

## MEMO



**TO:** DEC  
**FROM:** Neil Angus, Director  
**DATE:** April 2, 2024  
**RE:** Extended Producer Responsibility Resolution

Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council (MassPSC) is a formal committee of MassRecycle with the goal of shifting the costs of materials management and recycling from taxpayers to the companies that design and market products through product stewardship and extended producer responsibility. The DEC partners with Devens DPW and MassDevelopment, and MassToss to help fund recycling and waste management efforts in Devens, including the regional Household Hazardous Waste Disposal facility on Devens that supports and serves the residents and small businesses within 14 member towns (<https://devenshhw.com/>).

At the community level, municipalities are feeling the financial impacts of waste management as costs continue to rise significantly. China's import restrictions on recycling have caused increased awareness around waste diversion issues and costs. extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws are a proven solution. Neighboring states such as Maine have embraced EPR programs to alleviate cost burdens to municipal governments.

Manufacturers can engage in EPR in many ways: common forms of EPR include reuse, buyback, and recycling programs. Such programs are directly in-line with the sustainable redevelopment goals of Devens and our Eco-Industrial Park operations. They will help reduce toxicity, waste, and recycling and contribute to greenhouse gas emission reductions for businesses, residents and organizations, furthering corporate sustainability goals, as well and the Devens Forward Climate Action Plan goals

MassPSC is seeking local support for EPR laws. House Bill 883: An Act establishing the commission on extended producer responsibility will establish a special commission on EPR. This Bill was reported favorably out of committee on Environment and Natural Resources and is moving forward.  
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H833>

Both the Massachusetts Municipal Association and state legislators pay attention to resolutions that municipalities pass, so the best way to support EPR laws is to pass a resolution. The Massachusetts Municipal Association passed a resolution which supports statewide product stewardship legislation in January, 2019 and many other towns and cities have passed similar resolutions and letters of support (<https://massrecycle.org/initiatives-events/massachusetts-product-stewardship-council/>).

Staff has drafted a resolution for the Commission's consideration.