
Event Agenda

2025 U.S. Product Stewardship Forum

Tuesday, June 03, 2025

Registration Open

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: Ravinia Foyer

EPR Crash Course - What you need to know today

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Location: Ravinia E-F

PRE-CONFERENCE

Get up to speed on extended producer responsibility (EPR) with this foundational workshop. We'll cover key terms, the history and current status of EPR in the U.S., major issues and trends, and real-world case studies across product categories. Perfect for those new to EPR or looking to refresh their knowledge.

TICKETED EVENT

Member/Partner Mixer

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM | Location: Botanic Garden Ballroom

Wednesday, June 04, 2025

Morning Yoga

7:00 AM – 7:30 AM | Location: Ravinia A-B

You've secured travel approval, booked your flight, and settled into the hotel—now it's time to pause, unwind, and fully arrive. Join this yoga session designed exclusively for Forum attendees, helping you tap into your inner peace and get energized for an immersive EPR experience!

Led by Product Stewardship Institute's Director of Policy and Programs, Darla Arians.

TICKETED EVENT

Breakfast

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM | Location: Botanic Garden Ballroom

Session 1 - Welcome and Keynote Address

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM | Location: Ravinia C-D

PLENARY

PSI CEO and Founder Scott Cassel opens the Forum with reflections on 25 years of national leadership advancing product stewardship and EPR.

Maryland State Senator Malcolm Augustine follows with a keynote address on the power of policy to drive systemic change in sustainable materials management, drawing from his leadership in advancing Maryland's groundbreaking packaging EPR bill.

SPEAKERS



Scott Cassel (CEO & Founder, Product Stewardship Institute)

Scott Cassel has over 40 years of experience addressing waste management issues in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. In 2000, he founded the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI). Prior to founding PSI, Scott served seven years as the director of waste policy and planning for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, where he developed and implemented solid and hazardous waste management policies and programs. In 2022, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) appointed Scott to its Marine Debris Foundation board of directors, where he works on policy, infrastructure development, and innovative technologies to clean up and prevent pollution of our waterways and ocean.



Senator Malcolm Augustine (Maryland State Senator)

Senator Malcolm Augustine represents Maryland's 47th District in Prince George's County and has served in the Maryland Senate since 2019. He sits on the Senate Finance Committee and chairs the Joint Committee on the Management of Public Funds, with additional leadership on energy, behavioral health, and legislative oversight committees. A strong advocate for environmental policy, Senator Augustine led efforts to pass Maryland's groundbreaking packaging EPR bill. He also played a key role in securing dedicated Metro funding and advancing sustainable transportation initiatives.

Break

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM | Location: Botanic Garden Ballroom

Session 2 - What's happening with Packaging EPR in the U.S.

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM | Location: Ravinia C-D

PLENARY

Get a front-line look at how states are putting packaging EPR into action. Hear directly from officials in five states with enacted laws as they share updates on implementation, key challenges, and lessons learned.

MODERATOR



Darla Arians (Director of Policy & Programs, Product Stewardship Institute)

As the Policy & Program Director at PSI, Darla helps to identify, design and implement key initiatives to establish and implement EPR laws, and to evaluate and improve EPR programs across all product areas. In her recent capacity as EPR Lead for the State of Colorado, Darla served as the technical expert for the implementation and oversight of Colorado's packaging EPR program. As the former Division Manager of Boulder County's Resource Conservation Division, Darla co-founded the Colorado Product Stewardship Council in 2012 and helped lead the statewide initiative which led to the passage of the Architectural Paint Stewardship Act in 2014. She has first-hand experience implementing EPR at the local and state level, as well as 20 years of operational and managerial experience in the waste industry.

SPEAKERS



Cheryl Grabham (Materials Management Program Manager, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality)

Cheryl Grabham is a program manager at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)'s headquarters in Portland. She supervises the solid waste and material recovery teams who develop and implement policies and programs such as the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act, the Drug Takeback Program, Oregon E-Cycles, sustainable procurement, Life Cycle Analysis, measurement, and much more.



Mallory Anderson (Packaging Program Coordinator, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)

Mallory Anderson is the Packaging EPR Coordinator at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Mallory leads implementation of the new Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act, which requires producers to fund a statewide program that will result in all packaging being refillable, reusable, recyclable, and/or compostable by 2032. Prior to the agency, she worked in solid waste and policy for Hennepin County, Minnesota, supporting the business recycling program including food waste requirements. She has a B.A. in environmental studies from UMN-Duluth and an M.S. in environmental management and policy from Lund University, Sweden.



Shannon McDonald (Natural Resource Planner, Maryland Department of the Environment)

Shannon McDonald, Natural Resource Planner at Maryland Department of the Environment, is responsible for supporting the education, outreach, compliance, and enforcement of the Maryland law on Food Residual Diversion. Her professional experience includes environmental regulations and developing planning strategies to reduce institutional loss of best management practices and lessons learned. Shannon is the Project Manager for Maryland's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) state grant.



Zoe Heller (Director, CalRecycle)

Zoe Heller was appointed Director of CalRecycle in May 2024.

