



# The Missouri Product Stewardship Council

Advancing Product Stewardship In Missouri

## What is the MO PSC?

We are a coalition of local governments, businesses, and other stakeholders working to reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling, save local governments money, and support jobs in Missouri. Our product stewardship approach aims to share responsibility and accountability for post-consumer waste with manufacturers. The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) helped establish the MO PSC and serves as our coordinator.

## Why Join a PSC?

PSCs around the country work with industry, government, and waste management stakeholders to launch product stewardship programs that shift management and financial responsibility for the recycling of consumer products to manufacturers.

Product stewardship programs save local governments money, create jobs, and protect communities from pollution by creating a system in which companies take responsibility for their environmental impacts by designing safer, better products that we can reuse and recycle.

## The PSC's objectives are to:

- Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information regarding existing and proposed product stewardship programs.
- Educate government agencies, organizations, institutions, legislators, and other decision-makers on the benefits of product stewardship.
- Provide effective leadership on product stewardship initiatives in the state, including developing and recommending product stewardship policies.
- Coordinate, support, and participate in product stewardship initiatives locally, regionally and nationally.

## CURRENT PRIORITIES

**PAINT:** Although most leftover paint can be easily reused or recycled, it is usually trashed because people don't know where to take it or don't have other options. MO residents generate 1.3 million gallons of paint waste every year! Paint is the most expensive product for local household hazardous waste programs to manage, costing governments and taxpayers millions.

**BATTERIES:** Collecting and recycling batteries saves valuable resources and helps prevent the health and safety hazards posed by these discarded products entering the waste stream. When trashed, lithium-ion batteries – used to power electronic devices like cell phones – can catch fire or explode, causing damage and endangering the lives of waste workers.

**MATTRESSES:** Every day, U.S. residents, businesses, and universities discard more than 50,000 mattresses. If they were stacked up, the pile would be almost 1.5 times the height of Mount Everest! Less than 5% of these mattresses are recycled, even though 90% of their components can be used to make steel products, carpet padding, animal bedding, and mulch.

**PHARMACEUTICALS:** When leftover or expired drugs are thrown in the trash, in the toilet, or down the drain, they end up in landfills, sewage systems, or wastewater treatment facilities that are not equipped to remove them. From there, they enter our waterways, where they threaten wildlife and the quality of our drinking water sources.

**TIRES:** Missourians generate 6 million scrap tires annually. Illegally dumped and stockpiled tires create environmental and health hazards, including fires and breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes and rats, and are expensive to manage.

## Contact Us:

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