



## 2017 In Review: Advancing Product Stewardship in New York State

A transformation in materials management is underway in NY State, one that propels us toward a more sustainable system that holds manufacturers responsible for the end-of-life management of their products—particularly for goods that are difficult to recycle or properly dispose because they are bulky, potentially toxic, or otherwise challenging for municipal waste managers.

This **product stewardship** transformation is led by the New York Product Stewardship Council (NYPSC) and made possible by support from the NYS Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling (NYSAR<sup>3</sup>); the NYS Chapter of SWANA; the Federation of NY Solid Waste Associations; the NYS Association for Solid Waste Management; Covanta Energy Corporation; and Call2Recycle, among others. NYPSC also works closely with the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), municipalities, and other partners to achieve its objectives.

**Results:** manufacturers of consumer electronics, rechargeable batteries, and mercury thermostats have been engaged in this innovative approach in NYS, and the groundwork has been laid for a similar approach to other products in the near future, including: paint, pharmaceuticals, alkaline batteries, solar panels, and carpet.

### 2017 Achievements

#### Paint Stewardship

NYPSC worked in tandem with PSI and the American Coatings Association (ACA) to solidify and demonstrate local government support for Assemblyman Stirpe's paint stewardship bill [A 1038](#) (same as [S 881](#)). NYPSC distributed educational materials, conducted outreach to Senate and Assembly members, and wrote a group letter of support that gained **44 signatures** from state, regional, and local governments and organizations who support the bill. NYPSC's outreach and education spurred six communities and organizations to submit their own individual letters of support this year, and six additional groups to pass resolutions in support of the paint stewardship program. The bill passed nearly unanimously in the Senate and has more than 80 co-sponsors in the Assembly. More information is available at [nypsc.org/paint/](http://nypsc.org/paint/)

#### Pharmaceuticals Stewardship

In 2017, NYPSC tackled household-generated pharmaceuticals waste on three fronts: policy, education, and infrastructure.

The NYPSC pharmaceuticals subcommittee worked closely with Assemblyman Englebright's office to improve his 2017 pharmaceutical stewardship bill. NYPSC analyzed and edited his original bill, including recommendations that would align the bill with best practices, and met with the Assemblyman's Legal Counsel to review the red-lined bill, NYPSC's list of high-level recommendations, and a copy of the Washington State pharmaceuticals bill, which serves as a good model for New York. NYPSC followed up with additional resources as requested via email.

#### Objectives & Actions

NYPSC implements the principles of product stewardship by:

- Developing and recommending practical product stewardship policies.
- Providing educational tools to individuals, businesses, organizations, institutions, local governments, the state legislature and elected officials.
- Providing effective leadership and guidance on product stewardship initiatives.
- Coordinating product stewardship initiatives locally, regionally and nationally.
- Working with manufacturers and their trade associations to develop effective product stewardship initiatives.
- Educating manufacturers, stakeholders, the public, elected officials and other decision makers on the benefits of product stewardship.
- Providing a forum for the exchange of information.
- Evaluating and, where necessary, recommending improvements to product stewardship programs once they are implemented.

On December 18th, Governor Andrew Cuomo vetoed [S.06750/A.387-B](#), a faulty drug take-back bill which would have let pharmaceutical producers avoid responsibility for the recovery of unwanted drugs that put New York residents' lives at risk, and preempted local governments from enacting effective pharmaceutical producer responsibility laws. The veto was a win for NYPSC which, in strategic collaboration with Citizens Campaign for the Environment and dozens of other groups across the state, [urged](#) the Governor to veto this bill and, instead, propose an effective program funded by pharmaceutical manufacturers.

In 2017, NYPSC and PSI received a solid waste management grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Office to run a six-month drug take-back pilot program and public education campaign with five hospitals serving rural New York State, which it began preparing for in November 2017. This pilot program will culminate in summer of 2018 with 1) a national webinar to share results and lessons learned and 2) an online Toolkit for medical professionals complete with safe drug disposal information and tools they can use to educate their patients to properly remove leftover drugs from their homes. NYPSC will also help hospitals that wish to continue collecting drugs transition into NYS DEC's program or take over their own program.