Director Heller served as CalRecycle's first deputy director over the Division of Circular Economy since May 2023. Prior to that, she helmed CalRecycle's Division of Mixed Materials and Local Assistance. She previously served as CalRecycle's deputy director over the Office of Policy.

Earlier in her career, Director Heller worked at the U.S. EPA's Pacific Southwest Office for more than 10 years. She was also a manager for the Zero Waste section for three years and served as special assistant to the Regional Administrator, and an environmental protection specialist in the Environmental Justice program. Director Heller also served as a research and policy analyst at the Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago, Illinois.

Break

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM | Location: Botanic Garden Ballroom

Session 3 - How Producers are Navigating Packaging EPR Sponsored by EVNIA

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Ravinia C-D

PLENARY

Packaging EPR programs have been operating in Europe for over 35 years and in Canada for over 15 years. But most U.S. companies, particularly small and medium-sized businesses, are new to the concept. In this session, compliance expert EVNIA discusses how PROs and compliance companies work together to support producers to interpret regulations, collect and report data accurately, and provide a myriad of services to ensure compliance.

They will also explore the challenges faced by companies, such as how best to work with suppliers to determine if they are obligated under the law, which packaging materials are covered, and how to obtain critical data and report in categories that match those required by state law. Come prepared to peer through the eyes of producers and how compliance companies can support them.

MODERATOR



Scott Cassel (CEO & Founder, Product Stewardship Institute)

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SPEAKERS



Paul Gill (Business Intelligence Director, EVNIA)

Paul Gill is the Director of Business Intelligence at Evnia Environmental Compliance Group, bringing over 20 years of experience in waste management, recycling, and product stewardship. With a strong foundation in previous leadership roles as a Compliance Director and Senior Analyst, Paul has cultivated deep expertise in the management of producer environmental compliance fees, data analytics, and regulatory strategy, playing a pivotal role in shaping Evnia's influence across North America's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) landscape.

Paul has been instrumental in the development and operation of Canadian producer responsibility programs, offering both technical insight and strategic guidance. His dedication to client success is reflected in his long-standing support for organizations navigating complex packaging and product compliance regulations. He is widely recognized for helping companies understand and fulfill their regulatory obligations, while developing best practices that simplify and standardize reporting processes.



Nathalie Dunand-Zaloum (Sustainability Director, Bel Group)



Ken Brown (Director, Environmental Health Safety & Sustainability, Illinois Tool Works)

Dedicated environmental, health, safety & sustainability (EHSS) professional with a diverse educational & professional background uniquely suited to manage a broad range of EHSS concerns including EHS compliance programs, pre-acquisition / divestiture due diligence, product stewardship, sustainability & site investigation / remediation.



Ernesto Gabriel Gonzalez (Sustainability Analyst, Steelcase)

Ernesto is a Sustainability Analyst at Steelcase, where he's spent the past four years focused on environmental initiatives and ensuring compliance with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs. He holds degrees in International Business and Business Administration from City University of Seattle. Ernesto is passionate about environmental issues and values building meaningful connections. Outside of work, he enjoys hiking, learning photography, and getting into a good TV show.

Lunch (includes 30-min Feature - Product Stewardship Council's in Action)

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | Location: Botanic Garden Ballroom

Product Stewardship Councils (PSCs) have been essential to the success of the U.S. EPR movement. Starting with the Northwest Product Stewardship Council (Washington and Oregon) in 1998 and moving to Vermont, California, New York, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Colorado, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Texas, these state-based, local government-driven EPR organizations have generated the majority of EPR legislation in the U.S. We will celebrate those who have started, fueled, and led PSCs across the country. Which state or region will be next to start a PSC?

MODERATOR



Will Grassle (Policy & Programs Associate, Product Stewardship Institute)

Will Grassle conducts research, policy analysis, pilot projects, and multi-stakeholder policy development workgroups on EPR and complementary policies (including reuse) for packaging and plastics and assists with policy research for other products. He is the coordinator of the Illinois Product Stewardship Council and the Northwest Product Stewardship Council, and he also tracks and analyzes EPR and related legislation across products and materials streams.

SPEAKERS



Nadja Karpilow (Senior Environmental Planner, Mid-America Regional Council)

Nadja is the district's programs coordinator and has worked at MARC since 1999. She coordinates the grant program and the Regional HHW Program. Nadja provides technical assistance and resources to district members and grantees. She works on special project initiatives, including illegal dumping and with the Missouri Product Stewardship Council.



Patrick Riley (Environmental Programs Manager, Oklahoma Meds and Sharps Disposal Committee)

Patrick Riley has more than 25 years of experience in solid waste management. Since 2009, he has worked at the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), where he currently manages the Solid Waste and Sustainability Unit within the Land Protection Division. Patrick holds a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, and a Master of Environmental Science from the University of Oklahoma.



Adrian Tan (Washington Co-Chair, Northwest Product Stewardship Council)

Adrian works for King County in the Solid Waste Division on recycling and waste prevention issues. He holds a PhD in sustainable design methodologies from the Technical University of Denmark (DTU). Since 2020, Adrian has worked on reuse and recycling policies for King County. He is currently the co-chair of the Northwest Product Stewardship Council (NWPSC) and manages the NextCycle Washington Circular Accelerator Program.



