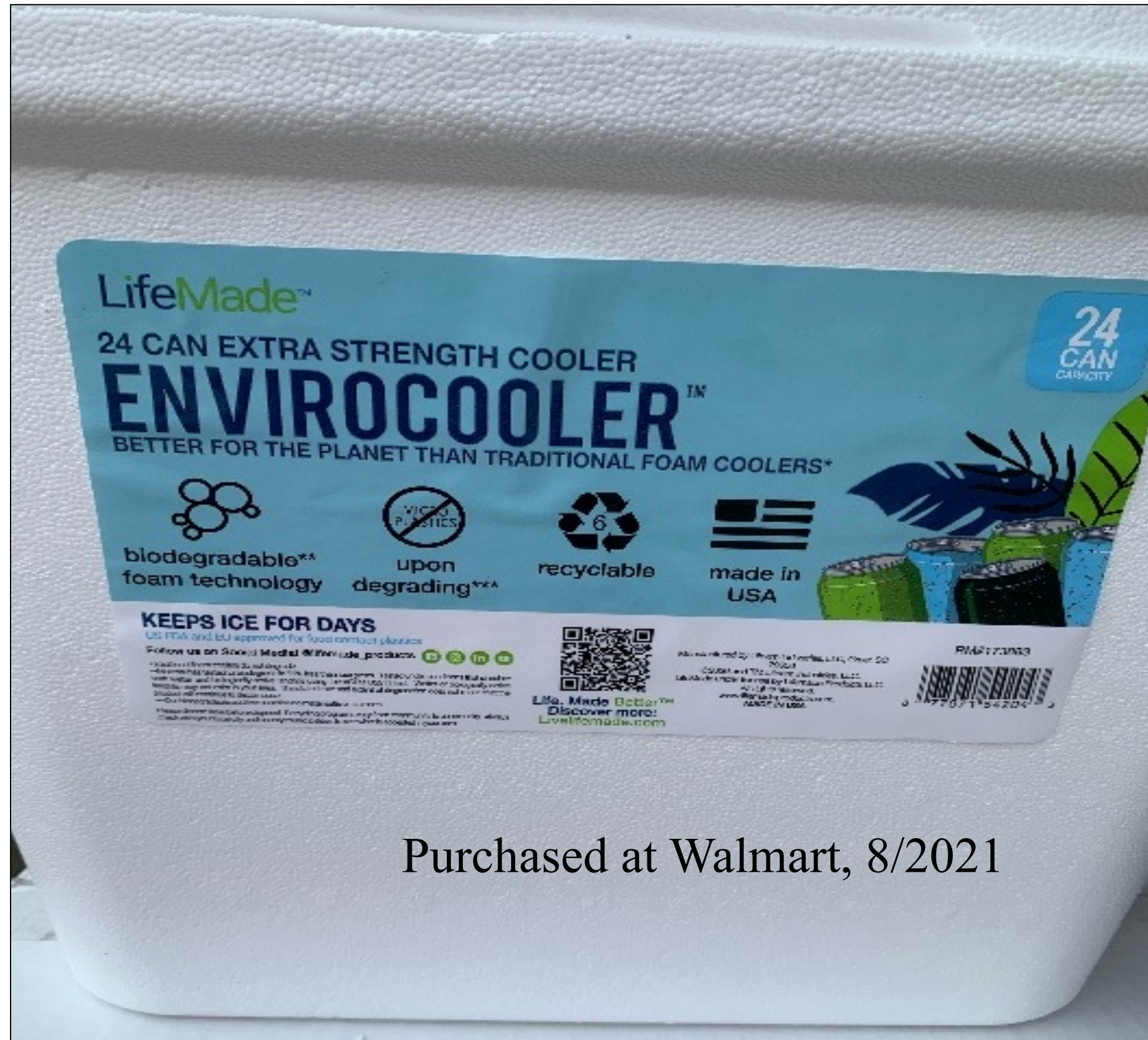
Truth in Labeling: Ending Lying on Labels

NSAC's Heidi Sanborn in:
The New York Times

"Nobody should be able to
lie to the public"



Labeling: The Wild West, With No Sheriff in Town



Purchased at Walmart, 8/2021

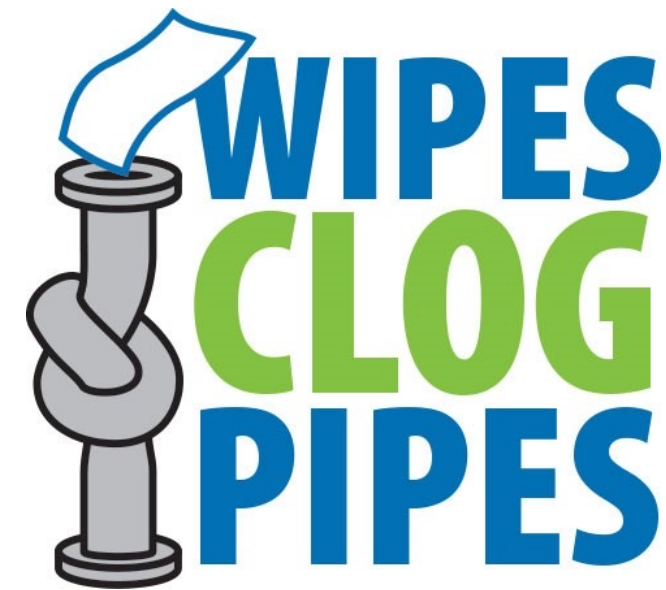


“Truth in Labeling” NSAC Sponsored Laws

1. Recycling: SB 343 (Allen), 2021
2. “Flushable” Wipes: AB 818 (Bloom), 2021
3. Cannabis Vaping Devices: AB 1894 (L. Rivas), 2022