### **Electronics Stewardship**

Armed with the extensive feedback and guidance that NYPSC provided in 2016, the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) worked to develop draft regulations, expected to be issued in 2018, that will improve the State's electronics recycling and reuse law. NYPSC will support the regulations and, if necessary, provide recommendations to address key challenges and ensure municipal e-waste collection costs are covered.

### **Textiles Recovery**

Thanks to a New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) Community Grant, NYPSC partnered with the Re-Clothe NY Coalition, NYSAR3, and PSI to host the [2017 New York Textiles Summit](#) at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York City. The summit provided a forum for discussing how NY state — and the country — can boost textiles reuse and recycling to reduce waste, save governments money, and create recycling jobs. The Summit attracted over 170 attendees in-person and online — 71 percent higher than our original goal — bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, including the fashion industry, retailers, recyclers, for- and non-profit clothing collectors, government representatives, designers, students, and researchers. In the process, NYPSC formed new and deepened existing relationships with the stakeholders needed to pursue solutions in the future.

The benefits of this Summit will have a lasting impact. Post-Summit survey results indicate that 74 percent of respondents will definitely or likely pursue a textiles recovery initiative or participate in others' initiatives within the next year, while 94 percent of survey respondents indicated that they increased their awareness of textile recovery options and pollution prevention thanks to this Summit. Ninety-four percent of respondents also indicated that they made useful professional connections at the Summit; these connections will help further collaborative efforts to find solutions.

### **2018 Legislative & Stewardship Advocacy Priorities**

1. Improve and pass a statewide EPR bill for pharmaceuticals ([S 7354/A 9576](#)) with Senator Hannon's office and Assemblywoman Gunther's office.
2. Pass legislation ([A 1038 / S 881](#)) creating a statewide paint stewardship program modeled on an approach supported by the American Coating Association (ACA) through its PaintCare program.
3. Ensure development and implementation of effective regulations that will improve NY State's existing electronics EPR statute and collaborate with NYSASWM and NYS Association of Counties (NYSAC) to secure Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) grants to offset municipal e-waste collection costs.
4. Seek voluntary or legislated product stewardship solutions to address alkaline batteries, household hazardous waste, and solar panels.

## 2017 NYPSC Board of Directors

The Board of the NYPSC represents a wide range of stakeholders in solid waste and recycling, corporations, the environmental community, and local and state government representing rural, upstate, New York City, and Long Island. More information about NYPSC programs and our Board of Directors can be found online at [NYPSC.org](http://NYPSC.org).

**Andrew Radin, Chair**  
*Onondaga County  
Resource Recovery Agency*

**Dawn Timm, Vice Chair**  
*Niagara County  
Dept. of Public Works*

**Resa Dimino, Treasurer**  
*Recycling and Materials  
Management Consultant*

**Kenneth Armellino, Secretary**  
*Covanta Energy Corporation*

**James Bunchuck**  
*SWANA-NY; Town of Southold*

**Barbara Eckstrom**  
*Tompkins County Recycling &  
Materials Management*

**Todd Ellis**  
*Call2Recycle*

**Ed Gottlieb**  
*Ithaca Area Wastewater  
Treatment Facility*

**Kate Kitchener**  
*New York City Dept. of Sanitation*

**Ted Osborne**  
*Independent Consulting and  
Brokerage*

**Thomas Sinclair**  
*Monroe County Dept. of  
Environmental Services*

**Debra Smith**  
*Broome County Solid Waste*

**Eric Swenson**  
*Town of Oyster Bay Dept. of  
Environmental Resources*

**Peter Pettit, Advisor to  
Board**  
*NY State Department of  
Environmental Conservation*

**Go to: [www.NYPSC.ORG](http://www.NYPSC.ORG)**