Jen Holliday (Founding Member & Chair, Vermont Product Stewardship Council)

Jen Holliday is the Compliance Program and Product Stewardship Manager for the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD), Vermont's most populous solid waste district. Jen helped bring EPR to Vermont as a founding member and Chair of the Vermont Product Stewardship Council, which was formed in 2008. Since then she has helped to craft and pass 5 EPR laws in the state that include mercury thermostats, electronics, mercury lamps, paint, and primary batteries.



Marta Keane (Chair, Illinois Product Stewardship Council)

Marta Keane became Will County's Recycling Program Specialist in 2006. Since joining the county, she has forged partnerships with municipalities, townships, and businesses to create more recycling drop-offs for traditional items, electronic items, medications, batteries, fire extinguishers, and more. She is honored to be a member of the National Recycling Coalition Board of Directors and to serve as Chair of the Illinois Product Stewardship Council.



Jen Heaton-Jones (Chair, Connecticut Product Stewardship Council)

Jennifer Heaton-Jones is the Executive Director of the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority. A regional, governmental solid waste management authority serving 14 municipalities in Western Connecticut. She has been with the HRRRA since 2009. Jen has been advocating for extended producer responsibility in Connecticut for over ten years. She led the first-in-the-nation EPR policy for Gas Cylinders, that became law in 2022 and the Connecticut Tire EPR law that passed in 2023. She serves as the President of the Northeast Chapter of NAHMMA and was currently elected to the NAHMMA board. She is the Chair of the CT Product Stewardship Council and President of the CT Recyclers Coalition. She is a board member of Connecticut's RecycleCT Foundation and is a local representative on the PSI Board.



Doug Kobold (Executive Director, California Product Stewardship Council)

Doug has been "talking trash" for over 30 years. Since August 2018, he has served as Executive Director for the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC). Previously, he spent over 18 years with Sacramento County managing contracts, procurement, new recycling programs development, HHW, and pending legislation. He also spent nearly 3 years with Edgar & Associates providing solid waste consulting services statewide and over 5 years with Yolo County managing the County's landfill. He holds a Civil Engineering degree from California State University, Chico.

Session 4A - Managing Home-Generated Medical Waste: EPR Solutions for Sharps & Pharmaceuticals

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: Ravinia E-F

TRACK A

As home-generated medical waste becomes more common, states are exploring EPR and voluntary stewardship programs to ensure safe and effective disposal of sharps and unused medications. This session will examine legislative trends, emerging models, and collaborative strategies to reduce public health risks and improve collection and education efforts.

MODERATOR



Kristin Aldred (Director of Government Affairs, STERICYCLE)

Kristin Aldred is Director, Government Affairs at Stericycle, where she advocates for sound policies that protect communities, healthcare workers, patients, and our environment. She has worked in the environmental field in policy, consulting, and applied social science research for more than 20 years. Kristin was previously Director of Policy and Programs at the Product Stewardship Institute where she led efforts among state and local governments, industry, and NGOs to advance environmental policies for post-consumer pharmaceuticals, sharps, and packaging. She holds a PhD in Human Behavior and Design from Cornell University.

SPEAKERS



Doug Kobold (Executive Director, California Product Stewardship Council)

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Alyssa Hermon (Life Sciences Career Trainee, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency)

Alyssa is part of the Materials Management & Compliance section at Illinois EPA. The main focus of her work is maximizing the amount of waste diverted from Illinois landfills by communicating with local government entities, drafting grant agreements, and reviewing state regulations to ensure that waste reduction efforts are being implemented in all Illinois counties. Alyssa manages the Residential Sharps Collection Program and the Illinois Drug Take-back Program. Alyssa has earned her B.S. in Aquatic Sciences from Purdue University.



Elise Paeffgen (Environmental & Health Care Lawyer, Alston & Bird)

Elise Paeffgen is a partner with the law firm Alston & Bird LLP. She has an environmental regulatory and compliance counseling practice, working extensively for health care and waste service providers, as well as food and beverage and consumer product clients, to effectively navigate environmental regulations and minimize enforcement risks. She advises clients on extended producer responsibility schemes for pharmaceuticals, sharps, packaging, and textiles.

Elise is recognized for her experience by *Chambers USA* in Environment (District of Columbia). Elise earned a J.D., magna cum laude, from Vermont Law School and a master of environmental management from the Yale School of the Environment, with concentrations in climate change and corporate environmental management.

BREAKOUT

Session 4B - Battery EPR in the U.S.: Navigating Policy Alignment and Market-Driven Recycling

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: Ravinia C-D

TRACK B

The increased use of lithium-ion batteries has resulted in increased fires in recycling and solid waste facilities, causing worker injuries, facility damage, and costly repairs. These concerns have come at a time of increased investment in facilities to recover critical minerals and other materials. At present, 11 states have existing battery EPR laws while another 16 states have introduced battery EPR bills in 2025 and 2024. This session will explore the core elements of battery EPR laws and bills and discuss whether regulators should allow battery collections outside of an EPR program. It will also highlight how battery producers, recyclers, and governments are jointly navigating complex questions around how to safely and effectively manage used batteries of all types.