Universal ‘chasing arrows’ recycling symbol could be dumped in US

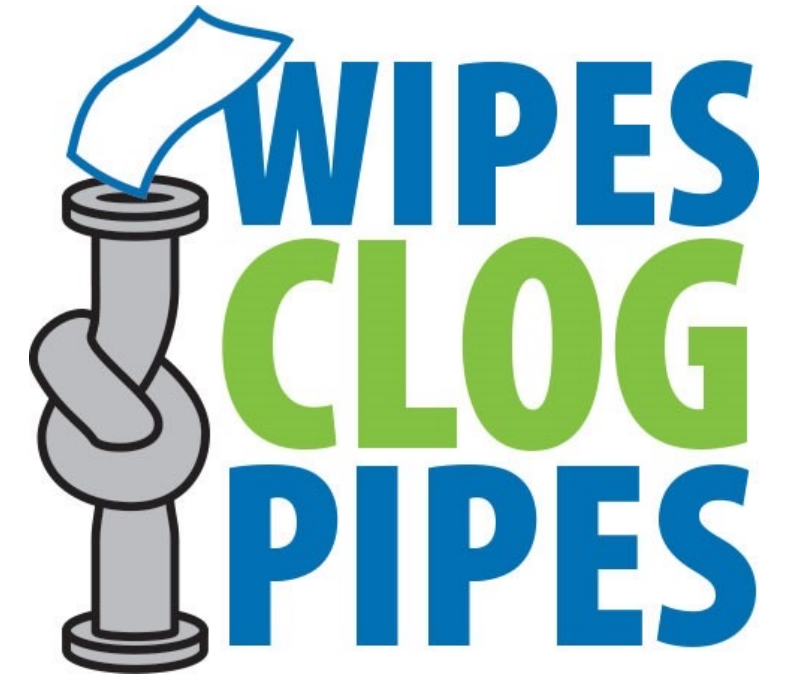
Biden officials consider whether symbol, created for first Earth Day in 1970, is misleading because of use on non-recyclable material



Wipes “Truth in Labeling” Legislation

1. Washington (2020)
2. Illinois (2021)
3. Oregon (2021)
4. California (2021) – AB 818 (Bloom **co-sponsored by NSAC**, CASA, & Association of Nonwoven Fabrics Industry)
5. Colorado (2023)
6. Michigan & New Jersey (2024)
7. **National** - Advancing in Senate to floor vote (has passed House)

Introduced in Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island, & in Washington D.C.



Partnerships & Education



#FlushSmart



Reimagine Waste: Building a Circular Economy with NSAC

06.10.2025

How often do you think about where things go after you're done with them? We often operate in a "take-make-waste" world where we take resources, make products, use them — and then discard them, where...

[Read More >](#)

2023 ANNUAL MEETING



83% of CA consumers surveyed agreed that we should clearly label non-flushable products to warn consumers against flushing the wrong thing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oy8sOeKBBA>



HR 2269 & S1092: The Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention & Environmental Safety (WIPPES) Act



Rep. McClain (R-MI)



Rep. Mullin (D-CA)



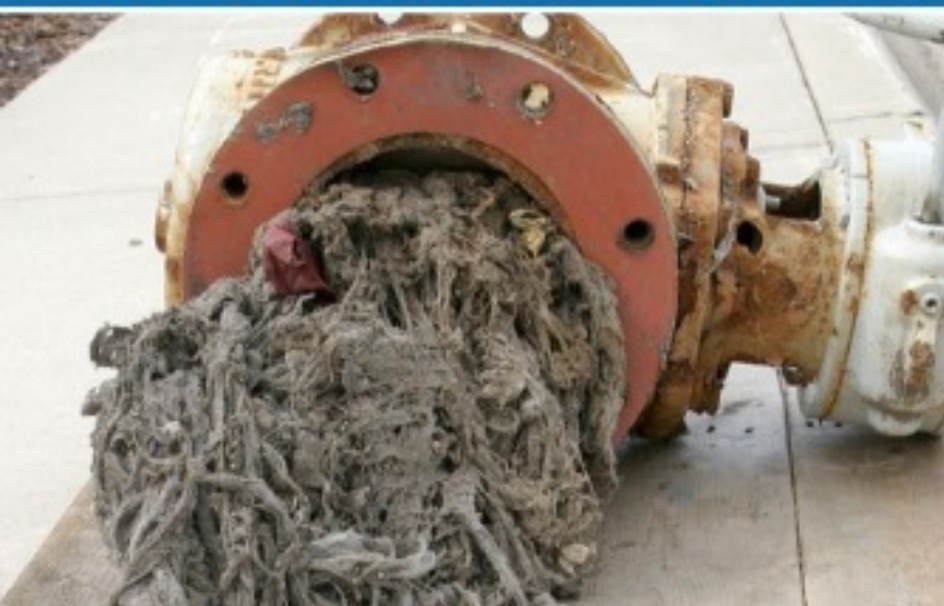
Rep. Merkley (D-OR)



Rep. Collins (R-ME)



Rep. Kean (R-NJ)



Rep. Huffman (D-CA)
Rep. Pingree (D-ME)
Rep. Calvert (R-CA)
Rep. Jayapal (D-WA)
Rep. Correa (D-CA)
Rep. Blumenthal (D-CT)
Rep. King (I-ME)
Rep. Markey (D-MA)
Rep. Murray (D-WA)
Rep. Paddila (D-CA)
Rep. Wyden (D-OR)
Rep. Shaheen (D-NH)
Rep. Warren (D-MA)



Re-Introduced 3/25/2025, this bill will address health, ecosystem, and wastewater infrastructure concerns caused by the flushing of non-flushable wet wipes.

Status as of 6/23/25: Passed the House by voice vote and sent to the Senate.

Next steps: Get Senate to advance legislation to allow for Floor consideration, passage, and allow Congress to ultimately pass a final bill.

