

Letter from the Executive Director



It seems simple: education and action. That is the recipe for the paradigm shift in waste management that we call product stewardship, where manufacturers take responsibility for the products they make. But translating that concept into action is an art that requires complex negotiations with an array of stakeholders. Each with their own set of interests, bias, and expertise. It will take perseverance to build a coalition, make the right arguments, present the right data, and outlast an opponent that is too slow to change, too invested in the present, or too wooden to innovate. Even as we convince, we must learn, since new concepts must be continually improved. This newsletter will give you a good idea of all the product stewardship activity taking place in the U.S. It's starting to sound like bees building a colony. With spring around the corner, that honey will sure taste sweet!

Sincerely,
Scott Cassel
Executive Director/Founder, PSI

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PSI on Go Green Radio

Did you miss Scott Cassel's radio interview on Go Green Radio? You can still catch the hour-long show [online](#). The interview covers PSI's history and current initiatives, and provides a clear explanation of product stewardship for the general public.

Announcing PSI's 9th Series of Informational Networking Conference Calls

PSI's Spring 2010 Networking Conference Call Series is just around the corner! The calls will cover the following cutting edge topics:

- *E-waste Laws in the US, Canada, and Europe: What's working and what needs to change?*
- *Plastic Bags: What's the fuss? What's the solution?*
- *Solar Panel Recycling: EPR meets green energy*
- *Product Stewardship and Food Waste: Who's responsible and what's working?*
- *Safer Cosmetics: Product stewardship and chemicals policy meet head on*
- *Life Cycle: Translating high-brow thinking to local product management*

These calls will run from April through June. They are free for Full Members and Sustaining Partners, and are available to others for a small fee. See [PSI's website](#) for more information on membership and partnership. For a list of past networking calls, which are available on tape, see [PSI's Informational Networking Calls](#).

For more information, contact Lisa Gould at Lisa@productstewardship.us, (617) 236-4866.

PSI Membership Corner

As the nation's first paint stewardship program nears its start date this spring in Oregon, PSI would like to draw the spotlight on those making this unique program possible. PSI member Abby Boudouris, of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (OR DEQ), was instrumental in negotiations that resulted in the first paint stewardship law in the country, and is now leading statewide stakeholder meetings to implement the new law.

Founding PSI Board Member Scott Klag and another long-time PSI member, Jim Quinn, both of Metro regional government in Oregon, are key players in the Paint Product Stewardship Initiative (PPSI), which laid the groundwork for the Oregon paint law. [Metro's recycled latex paint](#) is now being marketed by the Miller Paint Company, as a sign of the increasing popularity of this low-cost, high quality product. PSI's national paint dialogue is a model of how government can work together with industry to jointly reduce the health and environmental impacts from leftover paint. A key to this success has been the steady commitment of paint manufacturers, particularly the American Coatings Association. For more information about the Oregon Paint Law, see [OR DEQ's website](#). For more information about the national paint dialogue, see [PSI's website](#), or contact Scott Cassel, Scott@productstewardship.us, (617) 236-4822.



36 New Government Members Join PSI (including first Tribal Government!)

Nebraska DEQ has moved from Affiliate status to become PSI's newest State Full Member.



Several local governments have also signed on as PSI members, including 19 from Oklahoma, 12 from Iowa, and two from New York, and one each from Massachusetts and California. (Note that multiple local governments from one state can join for a single fee and still get free access to PSI's Networking calls, monthly member/partner update calls, government-only product-focused calls, and much more.) Sign up now by using our new membership page.

New PSI Corporate Partnerships

We are thrilled to announce that King Pharmaceuticals and Stericycle have become PSI's newest Corporate Sustaining Partners. Both companies are committed to solving the problem of leftover pharmaceuticals, and in the coming year will support PSI's national waste pharmaceuticals dialogue. In addition, King Pharmaceuticals will continue to support PSI's pharmaceuticals take-back [website](#). EXP Pharmaceuticals, Sharps Compliance Inc., and Covanta Energy Corporation have all renewed their Sustaining Partnerships this year. We also welcome four new Corporate Partners: Calibre Environmental Ltd., Frank Mayer & Associates Inc., Raw Materials Company, and Small Planet Partners. Partners support PSI's mission and recognize our [Principles of Product Stewardship](#). Sign up now by using our new [corporate partner page](#).

