



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Yolo Adopts Producer Responsibility Resolution to Reduce Waste

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County is proud to announce adoption of a Producer Responsibility resolution in partnership with the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC). Producer Responsibility is a concept whereby product manufacturers are primarily responsible for the life cycle of their products. Beyond recycling, Producer Responsibility is an important environmental policy approach in which producers assume responsibility – financial and physical – for the proper management of their products throughout the product’s life span. When producers are accountable for ensuring their products are re-used or recycled responsibly, the marketplace is encouraged to design and purchase goods that are more durable, easier to recycle, and less toxic.

“This resolution sends a signal to producers that Yolo County taxpayers cannot afford to finance the disposal of poorly designed and/or toxic products, and that they bear primary responsibility for their products,” said Linda Sinderson, Deputy Director, Yolo County Planning & Public Works Integrated Waste Management Division. “It’s time to encourage and reward green products and design and we’re proud to be at the forefront of this necessary and positive change.”

Yolo County joins a growing number of other counties and cities who have already endorsed the “Producer Responsibility” concept resolution, including San Bernardino, San Francisco and Butte counties and the cities of Fresno and San Jose. For a full list of supporting counties and cities go to www.caproductstewardship.org.

“We’re dedicated to reversing the trend of California producing more and more waste every year,” said Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director, CPSC. “With the support of local governments such as Yolo County, we move one step closer to achieving our goals for a vibrant consumer economy with sustainable production and consumption.”

By adopting this Producer Responsibility resolution, Yolo County:

- Urges the California Integrated Waste Management Board to continue taking timely action to implement the framework for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system to manage universal and other wastes;
- Urges the legislature to pass framework EPR legislation that shifts universal and other waste management costs from local government to producers and users of products, which will give producers incentive to redesign products to make them less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle;
- Authorizes the Chair of the Board to sign the CPSC Pledge of Support to educate and advocate for EPR policies and programs;
- Directs Yolo County to encourage manufacturers to share in the responsibility for eliminating waste through minimizing excess packaging, designing products for durability, reusability and the ability to be recycled; using recycled materials in the manufacture of new products; and providing financial support for collection, processing, recycling, or disposal of used materials;
- Directs Yolo County and member agencies to develop producer responsibility policies such as leasing products rather than purchasing them and requiring producers to offer less toxic alternatives and take responsibility for collecting and recycling their products at the end of their useful life;
- Supports state and congressional delegations to introduce and pass legislation which shifts the burden of managing discarded products containing toxic material from local governments to producers; and
- Directs lobbyist to support EPR legislation on behalf of Yolo County.

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