“It is time to pass this bipartisan legislation and spare Americans from being misled to think these wipes are flushable that results in unnecessary stress and costly repairs.”

—Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director, National Stewardship Action Council

Right to Repair



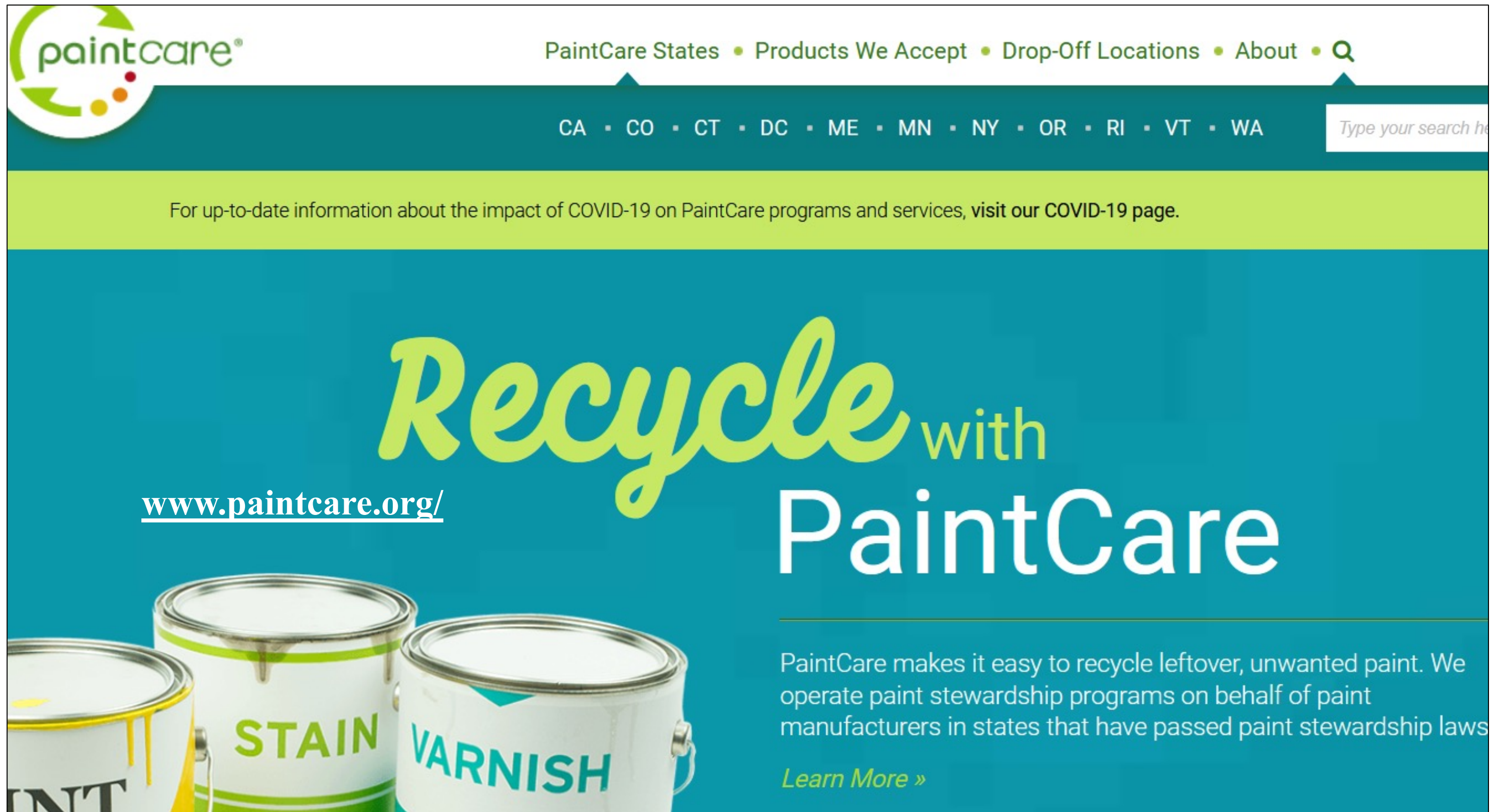
California just became the latest state to enact a right to repair law, with Gov. Gavin Newsom signing [SB 244](#) into law in October 2023. The law, known as the Right to Repair Act, requires manufacturers of consumer electronic devices and appliances—from smartphones to dishwashers—to make repair guides, parts and tools for those electronics available to product owners, service and repair facilities, and service dealers. The new law takes effect on July 1, 2024.



Frank Zhao (right), a longtime Fixit clinic coach, helps Al Lee (center) fix a vacuum cleaner at a Fixit clinic in Millbrae on Feb. 3, 2024. (Kathryn Styer Martínez/KQED)

Product Stewardship: PaintCare

Paint Stewardship in 11 States saving millions and increasing reuse and recycling!



The image is a screenshot of the PaintCare website. At the top left is the PaintCare logo, which consists of a green circular arrow and the word "paintcare" in lowercase. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links: "PaintCare States", "Products We Accept", "Drop-Off Locations", "About", and a search icon. Below the navigation menu is a teal bar containing a list of states: "CA • CO • CT • DC • ME • MN • NY • OR • RI • VT • WA". To the right of the states is a search bar with the placeholder text "Type your search here". Below the teal bar is a light green banner with the text: "For up-to-date information about the impact of COVID-19 on PaintCare programs and services, visit our COVID-19 page." The main content area has a teal background. In the center, the word "Recycle" is written in a large, stylized, light green font, followed by "with" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, and "PaintCare" in a large, white, sans-serif font. To the left of this text is the URL www.paintcare.org/ in white, underlined text. In the bottom left corner, there are three paint cans: one labeled "PAINT", one labeled "STAIN", and one labeled "VARNISH". In the bottom right corner, there is a paragraph of text: "PaintCare makes it easy to recycle leftover, unwanted paint. We operate paint stewardship programs on behalf of paint manufacturers in states that have passed paint stewardship laws." Below this paragraph is a link that says "Learn More »" in a light green, italicized font.

paintcare®

PaintCare States • Products We Accept • Drop-Off Locations • About • 

CA • CO • CT • DC • ME • MN • NY • OR • RI • VT • WA

Type your search here

For up-to-date information about the impact of COVID-19 on PaintCare programs and services, visit our COVID-19 page.

www.paintcare.org/

Recycle with PaintCare

PaintCare makes it easy to recycle leftover, unwanted paint. We operate paint stewardship programs on behalf of paint manufacturers in states that have passed paint stewardship laws.