Member/Partner Update Calls

PSI members and partners are invited to join monthly briefing calls to hear about, and actively participate in, hot topic discussions. Notes are provided after each call with detailed follow up information. The next call will be on March 18th from 3:00 to 4:00 PM Eastern Time. (These calls are provided as a special service for PSI members and partners only.) Sign up now to become a [member or partner](#).



Individuals Now Able to Join PSI

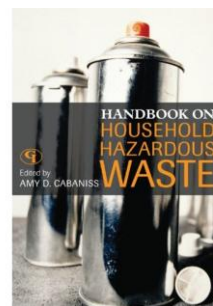
PSI now offers the general public the opportunity to join PSI as an Individual Member. If you are not already affiliated with a government agency, organization, academic institution, or company, you can support the EPR movement and join PSI! For information on individual member benefits and to sign up, check out our [website](#).

Make a Donation to PSI to Honor Someone Special

Want to give the gift of product stewardship to your favorite niece or nephew interested in environmental issues for their upcoming graduation, initiate your parents or relatives about what you do with your life, or honor a conservation-minded friend as a memorial? We have the perfect opportunity! Simply go to [this link](#) and make a donation to PSI in their name.

Product Stewardship Primer Now Available

Looking for a great primer on product stewardship? Now you can [download](#) Scott Cassel's Product Stewardship: Shared Responsibility for Managing HHW, for free! While this 55-page chapter provides great information on product stewardship, PSI still recommends buying the full "[Handbook on Household Hazardous Waste](#)," edited by Amy Cabaniss, for a fantastic overview of the entire HHW field.



- Neil Hastie, Encorp Pacific carries the Olympic torch

Carrying the Olympic Torch!

Neil Hastie, President & CEO at Encorp Pacific and one of PSI's corporate partners, was selected to carry the Olympic flame at the opening of the Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia last month. He said that this honor was, "in many ways ... a recognition of what my company, Encorp Pacific, contributes to environmental stewardship in British Columbia." Hats off to Neil!

Local Government Coordination - Now at 7

We're thrilled to be ramping up efforts with local governments and other partners in Iowa, Nebraska, and Illinois! PSI is starting projects in these states to help local leaders share information and coordinate strategies to advance product stewardship. These efforts build on our ongoing work with Connecticut, Oklahoma, New York, and Vermont - with each taking a different path. The New York Product Stewardship Council is focused on e-waste and mercury thermostat legislation. Vermont's Council is carrying a heavy burden, working on paint, electronics, framework, and fluorescent lamps, while Connecticut's Council is solely focused on passing paint product stewardship legislation. Meanwhile, local governments in Oklahoma have made drug take-back programs their priority. For more information on how to start a local product stewardship council, contact Sierra Fletcher at Sierra@productstewardship.us or 617-236-4886.

PSI Now With 3 Interns

PSI welcomes two new interns: Kate Hagemann, grad of Yale University and an inveterate sailor, and Mike Younis, who hails from Boston University and is an expert rock climber. They join intern David Boucher, a graduate of Tufts University who has lent his formidable research skills to PSI for nearly two years. PSI appreciates the dedication, energy, and meaningful contributions made by David, Kate and Mike. Meet them, along with the rest of the staff, on the [PSI website](#).

Book of the Month: "Ansel Adams: An Autobiography" (reviewed by Scott Cassel, PSI Executive Director)

My image of Ansel Adams has always been one of a lumbering photographer beautifully capturing the image of the American West with a large-format camera attached to an aged tripod. This book provides depth on Adams as an artist, environmentalist, and humanitarian. Adams' evolution in the world of creative photography and its struggle for legitimacy among other art forms is illustrated in his meetings with Alfred Steiglitz, Georgia O'Keefe, Edward Weston, and other artistic luminaries. Adams balanced creative pursuits while serving on the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club and numerous other environmental and social organizations. He was also an artist with an understanding of the importance of commercial photography. Those who have been inspired by Adams' photographs or the places he has been will appreciate his passion for fighting for wilderness preservation and the importance of the natural world.

