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Product Stewardship Forum includes EPR for packaging

By Jared Paben, Resource Recycling

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Attendees of this year's U.S. Product Stewardship Forum heard discussion about a divisive topic in U.S. recycling: extended producer responsibility laws for packaging.



That was just one of the many topics explored at the [forum](#), which was organized by the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI). In honor of the nonprofit organization's 15th anniversary, this year's forum was held in Boston, where PSI is based.

The event drew about 100 people from the U.S., Canada, Belgium and Germany to discuss issues surrounding zero waste, extended producer responsibility (EPR), product stewardship and the circular economy. Another 50 people participated remotely.

"Over two days, world-class speakers from around the United States, Europe and Canada inspired us to rethink our current systems – particularly how we manage packaging waste – and to examine how smart policies and programs can fuel the circular economy," said Scott Cassel, CEO and founder of PSI. "During the packaging session, the ground shifted in the U.S. on product stewardship when panelists conveyed their significant success in running programs that could be implemented right here in the U.S. tomorrow."

Canadian and Belgian stewardship groups representing packaging brand owners spoke about their EPR programs and how they could be applied to the U.S. Also discussed was how different jurisdictions can pass effective EPR legislation.

Many other topics were explored, including EPR for a variety of materials.



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