[Learn More »](#)

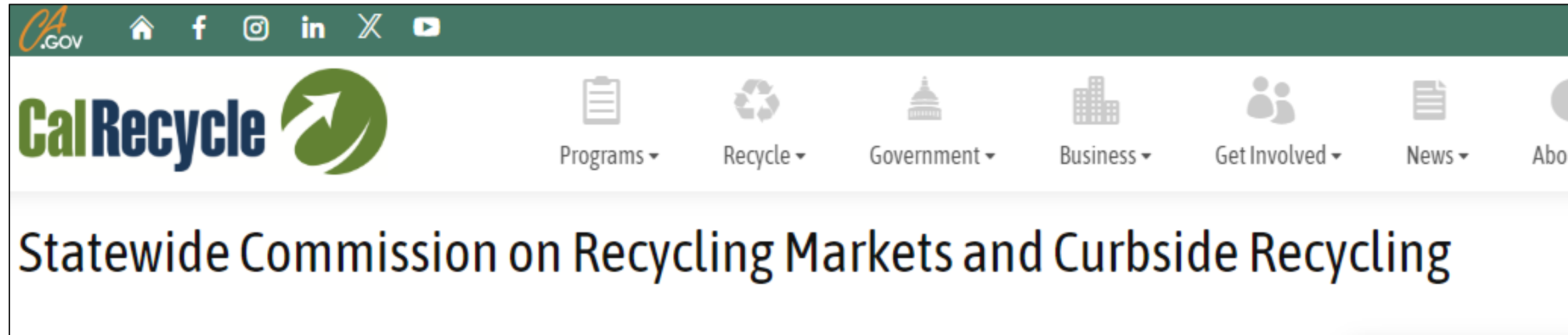
Final 2022 Report: 34 Recommendations, 17/0 Votes!



**California's Statewide Commission on
Recycling Markets & Curbside Recycling
Releases First Report & Policy Proposals**

#1 Recommendation:

Household Hazardous Waste Extended Producer Responsibility



Policy 20-01: Extending Producer Responsibilities Framework for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Policy Proposal: The Commission recommends that California **pass EPR framework legislation** to establish and maintain a convenient and **fully-funded recovery system** for all hazardous products - **including residuals and their containers** as they are **contaminants** to other recycling/composting streams.

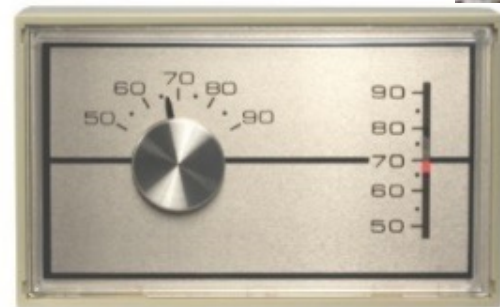
In 2023, California Waste Recovery Systems collected 183,000lbs of HHW and the cost to dispose of that material was \$150,000.00. Not to mention the risk that our employees are faced with when the material comes into our facility.

HHW Covered by EPR in CA: A Product-by-Product Approach

1. Ag Pesticide Containers (2008) – EPR
2. Recalled Products (2008) –EPR
3. Mercury Thermostats (2008) – EPR
4. Medications & Sharps (2018) – EPR
5. Loose Batteries (2022) – EPR
6. Battery Embedded Products (2022)
7. Mercury Lighting (2022) – BAN
8. Expanded Paintcare to all Paints – (2024)