MODERATOR



Christina Seibert (Executive Director, Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County)

Christina Seibert is the Executive Director for the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), an intergovernmental agency facilitating waste management operations, programs, and policy for its 23 member municipalities and 800,000 residents in north and northwest Cook County. She has 24 years of experience in the solid waste and recycling arena and is the Vice President of the Illinois Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), chair of the Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council, co-chair of the Illinois Task Force on Recycling Contamination Solutions, chair of the Illinois Electronic Recycling Task Force, and a member of the Product Stewardship Institute’s Board of Directors.

SPEAKERS



Marc Boolish (Executive Director, The Portable Battery Association)

Marc Boolish has served with PRBA – The Rechargeable Battery Association, since 2023. Prior to his PRBA work, he held roles for 27 years at Energizer in Research and Development for lithium ion, lithium primary and dry cell battery chemistries, government affairs, and standards for battery and chemical products. Mr. Boolish represents PRBA and its members in the United States and internationally on regulatory, legislative, and policy issues associated with the safety, manufacturing, handling, transport, storage, and recycling of batteries.



Shannon Crawford (Director of Recycling & Environmental Policy, Waste Management)

Shannon has been actively involved with the recycling and infrastructure industry for over 15 years. She is currently the Director of Recycling & Environmental Policy at WM, the largest recycler in North America. In this role, she provides guidance on legislation and regulations impacting WM's recycling operations and works with internal stakeholders to build consensus on WM policy positions. She also provides direction to WM's government affairs team and recycling managers regarding policy trends.

Her career began at the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), an organization of public and private sector professionals committed to advancing from solid waste management to resource management. At SWANA, she advanced to the position of Manager of Government Affairs where she was responsible for SWANA's response to legislative and regulatory actions.

Shannon also worked as the Director of State Government Affairs at the Plastics Industry Association, where she oversaw the association's California advocacy efforts including responding to extended producer responsibility and recycled content legislation.

Shannon participates in numerous recycling and composting organizations. She is currently on the board of AMERIPEN and ReMA and is the Vice Chair of NWRA's Recycling Committee. She has a B.S. in Biology from George Mason University.



Kristyn Oldendorf (Senior Director of Public Policy & Communications, Solid Waste Association of North America)

Kristyn Oldendorf is Senior Director of Public Policy and Communications for the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), leading advocacy, public affairs, safety initiatives, and communications for the organization. Kristyn spearheads the SWANA Core Advocacy Group, the Safety Ambassadors, and the Lithium-Ion Battery Workgroup, among other projects.



Ida Arabashahi (Program Analyst, Department of Energy & Environmental, District of Columbia)

Ida has worked on product stewardship programs for the last 12 years. She has been with the District of Columbia's Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) for seven years, currently providing oversight of the Paint Stewardship Program and leading waste prevention initiatives. In her previous role at DOEE, she also managed the District's electronic stewardship program and assisted in the development of the battery stewardship program. Prior to joining DOEE, Ida worked with PaintCare for five years, supporting state programs and launching the program in the District of Columbia.

BREAKOUT

Break

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM | Location: Botanic Garden Ballroom

Session 5A - Vapes & EPR: Challenges, Regulations, & Sustainable Solutions

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Ravinia C-D

TRACK A

Vapes represent one of the most complex and fast-growing waste streams in today's consumer market. With nicotine (a hazardous waste) and embedded lithium-ion batteries (a dangerous household waste), they straddle multiple regulatory frameworks—and often fall through the cracks. Some advocate for outright bans, while others focus on building effective systems for safe and responsible disposal. This session brings together a policy maker, industry expert, and waste management leader to explore how Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) can offer a path forward.

MODERATOR



Kristin Fitzgerald (Environmental Protection Specialist, US Environmental Protection Agency)

Kristin Fitzgerald has been with the U.S. EPA since 2001, working primarily on sector-based rulemakings for hazardous waste generators. Kristin started working with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) over thirty years ago, answering questions on the RCRA/Superfund Hotline. More recently, Kristin has been working on hazardous wastes that pose unique challenges, including hand sanitizer, solar panels and e-cigarettes.

SPEAKERS



Shannon Choquette (Environmental Analyst, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation)

Shannon Choquette is an Environmental Analyst with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Waste Management and Prevention Division. She graduated from Clark University with a B.A. in Environmental Science and Conservation Biology. Her waste management experience began during her undergrad years while working for Clark U's recycling program. In 2016 she joined the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District as their Outreach Coordinator, where she established Vermont's first and only expanded polystyrene foam recycling program. Since 2023, Shannon works with the DEC supporting municipalities and Vermont residents and businesses with reducing waste, composting, and recycling. In her free time, she enjoys trail running, hiking, and biking.



Hanz Atia (Policy and Programs Associate, Product Stewardship Institute)

Hanz Atia, MPH, is an Associate of Policy and Programs at the Product Stewardship Institute. Hanz conducts research, develops educational outreach programs, and designs and implements infrastructure development initiatives to advance product stewardship for a range of products, including pharmaceuticals, medical sharps, electronics, batteries, carpet, and tires. Utilizing ArcGIS mapping tools, Hanz has conducted in-depth assessments to compare pharmaceutical take-back availability across multiple states, evaluated program efficacy to expand medical sharps disposal infrastructure, and manages public-facing interactive pharmaceutical take-back maps.

