

Contracting for Producer Responsibility

Green Tech Summit

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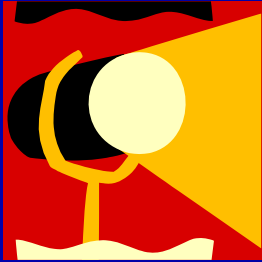
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Overview

- **Why add producer responsibility language to contracts?**
- **What options exist for adding “takeback” language to contracts?**
- **Which products are most amenable to this approach?**
- **Who else has done this?**



What is EPR?



Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach in which **manufacturers take physical and/or financial responsibility for their products at the end of their useful life.**





Why Is EPR Needed?

Current system does not encourage manufacturers to design products to be recyclable, durable or non-toxic

- ◆ **Puts recycling and disposal responsibilities on local governments**
- ◆ **Low price wins**



Why Add EPR Language to Contracts?

- **Uses market incentives to jump-start EPR**
- **Creates private-sector recycling infrastructure**
- **Saves government agencies time and money**
- **Stimulates product (and packaging) redesign**



Contracting for Producer Responsibility Options

GOOD: Require **VENDORS** to collect and recycle products/packaging they sell you.

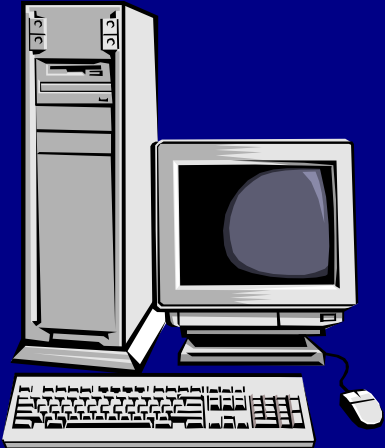
Make sure vendors give proof they are recycling responsibly.

First step: links recycling to product purchase.

No assurance it will influence brand owners.



Lease Agreements



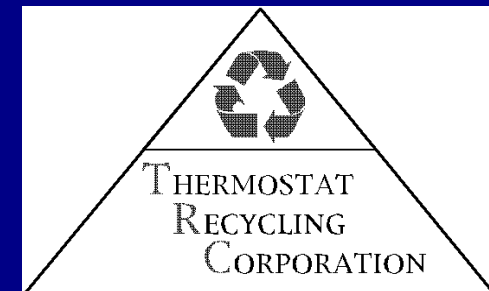
Make sure companies you lease from recycle products responsibly at the end of their useful life



Contracting for Producer Responsibility Options



BETTER: Require
VENDORS to participate
in manufacturer-financed
recycling program



Massachusetts required **GRAINGER**
to participate in RBRC program
as part of their State contract



Contracting for Producer Responsibility Options

BEST: Buy products made by MANUFACTURERS that offer collection and recycling systems they operate or finance





Computer "Take-Back"

CASE STUDY

Portland, OR saved \$9,000 using Dell's computer recycling service as part of its contract



Packaging and pallets

- Pallets
- Aerosol containers
- PVC
- Polystyrene



CASE STUDY: Washington Dept. of Ecology
requires computers to be delivered in reusable shipping containers



Strong Recycling Guidelines Needed

Ensure manufacturer- and vendor-supported recycling programs are not exporting harm



- **Certification program for recyclers**
- **Electronic Recyclers Pledge of True Stewardship (see www.ban.org)**

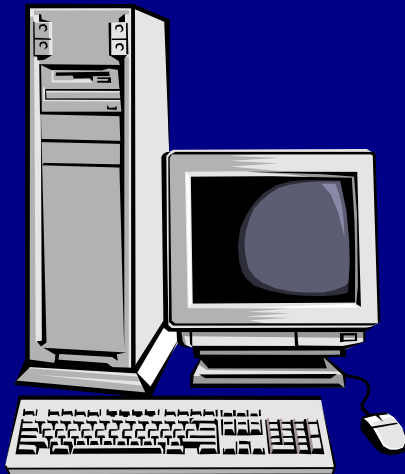


Electronics



New certification for “green” CPUs, monitors and laptops

- **EPEAT=Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool**
- **Manufacturers of certified products must offer recycling program**
- **Purchasers do not need to use it; but they can**
- **UC contract requires takeback**



Office Supplies



Take-back opportunities:

- Toner and ink cartridges
- PVC binders
- Batteries
- Light bulbs
- Office furniture





Mercury-added Lamps

- Agencies pay >\$4 to recycle some fluorescent lamps; more efficient system needed
- National lamp recycling rate 3%
- EPR could spur efficient mercury- and lead-free lighting technologies
- CA lamps contract requires vendors to offer recycling (but agencies not directed to use)





Next Steps



- 1. Establish EPR/EPP working group**
- 2. Review/prioritize upcoming contracts**
- 3. Reference EPR in Contracts factsheet on California Product Stewardship website www.caproductstewardship.org**