MED-Project™
Medication Education & Disposal



ThermostatCare



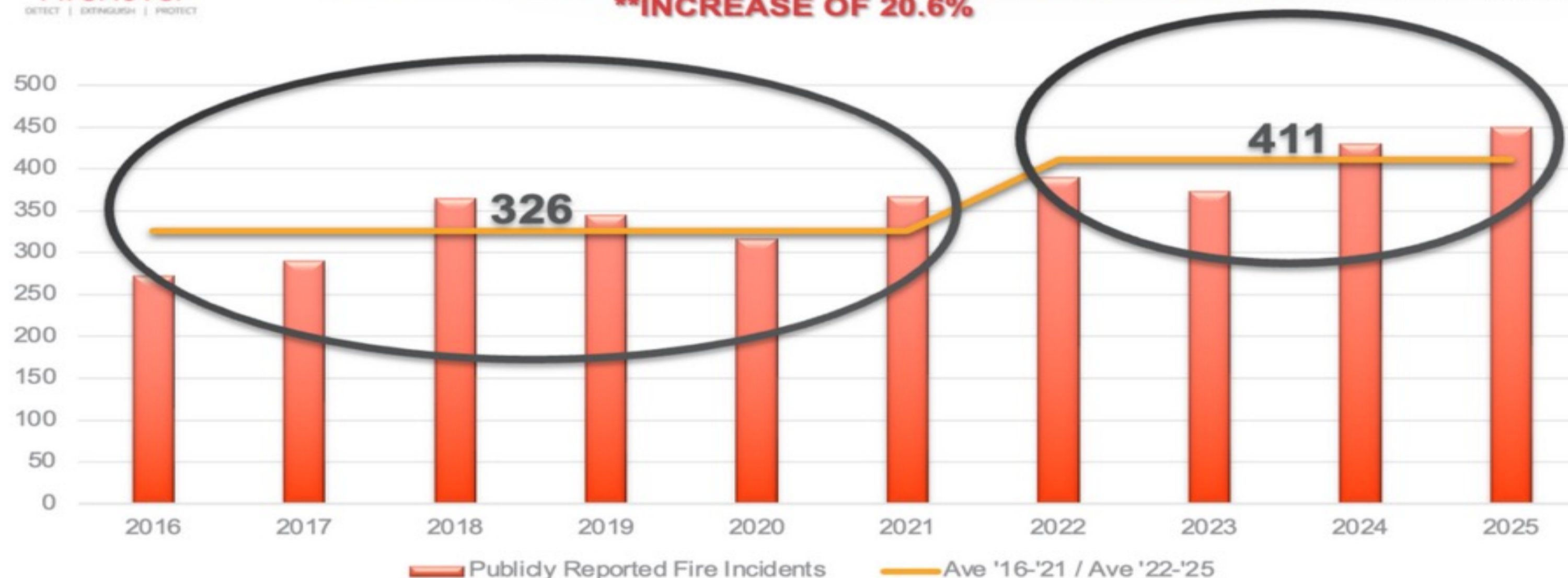
**DRUG TAKEBACK SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION**



THE VAPE EFFECT



***AVERAGE FIRE INCIDENTS PER YEAR ('16-'21) VS ('22-'25*)**
****INCREASE OF 20.6%**



Source: Ryan Fogelman rfogelman@firerover.com

The "Vape Effect" - Ryan Fogelman

September Fire Report: The "Vape Effect" Worsens



- 1 - School District Project with NSAC
- 2 - Teach Teachers What to Look For
- 3- Collect data on collections and disposal issues



Examples of Nicotine and Marijuana Vape Pens - Don Lee Camp ...

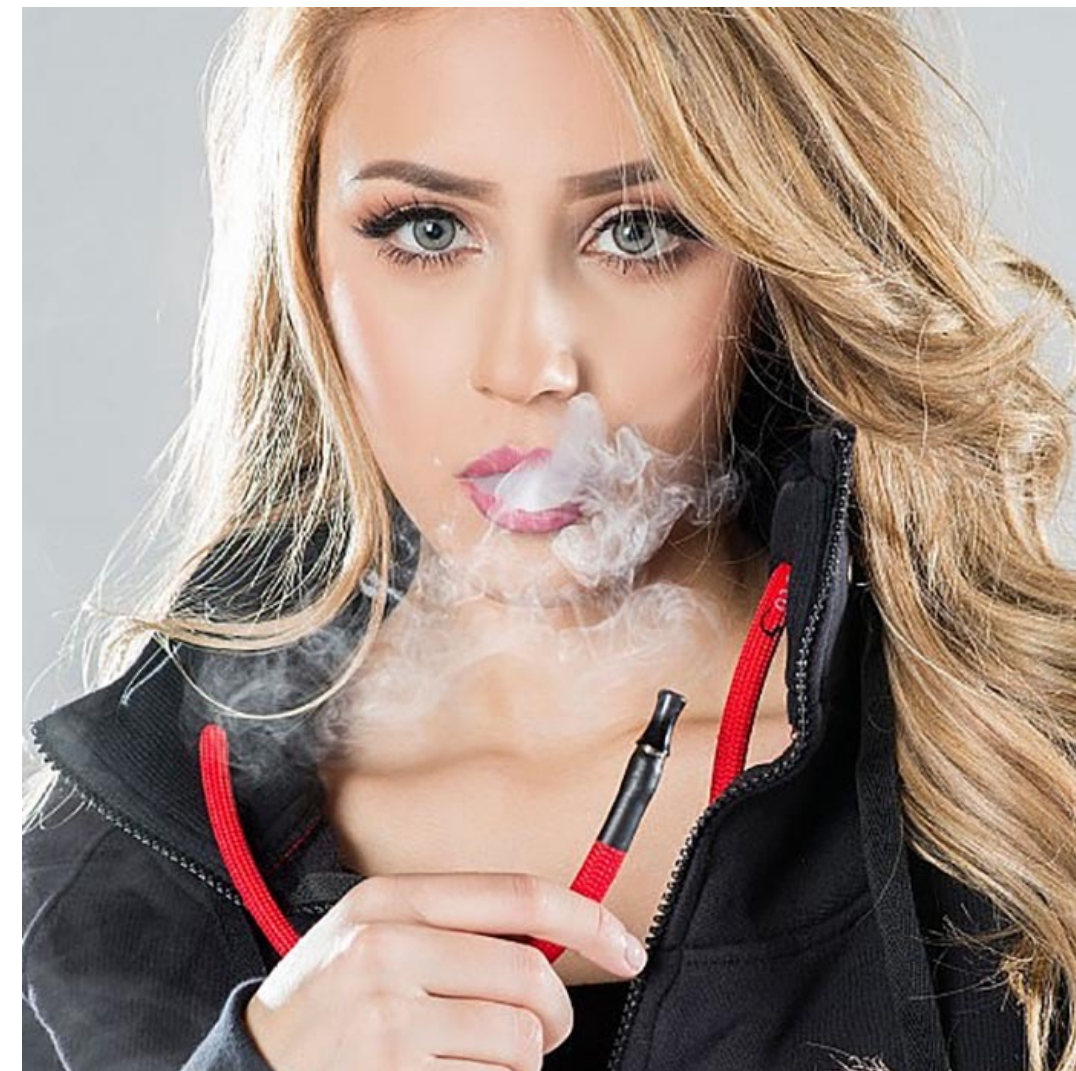
[Visit >](#)

HIGHLIGHT VAPE

Each highlighter vape is crafted with attention to detail and undergoes thorough testing to guarantee a consistent and performance.