BREAKOUT

Session 5B - Threading the Future: Revolutionizing Textile Recycling through EPR

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Ravinia E-F

TRACK B

Fast Fashion has created mountains of clothing and apparel waste that has littered landscapes in the U.S., Africa, and other environments. Textiles can also pollute all along the value chain, through dyes used in production, microplastics generated through wear and laundering, and methane gas released in landfills. In 2024, California became the first U.S. state to enact a textiles EPR law. That same year, the European Union updated its waste directive requiring EPR for textiles.

In this session, we'll hear from policy makers, industry coalitions, and researchers actively working to remake the textiles industry. We'll discuss the shared goals and key challenges along the supply chain, including production transparency, collection systems, sustainable funding, and recycling technologies. We'll also hear updates on the implementation of California's first-in-the-country textiles EPR law and textiles EPR in the E.U.

MODERATOR



Andriana Kontovrakis (Director of EPR Solutions, Reverse Logistics Group)

Andriana Kontovrakis is an EPR policy and program management specialist with 25+ years' experience in the waste management, recycling, and circular economy space. She is currently the Director of EPR Solutions with Reverse Logistics Group, managing a team responsible for providing PRO support services for existing and newly formed EPR programs across the U.S. Prior to this role she was RLG's Director of Compliance Services for five years, a Policy Analyst with the EPR compliance unit of the global electronics recycler Sims Lifecycle Solutions, and the Deputy Director for Waste Prevention for the NYC Department of Sanitation.

SPEAKERS



Doug Kobold (Executive Director, California Product Stewardship Council)

Doug has been “talking trash” for over 30 years. Since August 2018, he has served as Executive Director for the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC). Previously, he spent over 18 years with Sacramento County managing contracts, procurement, new recycling programs development, HHW, and pending legislation. He also spent nearly 3 years with Edgar & Associates providing solid waste consulting services statewide and over 5 years with Yolo County managing the County’s landfill. He holds a Civil Engineering degree from California State University, Chico.



Mattias Wallander (CEO, USAgain)

Mattias Wallander is the CEO of USAgain, a green for-profit company offering communities convenient textile recycling options with a mission to eliminate waste and spread awareness on reuse and recycling.



Zoe Heller (Director, CalRecycle)

Zoe Heller was appointed Director of CalRecycle in May 2024.

Director Heller served as CalRecycle’s first deputy director over the Division of Circular Economy since May 2023. Prior to that, she helmed CalRecycle’s Division of Mixed Materials and Local Assistance. She previously served as CalRecycle’s deputy director over the Office of Policy.

Earlier in her career, Director Heller worked at the U.S. EPA’s Pacific Southwest Office for more than 10 years. She was also a manager for the Zero Waste section for three years and served as special assistant to the Regional Administrator, and an environmental protection specialist in the Environmental Justice program. Director Heller also served as a research and policy analyst at the Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago, Illinois.

BREAKOUT

Break

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM | Location: Botanic Garden Ballroom

Session 6A - HHW EPR: What’s the Cost to Keep Waste Workers and the Public Safe?

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Ravinia C-D

TRACK A

Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes thousands of everyday products that pose serious risks when not properly managed. In 2003, Vermont passed the nation’s first HHW EPR law—now, with new bills emerging in Illinois and elsewhere, interest in regulating HHW through EPR is gaining renewed traction. This session will examine Vermont’s law, its implementation status, and lessons learned. It will also feature perspectives from the paint and petroleum industries on developing complementary EPR programs for their product categories. Speakers will explore the costs and benefits of EPR for HHW, and how smart policy can improve safety for waste workers and the public.

MODERATOR



Scott Klag (Consultant, Product Stewardship Institute)

Scott Klag is an independent policy analyst and advisor to the Product Stewardship Institute. He spent over thirty years with Metro Regional Government in Portland, Oregon working on solid waste and recycling policies and programs. Scott has worked on successful passage of producer responsibility legislation for e-waste, paint, mattresses, paper and packing, and modernization of Oregon’s iconic Bottle Bill. He continues work on efforts pass EPR for HHW legislation. Scott was a founding member of the Product Steward Institute and co-chair for many years of the Northwest Product Stewardship Council (NWPSC). Since leaving Metro, he has continued his association with both PSI and the NWPSC. His role at PSI has been to serve as an honorary board member and to provide consulting services for the organization.

SPEAKERS



Shannon Choquette (Environmental Analyst, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation)

Shannon Choquette is an Environmental Analyst with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Waste Management and Prevention Division. She graduated from Clark University with a B.A. in Environmental Science and Conservation Biology. Her waste management experience began during her undergrad years while working for Clark U's recycling program. In 2016 she joined the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District as their Outreach Coordinator, where she established Vermont's first and only expanded polystyrene foam recycling program. Since 2023, Shannon works with the DEC supporting municipalities and Vermont residents and businesses with reducing waste, composting, and recycling. In her free time, she enjoys trail running, hiking, and biking.



