



Times-Standard

Eureka adopts stance of sustainability

The Times-Standard

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The city of Eureka went on the record in support of sustainability when the City Council adopted a "Producer Responsibility" resolution in partnership with the California Product Stewardship Council.

"Producer Responsibility," according to a press release from the stewardship council, is a concept that makes product manufacturers responsible for the entire life cycle of their goods. It entails making producers assume responsibility -- financial and physical -- for the proper management throughout the life span of their products, the release states.

"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," said the release.

"This resolution of support sends a signal that the taxpayers of Eureka cannot afford to finance poorly designed and/or toxic products, and we seek an understanding from producers that they bear primary responsibility for their products," said Miles Slattery, the city's project manager. "Now is the time to encourage and reward green design, and we're proud to be on the forefront of this necessary and positive change."

Eureka joins a growing number of other cities and counties who have already endorsed the "Producer Responsibility" concept resolution, including the cities of Fresno and San Jose, and the counties of

Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Francisco and Butte, among others.

For a full list of supporting jurisdictions, go to www.calPSC.org.

By adopting the resolution on Tuesday, the city:

- * Urges the California Integrated Waste Management Board to develop a statewide "producer responsibility" system;

- * Urges the Legislature to enact legislation that passes the cost of dealing with such waste on to the producers and users of the products, thereby encouraging them to make products that are less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle;

- * Encourages city staff to send letters to the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, the California Integrated Waste Management Board, and the state Legislature, encouraging them to advocate in this direction;

- * Authorizes the mayor to sign the California Product Stewardship Council Pledge of Support and to educate and advocate for EPR policies and programs; and

- * Directs the city to encourage all 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, among other things.

For more information, call 441-4184.

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