4000 PUFFS

6000 PUFFS



SB 1143 (Allen): Household Hazardous Waste Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- NSAC Co-sponsored with RCRC & RRCC
- Introduced as HHW EPR **including vaping devices**
- #1 Recommendation from the CA Recycling Commission
- Vermont passed in 2023
- Support: Local governments, material managers, ENGOS, etc.
- Opposition: American Chemistry Council, CalChamber, etc.



SB 1143 Amended to PaintCare Expansion Act



- 6/10/24 amendments added PaintCare expansion
- 8/19/24 amendments removed HHW EPR and narrowed to the PaintCare Expansion Act
- Signed into law 9/29/2024

*“Passing EPR framework legislation is a multi-year process, and **we made enormous progress this first year.** What was best for California was to ensure the PaintCare expansion got done to keep costs down and the program working, and **then tackle the rest of the HHW stream next year allowing more time for negotiation.**”*

*Heidi Sanborn quoted in
Waste Advantage Magazine*



News ► Collection/Transfer

California is Poised to Expand Successful PaintCare Program

Posted
September 3, 2024



MOTION APPROVED

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Approves Motion on the Regulation of Household Hazardous Waste



On 1/14, the Los Angeles County's Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 to **explore the feasibility of regulating hazardous household waste through extended producer responsibility policies and/or sales bans.**

SB 501

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ACT

Establishes an Extended
Producer Responsibility (EPR)
program to manage end-of-life
care for household hazardous
waste (HHW).



BEN ALLEN
REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 24

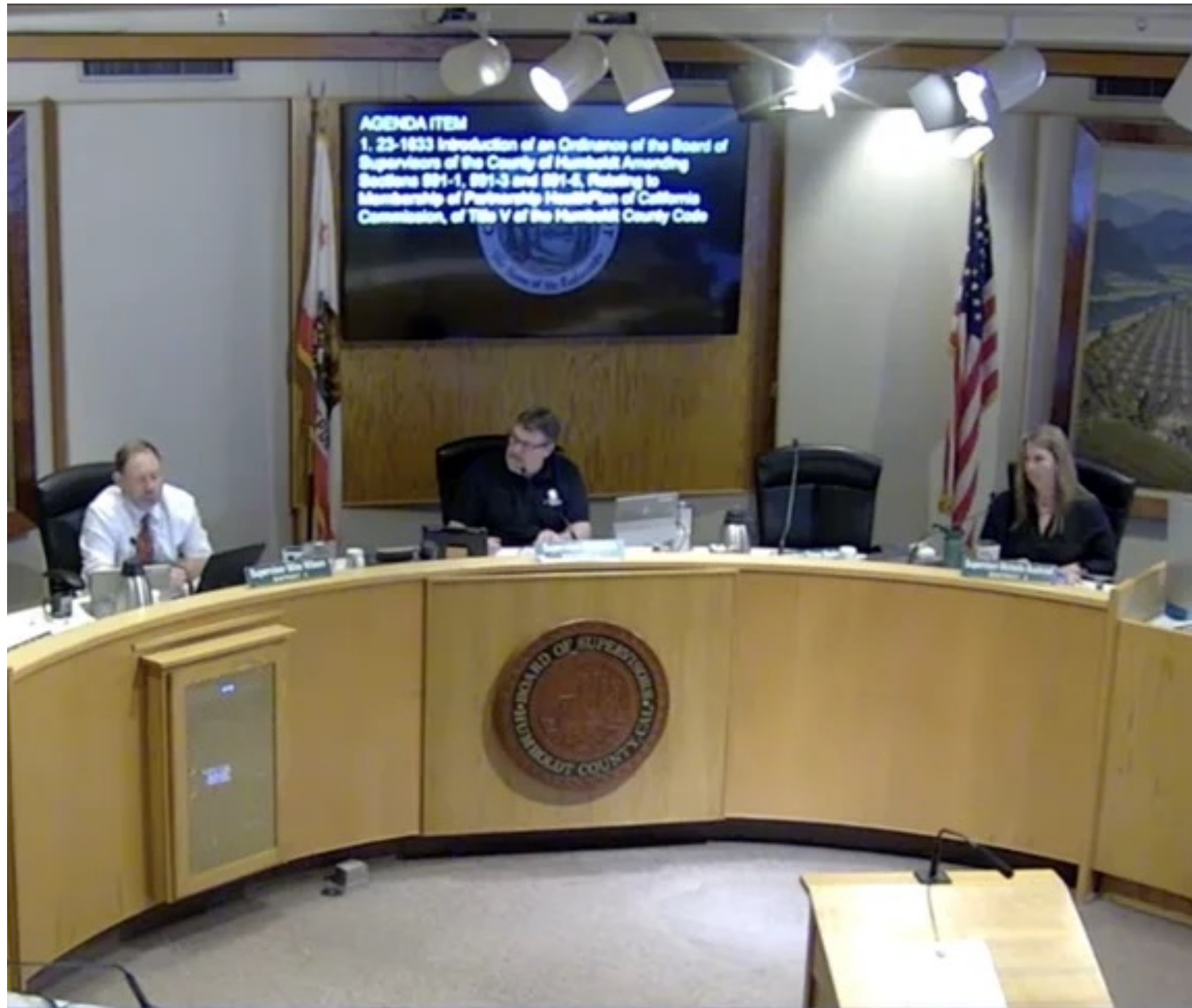
New and Dangerous Products: Vapes w/Screens & N2O Cylinders



Local Government Leadership!

