

Action Alert:

Establishing a Statewide Paint Stewardship Program

S4926, sponsored by Senator O'Mara, same as: A6199, sponsored by Assemblyman Stirpe



Did You Know:

- Roughly 3.9 million gallons of leftover paint are generated in New York each year. Most leftover paint is currently disposed of in the garbage.
- Management of leftover paint in New York results in a cost that represents as much as 50% of municipalities' household hazardous waste budgets, costing small local governments tens of thousands of dollars each year (in larger counties, and in NYC, these costs are exponentially greater). For example:

Municipality	<i>Annual Cost of Managing Residential Paint through Municipal Household Hazardous Waste Collection</i>
Town of Bethlehem	\$ 28,000
Monroe County	\$ 80,000
Oneida / Herkimer Counties	\$ 90,000
Onondaga County	\$ 30,000
Cattaraugus County	\$ 4,500
Tompkins County	\$ 22,000
Niagara County	\$ 25,950

- A statewide paint stewardship program would hold the paint industry responsible for collecting and managing leftover paint in New York.
- In addition to reducing government costs, a paint stewardship program would establish convenient, year-long recycling opportunities, reduce waste by encouraging the public to purchase the right amount of paint for a job, and could create green sector jobs in the state.
- The American Coatings Association (ACA), a trade association representing paint manufacturers from across the United States, has created PaintCare, a non-profit stewardship organization to manage the reuse, recycling and disposal of leftover paint.
- Other states, including Rhode Island, Connecticut and Oregon have passed legislation implementing paint recovery programs managed by PaintCare, saving local municipalities tens of thousands of dollars on paint management costs, and establishing retail collection sites to make paint drop recycling more convenient for residents.
- A nominal fee (\$0.35 on quarts, \$0.75 on gallons, and \$1.60 on 5 gallons) on the purchase of new paint provides sustainable financing for the entire program to collect and recycle or properly dispose of all of the millions of gallons of unwanted paint currently stored in NY State households.
- At this time (May 2015) there are "same as" bills in the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly, S4926 and A6199, respectively, proposing such statewide product stewardship legislation that are supported by ACA and PaintCare.

The National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and the US Council of Mayors have all passed resolutions endorsing product stewardship policies to reduce public sector costs, increase material recovery and incentivize the development of more environmentally sound products.

It is time for a product stewardship solution to the unwanted paint problem in NYS!

Please take a moment to **contact your State Senator and Assembly Member TODAY** and ask him/her to support Paint Stewardship legislation. To find your state representatives, see: <http://www.nysenate.gov/> <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/search/>