Product Updates

Building a Better Framework for EPR Legislation

Framework product stewardship legislation, [LD 1631](#), has advanced in Maine further than it has in any other state. The Maine Legislature held a hearing on January 22 at which PSI's Scott Cassel [testified in support](#) of the bill. Industry-sponsored framework legislation was introduced in Vermont, [H. 696](#), and would start with packaging and printed materials as the first covered products. The proposal implies the intent to repeal the VT Bottle Bill in favor of this producer responsibility law, which was proposed by the same industry regulated by the bottle bill. Framework legislation is also being considered by legislatures in California ([AB 2139](#)) and Minnesota. These bills can be found on PSI's [EPR Legislation Map](#), which can be accessed from [PSI's website home page](#).

For more information, contact Scott Cassel at Scott@productstewardship.us, or call (617) 236-4822.

PSI Hired to Conduct Framework Study for Rhode Island

PSI has begun to develop a framework study for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, which will likely become part of the department's report to the state legislature. PSI will provide a menu of options for the state to develop effective framework legislation, which can hopefully serve as a model for other states. The draft will be ready for comments by PSI members and partners by mid-April.

For more information, visit the website or contact Jennifer Nash at Jennifer@productstewardship.us, or (617) 236-4853.

Paint

PaintCare, the new industry stewardship organization, recently submitted a draft plan to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for its review and approval. Additional financial information is needed before the DEQ can complete its initial review. The program is slated to begin by July 2010. Vermont's paint stewardship bill, [S.224](#), is currently being debated in the legislature, as is Connecticut's paint stewardship bill, [HB 5122](#), which is being reworked to substitute language similar to the Oregon paint model. CA's paint bill, [AB 1343](#), which was introduced in 2009, is being held in Committee along with other bills until the state addresses its budget issues. See [Oregon DEQ's website](#) to follow progress in Oregon, as well as the [PSI website](#) for updated bill information in all the states.



For more information, visit the [website](#) or contact Jennifer Nash at Jennifer@productstewardship.us, or (617) 236-4853.

Pharmaceuticals



Is drug take-back a burning issue? You bet! PSI held two conference calls on the destruction options currently available for collected pharmaceuticals: hazardous waste incineration and energy-from-waste. Participants heard presentations from the experts at Clean Harbors and Covanta Energy Services and asked questions to help them weigh pros and cons. Meanwhile, looking upstream, PSI is starting stakeholder interviews in Florida to get a better understanding of all the factors that determine the quantity of drugs dispensed to patients. This source reduction project will include the development of recommendations to US EPA.

To get involved contact Sierra Fletcher at Sierra@productstewardship.us, or call (617) 236-4886

Fluorescent Lamps

Legislative sessions are humming along, and fluorescent lamps remain a hot topic across the country. PSI is working with environmental advocates and government members as they seek to follow in Maine's footsteps with a producer responsibility law for residential mercury-containing lamps. Track active legislation on this product [here](#).



To learn more, please visit our [website](#) or contact Sierra Fletcher at Sierra@productstewardship.us, or call (617) 236-4886.

Mercury Thermostats



PSI's project to estimate the number of mercury thermostats available for collection got an unexpected boost recently. A new report by thermostat manufacturers found that hundreds of thousands of mercury thermostats will be available for collection in CA next year, and between 5 and 10 million mercury thermostats will be coming out of service over the next 25 years in that state. To put those numbers into context, manufacturers collected just 7,007 mercury thermostats in CA in 2008, less than three percent of the number available for collection based on their own estimate. The report was required by [CA's mercury thermostat law](#) and is the first step in setting enforceable performance standards, which PSI has long advocated. You can find the report on the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control [website](#). Another report, this time from an environmental coalition, documents the environmental and health risks posed by mercury thermostats and the ineffectiveness of the manufacturer-sponsored voluntary collection program. The report, Turning Up the Heat, advocates for additional thermostat laws that contain performance goals, financial incentives, and other elements included in PSI's 2006 model state thermostat legislation.

For more information, contact Jennifer Nash at Jennifer@productstewardship.us, or call (617) 236-4853.

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