Jen Holliday (Founding Member & Chair, Vermont Product Stewardship Council)

Jen Holliday is the Compliance Program and Product Stewardship Manager for the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD), Vermont's most populous solid waste district. Jen helped bring EPR to Vermont as a founding member and Chair of the Vermont Product Stewardship Council, which was formed in 2008. Since then she has helped to craft and pass 5 EPR laws in the state that include mercury thermostats, electronics, mercury lamps, paint, and primary batteries.



Walter Willis (Executive Director, Solid Waste Agency of Lake County)

Walter Willis has been the Executive Director of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County since 2007 and is responsible for overseeing the Agency's solid waste and resource management programs and implementing the Lake County Solid Waste Management Plan. Mr. Willis is a board member of the Illinois Chapter of SWANA, the current chairman of the Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition, and an honorary board member of the Product Stewardship Institute.



Michael Gruber (Government Relations and Public Policy, Household and Commercial Products Association)

Michael Gruber serves as Executive Vice President of Government Relations & Public Policy at the Household & Commercial Products Association (HCPA), where he leads federal and state advocacy efforts and drives the association's public policy agenda. With decades of bipartisan experience across Capitol Hill and the private sector, he brings deep expertise in chemical policy, packaging sustainability, and regulatory affairs.



David Lawes (CEO, Interchange 360)

David Lawes is an experienced leader in the field of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), with over 20 years of expertise working across government, industry, and environmental stewardship initiatives. As CEO of Interchange since 2014, David has led the development and operation of EPR programs in Canada and the U.S.



Jeremy Jones (Director of Extended Producer Responsibility, American Coatings Association)

Jeremy Jones is Director of EPR for the American Coatings Association, where he brings a decade of experience of overseeing product stewardship program operations for both PaintCare and Sony Electronics. In addition to managing PaintCare's west coast programs from 2015-2022, he also recruited and trained more than 200 retail and HHW paint collection sites to coincide with the launch of the PaintCare programs in Minnesota and Washington. His began his EPR journey at Hennepin County (MN) where he supported local government programs focusing on material management and recycling. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Gustavus Adolphus College and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Minnesota.

Session 6B - From Voluntary Stewardship to Producer Responsibility

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Ravinia E-F

TRACK B

Some states face strong resistance to regulation, but that doesn't mean producer responsibility is off the table. In this session, learn how EPR leaders are leveraging proven strategies to build capacity for EPR. These leaders have established product stewardship councils, advocacy initiatives, and collaborative workgroups that are conducting research and data collection, educational campaigns, pilot programs, public/private partnerships, and even introducing EPR legislation. Learn how these groups have plowed fertile ground and laid the seeds for EPR policy by delivering meaningful results today.

BACKGROUND MATERIALS

- Nebraska Safe Battery Collection and Recycling [Final Text LB36](#)
- Nebraska Safe Battery Collection and Recycling Bill [Info Sheet](#)
- Tennessee Waste to Jobs Bill [Info Video](#)

MODERATOR



Amanda Nicholson (Chief of Operations, Product Stewardship Institute)

Amanda Nicholson is COO of the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), a policy advocate and consulting nonprofit that powers the emerging circular economy to ensure products are responsibly managed from design to end of life. With 20 years of experience in both the private and nonprofit sectors, Amanda supports PSI's staff, board, government members, and partners; she has also managed research projects and programs for pharmaceuticals, medical sharps, plastics, and textiles, and supported product stewardship councils in Illinois, Connecticut, Vermont, and New York. Amanda holds an MBA from Babson's F.W. Olin Graduate School where she concentrated on environmental sustainability in the business context, including the burgeoning renewable energy sector.

SPEAKERS



Senator Heidi Campbell (Tennessee General Assembly)

Tennessee State Senator Heidi Campbell is a Nashville native, a mom, a former music industry executive and was the first female Mayor of the city of Oak Hill. In the Tennessee General Assembly, Sen. Campbell's areas of focus include fiscal accountability, equity, local business development, the environment, education, and social health. Her current priority is the Tennessee Waste to Jobs Act, extended producer responsibility legislation that will bring over \$300M to the state for recycling infrastructure and education at no cost to tax payers.



Nadja Karpilow (Senior Environmental Planner, Mid-America Regional Council)

Nadja is the district's programs coordinator and has worked at MARC since 1999. She coordinates the grant program and the Regional HHW Program. Nadja provides technical assistance and resources to district members and grantees. She works on special project initiatives, including illegal dumping and with the Missouri Product Stewardship Council.



Patrick Riley (Environmental Programs Manager, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality)

Patrick Riley has more than 25 years of experience in solid waste management. Since 2009, he has worked at the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), where he currently manages the Solid Waste and Sustainability Unit within the Land Protection Division. Patrick holds a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, and a Master of Environmental Science from the University of Oklahoma.



Through video participation

Kent Holm (Environmental Services Director, Douglas County, Nebraska)

As Director of Environmental Services for Douglas County, Nebraska, Kent is responsible for administering the County's NPDES Phase II Stormwater Permit, the County's solid waste landfill contract, environmental compliance for the County's closed landfills, land use and zoning, building permits and inspections, weed control, and landscape maintenance and snow removal.