San Mateo, Orange & Humboldt Counties

Banned Recreational Sales of N2O



- “If I had to choose a society where it was a little harder to make whipping cream but I had less damage to the youth in my community, I would choose” that option, **Supervisor Mike Wilson** said.
- He again emphasized that **state legislators may be in a better position to enact change but said he’s fully in support of the proposed resolution**, which identifies nitrous oxide as “an important local issue” that “can negatively impact children and youth.”
- The resolution also advises the Board of Supervisors and the Public Health Branch of DHHS “to address the illicit sale, distribution and use of nitrous oxide through education and policy approaches and bring back such recommendations at a later date.”

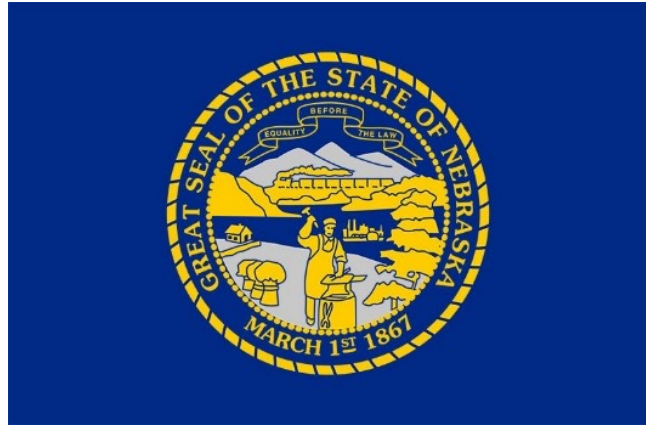
Photo credit: <https://lostcoastoutpost.com/2024/jan/9/today-supes-who-wants-operate-safe-parking-and-she/>

What States Are Doing Now

- **Nebraska** – 2025 Passed LB 36 Safe Battery Collection and Recycling Act; Banned Sale of N2O Cylinders, and Banned Sale of Disguised Vapes
- **California** – SB 501 Household Hazardous Waste Extended Producer Responsibility Act, 2025-26; SB1066 EPR for Marine Flares
- AB 1325 EPR for oil and lubricants
- **Vermont** – Act 58 of 2023 and Act 59 of 2025, First in nation Household Hazardous Waste Extended Producer Responsibility
- **Colorado** – Approved PRO for separate EPR for oil and lubricants



NE's LB 1296 Vape Registry, Advertising and Design



State Sen. Jana Hughes of Seward. Jan. 4, 2023.
(Zach Wendling/Nebraska News Service)



An electronic nicotine delivery system, or vape, that York Elementary School officials confiscated from a third grader. A legislative bill would outlaw products that are disguised to be non-vape merchandise. Courtesy of State Sen. Jana Hughes of Seward)

Hughes explained that in the United States, there's a perception that products sold in retail outlets are safe. However, she said, the federal government, which is supposed to be in charge of product regulation and safety, has dropped the ball. **"If they get their stuff together ... then we're done," Hughes said of her bill. "But they're not doing it."**

LB 230 (Bob Hallstrom)

Banned Sale of N2O Cylinders

- Bill relating to public health and welfare; to regulate the sale of nitrous oxide products; to provide penalties; to change provisions of the schedules of controlled substances under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act; and to **declare an emergency**.



