

Extended Producer Responsibility

This Issue Brief has been updated by Issue Brief [2023-R-015](#) (August 31, 2023)

What is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?

EPR is a policy approach to handling waste in which producers (manufacturers) are responsible for the post-consumer disposal of their products, financially, physically, or both. It is a form of “product stewardship” that refers to managing products, from design to disposal, in a way that minimizes their effect on the environment. Two main goals of EPR are to (1) shift product disposal away from the public sector and (2) incentivize redesign of products and packaging.

Does Connecticut use EPR to manage the disposal of products?

Yes. Connecticut has five EPR programs that cover architectural paint, electronic devices, mattresses, mercury thermostats, and certain rechargeable batteries. The programs, other than that for rechargeable batteries, were created legislatively (see Table 2, on reverse).

In general, Connecticut’s EPR laws include provisions on establishing the program and providing collection services, education and outreach, and annual reporting to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), including an accounting of program costs. A non-profit organization created by each industry operates the mattress, paint, and thermostat programs. The law requires municipalities to collect the electronics for recycling. Each law prohibits manufacturers that do not participate in the respective program from selling their products in the state.

Enforcement of the programs’ requirements is DEEP’s responsibility. Actions DEEP can pursue include such things as issuing cease and desist orders or orders to correct or abate violations, injunctive relief, or imposing fines, depending on the program involved.

Table 2 (reverse) compares some of the principal components of the statutory EPR programs, including any consumer fees they impose. Below the table is a brief description of the program available for rechargeable batteries.

Proposals for Additional EPR Programs

Since 2015, the Environment Committee has favorably voted out bills related to creating EPR programs for consumer packaging, nonrechargeable household batteries, smoke detectors, and tires.

The table below provides the committee’s most recently voted on EPR legislation for each product type.

Product	Year	Bill #
Consumer packaging	2019	HB 7295
Household batteries	2015	HB 6957
Smoke detectors	2019	SB 1001
Tires	2016	HB 5149

Table 2: Connecticut's Statutory EPR Programs

Program	Covered Products	Program Description	Program Fees
Household Electronics (CGS §§ 22a-629 to -640; Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 22a-630(d)-1 & 22a-638-1)	Computers, monitors, and printers; televisions	Municipalities, individually or through a regional authority, collect and transport electronics to an electronic recycler Manufacturers must register with DEEP and pay for the transport and recycling of the electronics	Initial and renewal manufacturer registration fees to cover administrative costs that are, in part, related to the manufacturer's market share
Mattress (CGS §§ 22a-905 to -905f)	Mattresses and box springs	Mattress Recycling Council provides containers for and collects units from participating transfer stations, retailers, and other facilities with large volumes of discarded mattresses (e.g., health care, lodging, correctional, educational, or military facilities) according to a DEEP-approved plan	Consumer fee of \$9 per unit, but not crib or bassinette mattresses, paid at purchase Set out in plan; covers operational and administrative expenses and a reserve
Paint (CGS §§ 22a-904 & -904a)	Architectural coatings sold in containers of five gallons or less but not industrial, original equipment, or specialty coatings	PaintCare Inc. collects paint from drop-off sites, which are primarily paint retailers and transfer stations, according to a DEEP-approved plan DEEP must provide a link to participating collection sites on its website	Consumer fee of up to \$1.60 per container, based on container's size, paid at purchase Set out in plan; covers operational and administrative expenses and a reserve
Mercury Thermostat (CGS § 22a-625a)	Thermostats with a mercury switch to sense and control room temperature but not as part of a manufacturing process	Thermostat Recycling Corporation collects thermostats from drop-off sites, including wholesalers, retailers, and transfer stations, and provides the collection containers DEEP must provide a link to participating collection sites on its website	One-time administrative fee of up to \$75 for collection sites to cover container costs

Rechargeable Batteries

For rechargeable batteries, the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, a non-profit organization of battery manufacturers, operates a [program](#) for collecting and recycling dry-cell rechargeable batteries in the state. The program has both a retail take-back and a municipal drop-off component.

**Learn
More**

[“State Product Stewardship Laws by Product,”](#) National Conference of State Legislatures (Mar. 18, 2020)

[“U.S. State EPR Laws,”](#) Product Stewardship Institute

“Paint Stewardship Program Fees and Expenses,” OLR Report [2018-R-0316](#)

“Mattress Recycling Program,” OLR Report [2018-R-0238](#)