BREAKOUT

25th Anniversary Gala

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Location: Botanic Garden Ballroom

Get ready for a night to remember!

Join us for an unforgettable evening of reflection, recognition, and pure revelry as we celebrate 25 years of impact at the Product Stewardship Institute's 25th Anniversary Forum Gala—and all Forum attendees are invited and encouraged to join!

We'll kick things off with a heartfelt welcome from PSI Founder Scott Cassel, followed by a powerful tribute to the people, moments, and milestones that have shaped our journey. While you enjoy a delicious plated dinner, we'll honor the partners and changemakers who've led the way—with a few surprises along the way.

Then, raise your glass for a collective toast to the future of product stewardship—and stick around for live music, desserts, and a dance floor that's ready for celebration.

Come celebrate with us! This is more than a gala—it's the moment we come together to recognize how far we've come and get excited for what's next. You won't want to miss it.

Dress Code:

The dress code for the 25th Anniversary Gala is dressy, and we encourage everyone to add a touch of silver or sparkle to celebrate our Silver Anniversary in style!

Thursday, June 05, 2025

Morning Yoga

7:00 AM – 7:30 AM | Location: Ravinia A-B

You've secured travel approval, booked your flight, and settled into the hotel—now it's time to pause, unwind, and fully arrive. Join this yoga session designed exclusively for Forum attendees, helping you tap into your inner peace and get energized for an immersive EPR experience!

Led by Product Stewardship Institute's Director of Policy and Programs, Darla Arians.

TICKETED EVENT

Breakfast

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM | Location: Botanic Garden Ballroom

Session 7 - Founders & Changemakers Panel

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM | Location: Ravinia C-D

PLENARY

As we celebrate 25 years of policy innovation, advocacy, and impact, we invite you to a special plenary session honoring the visionaries who have been the engines behind PSI and the changemakers shaping its future. When PSI was founded, there were EPR laws in 7 states on only 1 product — rechargeable batteries. Today, there are 145 EPR laws on 20 products across 34 states. The Founders & Changemakers Panel brings together those who laid the groundwork for our mission and those who are driving it forward today.

Join us as we honor our roots, celebrate our collective achievements, and chart a bold path forward together. This session is a must-attend for anyone invested in the power of advocacy, collaboration, and transformative leadership.

MODERATOR



Scott Cassel (CEO & Founder, Product Stewardship Institute)

Scott Cassel has over 40 years of experience addressing waste management issues in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. In 2000, he founded the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI). Prior to founding PSI, Scott served seven years as the director of waste policy and planning for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, where he developed and implemented solid and hazardous waste management policies and programs. In 2022, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) appointed Scott to its Marine Debris Foundation board of directors, where he works on policy, infrastructure development, and innovative technologies to clean up and prevent pollution of our waterways and ocean.

SPEAKERS



Tom Metzner (Environmental Analyst, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection)

Tom has been an Analyst with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for 30 years. His focus is on hazardous and solid waste planning. His responsibilities include administration of Connecticut's EPR programs and planning for future programs. Tom represents Connecticut in the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse and Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse. He worked on implementation of the mercury product laws in Connecticut for many years and chaired a legislative task force on microfiber pollution.



Jen Holliday (Director of Public Policy and Communications, Chittenden Solid Waste District)

Jen Holliday is the Compliance Program and Product Stewardship Manager for the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD), Vermont's most populous solid waste district. Jen helped bring EPR to Vermont as a founding member and Chair of the Vermont Product Stewardship Council, which was formed in 2008. Since then she has helped to craft and pass 5 EPR laws in the state that include mercury thermostats, electronics, mercury lamps, paint, and primary batteries.



Scott Klag (Consultant, Product Stewardship Institute)

Scott Klag is an independent policy analyst and advisor to the Product Stewardship Institute. He spent over thirty years with Metro Regional Government in Portland, Oregon working on solid waste and recycling policies and programs. His experience included the planning and construction of solid waste facilities (transfer stations and Household Hazardous Waste facilities) and the development and implementation of regional solid waste management plans and programs. Scott has worked on successful passage of producer responsibility legislation for e-waste, paint, mattresses, paper and packaging, and modernization of Oregon's iconic Bottle Bill. He was a founding member of PSI and co-chair for many years of the Northwest Product Stewardship Council. Today, he continues to serve as an honorary board member and consultant for PSI.



Fenton Rood (Former Director, Waste Systems Planning, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality)

Fenton Rood is retired from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (director of solid waste and hazardous waste programs, originator of Superfund program), instructor at Rose State College (environmental science), principal grower Earth Farm Foods (Cherokee White Eagle blue corn, trail of tears bean, farmers market produce), chair of the Glass Recycling working Group — Oklahoma Recycling Association, and member, along with musical partner, Scott Cassel, of the Woody Guthrie Memorial Ensemble.



Abby Bourdouris (Senior Legislative Analyst, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality)

Abby Bourdouris is a Senior Legislative Analyst at Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Over the past 30 plus years at DEQ, Abby has worked throughout the Land Quality Program areas including Materials Management, Environmental Cleanup, and Hazardous Waste. Abby earned her undergraduate degree in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan and her Master's in Public Health from the University of North Carolina.