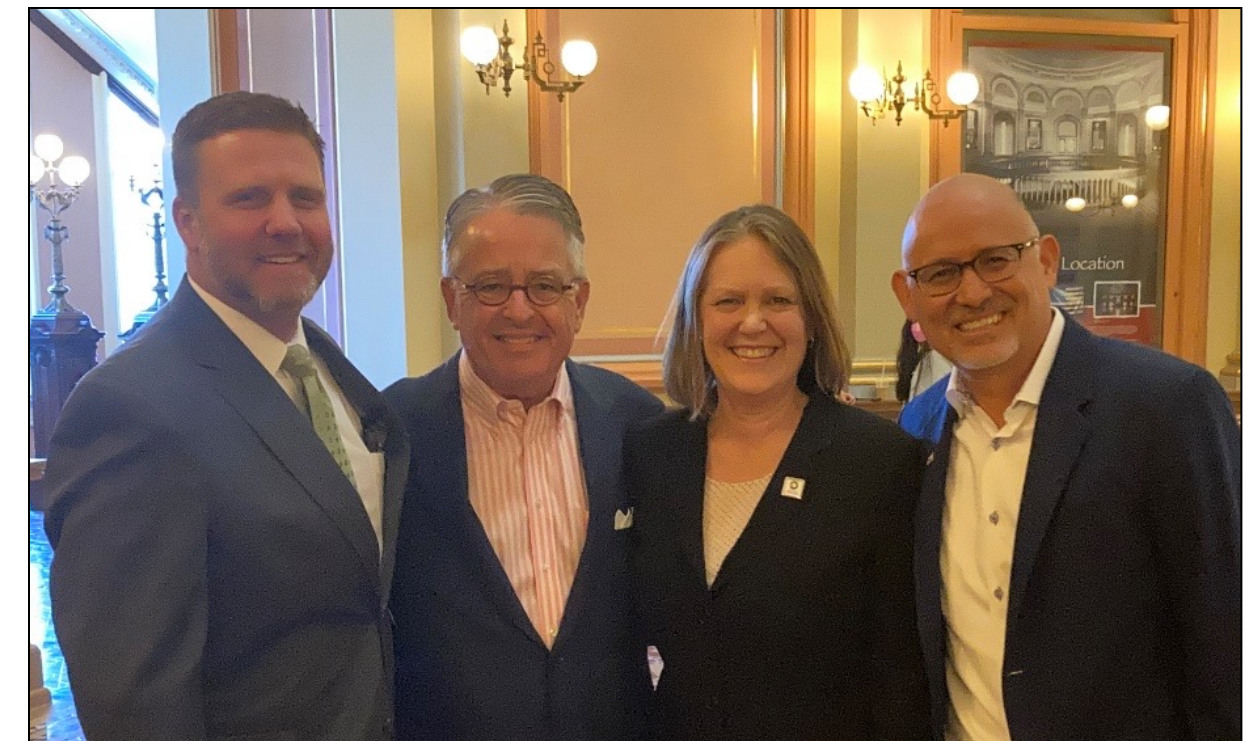
Deposits - Mercury Thermostat EPR

Creating the **highest
rebate in the nation
(\$30)**



- **AB 707 (Quirk), 2021**
 - Convenience standard: 1 location/county & at least 90% of residents have a collection location within 15 mi of their residence
 - Any retailer, wholesaler, HHW that sells t-stats can request a free collection box
 - Increases public education and outreach fund
 - TRC will no longer run the program
 - Sunset date of 1/1/2030 - can be extended by the legislature
- **AB 732 (Quirk), 2022**
 - Imposes sales ban on the thermostats of every manufacturer not in compliance with the act, notwithstanding good faith effort
 - Collection boxes proactively sent to wholesalers

We Make Big Things Happen!



CA's SB 54
EPR for Packaging
ONLY Circular Economy Bill in
the World!



Key Features of SB 54 (Allen): **EPR v. 3.0+**

- **Must be recyclable or compostable by 1/1/2032**
- **Recycling Rate and Dates:**
 - 1/1/2028: Not less than 30%
 - 1/1/2030: Not less than 40%
 - 1/1/2032: Not less than 65%
- **25% Plastics Source Reduction by Weight & Unit by 2032**
 - 10% by 1/1/2027
 - 2% reuse & refill
 - 20% by 1/1/2030
 - 4% reuse & refill
 - 2030: Evaluation (& every 5 years thereafter) to determine if actions to secure greater source reductions are necessary
- Other reduction tools focused on optimization:
 - Lightweighting, concentrating, shifting to another packaging type
 - Recycled content capped at 8% & considered “alternative compliance”



100% Packaging in California
Recyclable by 2032



65% of Single-Use Packaging
Recycled by 2032



25% of Plastic Packaging
cut by 2032

2024-2025 Legislation

PFAS Bills That Became Law:

[AB 347 \(Ting\)](#): DTSC enforcement of existing PFAS prohibitions

[AB 2515 \(Papan\)](#): Banned PFAS in Menstrual Products

On Governors Desk:

[SB 682 \(Allen\)](#): Ban sale of products with PFAS - **VETOED**

[AB 1181 \(Haney\)](#) Phase out in firefighting gear - **SIGNED!**

Microplastics: - VETOED

[AB 823 \(Boernor\)](#): Ban sale products with micro beads or glitter in products used as an abrasive to clean, exfoliate, or polish, in a non rinse off product.

“

Plastic has overtaken our world, from the soil that grows our food to the water we drink, the air we breathe, and even the products we use daily. With AB 823, California is taking a big step by banning personal care and household products that threaten our health and the environment.

**ASM. TASHA
BOERNER**

**PROTECTING
CALIFORNIANS
FROM TOXIC
MICROPLASTICS**



In the Trenches: Getting EPR Done

- Collect Data
- Find Your Allies
 - Political champions
 - Unlikely bedfellows – stakeholders, legislators
- Educate the Legislature & Staff

CA Foundation for Environment & Economy Study Trip



Mission-Driven Work. National Impact.

- **National Network:** Nearly 120 member organizations, from sustainable companies to communities and NGOs
- **Broad Reach:** Engaging a 2,700+ member network nationwide
- **Shared Purpose:** Advancing policies & solutions that unlock economic, environmental, and public health benefits through a circular economy
- **Two Organizations working to unlock the economic, environmental, and public health benefits of a circular economy**
 - *National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC)* – policy leadership and advocacy
 - *Stewardship Action Foundation (SAF)* – education, technical assistance, and capacity-building



L to R: Leslie Lukacs, Heidi Sanborn, Courtney Scott, Zero Waste Sonoma

National Expertise + Insights

NSAC & SAF host six national working groups. Here's your chance to hear from our nation's leading subject-matter experts:

- 1. Household Hazardous Waste** – advancing safer end-of-life management
- 2. Packaging & EPR Implementation** – unlocking the economic, & public health environmental benefits of recycling and a circular economy
- 3. Boating & Marine Flares** – tackling disposal for explosive marine flares and boat wraps
- 4. Textile Circularity** – driving recycling, reuse, resale & innovation at scale
- 5. Recycling Refunds / Deposit-Return Systems** – scaling proven solutions to scale the collection and recycling of valuable materials
- 6. Illegal Single-use Ink Toner Cartridges** – protecting markets and consumers from fraud and deception

Our **National Working Groups** meet at least four times each year and sub-groups may meet more frequently. Ready to learn more or join?

Contact **Heath** at  heath@nsaction.us

REINVESTING IN THE U.S. — REMADE IN AMERICA



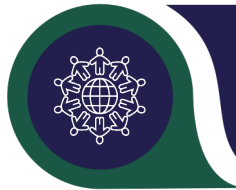
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STEWARDSHIP
ACTION
FOUNDATIONSM



Change is here and it's
accelerating



Collaboration is our only path
forward



Circular economy solutions
deliver more than
environmental benefits



It's time to reinvest in
America's circular economy



Made in America.
Remade in America.

Thank you to the Stewardship Action Foundation's Funding Partners, including:



Thank you to the National Stewardship Action Council's Funding Partners, including:



Join & Follow Us!



“Ten years from now, our goal is that nothing goes onto the market that has no end-of-life program in place.”

– Heidi Sanborn



Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director/CEO
(916) 217-1109 | Heidi@nsaction.us

www.nsaction.us