Coordinating the Oregon DEQ Household Hazardous waste program for over decade illuminated the need to shift the responsibility for the impacts of products to producers and Abby has focused on many EPR bills in her role as legislative analyst since then and has led the Department's efforts to pass legislation establishing EPR laws for paint, unwanted medications, printing paper and packaging, and mattresses in Oregon.

Break

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM | Location: Botanic Garden Ballroom

Session 8 - The Truth About Cost Impacts in EPR: Myth vs. Reality

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM | Location: Ravinia C-D

PLENARY

As EPR policies continue to gain momentum across North America, the question of consumer costs remains a focal point in policy debates. Are these programs truly a financial burden, or are they a smart investment in system efficiency and circular innovation? This compelling plenary session will cut through the noise and provide clear, evidence-based insights into the real cost impacts of EPR—for producers, consumers, and the broader economy.

MODERATOR



Matt Reynolds (Chief Editor, PMMI Media Group)

A tenured journalist in the packaging community, Matt Reynolds became Chief Editor of *Packaging World* in 2018. In recent years, Matt has helped conceptualize and launch events like the Packaging Recycling Summit, Robotics Live and Local, and numerous webinar, e-book, video, and podcast formats and platforms. He regularly speaks on packaging at events ranging from materials and sustainability to equipment trends and robotics. With PMMI Media Group since 2014, Matt's earlier career included leading editorial roles at *Baking Management*, *Modern Baking*, as well as contributing to multiple machine tool and fabrication publications. Prior to *Packaging World*, he was also Editorial Director of PMMI Media Group's *OEM magazine*, and served in custom media and custom research roles. Matt graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and has a masters in journalism from Roosevelt University.

SPEAKERS



Joachim Quoden (Managing Director, Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance)

Joachim Quoden has extensive experience in packaging waste management, dating from 1992 when he spent 4 months in the German Federal Ministry of Environment working on packaging issues including the Packaging Ordinance. Since 2013, Mr. Quoden has been the Managing Director of EXPRA, an alliance of 32 non-profit and industry-owned PROs from 30 countries around the world.



Gary Cohen (Executive Director, Tennessee Waste to Jobs Coalition)

Gary Cohen is a 40+ year veteran of the packaging industry, a Food and Sustainable Packaging Specialist, and the volunteer Executive Director of Tennessee Waste To Jobs. He is a member of several environmental task forces, including The Recycling Partnership's State Leaders Policy Forum and The Sustainable Packaging Coalition's Policy Collaborative. Gary is a LEED AP Accredited Professional and is working to advance Tennessee's Waste to Jobs Act, a proposal to establish an EPR for packaging program in the state.



Dylan de Thomas (Vice President of Public Policy & Government Affairs, The Recycling Partnership)

Dylan de Thomas is the VP of Public Policy & Government Affairs at The Recycling Partnership, a nonprofit organization that works with stakeholders across the recycling value chain to transform the U.S. recycling system. With almost two decades of experience in the recycling industry, Dylan is a passionate advocate for advancing recycling policy and practices at the state and federal levels.

Break

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM | Location: Botanic Garden Ballroom

Session 9 - Packaging EPR and Deposit Return Systems: Coexistence or Forced Separation?

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Ravinia C-D

PLENARY

Strong advocates exist on each side of these two systems, as well as those who believe they can coexist. Yet, to date, no packaging EPR and DRS joint bill has been enacted into law in the U.S. What are the key financial and operational challenges in melding the benefits of these two approaches and what experience can we point to in Europe. This session will discuss a current packaging EPR/DRS joint bill introduced in multiple states.

MODERATOR



Scott Cassel (CEO & Founder, Product Stewardship Institute)

Scott Cassel has over 40 years of experience addressing waste management issues in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. In 2000, he founded the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI). Prior to founding PSI, Scott served seven years as the director of waste policy and planning for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, where he developed and implemented solid and hazardous waste management policies and programs. In 2022, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) appointed Scott to its Marine Debris Foundation board of directors, where he works on policy, infrastructure development, and innovative technologies to clean up and prevent pollution of our waterways and ocean.

SPEAKERS



Bree Diety (Principal, Breezeway Consulting LLC)

Bree Diety is a public policy consultant in Somerville, Massachusetts, focusing on materials management programs and product stewardship. She is a leading expert on container deposit systems, extended producer responsibility, recycling data, and packaging regulation. Throughout her career she has focused on the intersection of environmental and business/economic issues, beginning with work for EPA and state environmental agencies and now primarily for the beverage industry.

In addition to research and analysis, Bree engages in advocacy work representing clients before legislative and regulatory bodies, provides strategic counsel for firms and trade associations, and assists businesses with legislative and regulatory compliance.



Joachim Quoden (Managing Director, Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance)

Joachim Quoden has extensive experience in packaging waste management, dating from 1992 when he spent 4 months in the German Federal Ministry of Environment working on packaging issues including the Packaging Ordinance. Since 2013, Mr. Quoden has been the Managing Director of EXPRA, an alliance of 32 non-profit and industry-owned PROs from 30 countries around the world.



Michael E. Hoffman (President/CEO, National Waste & Recycling Association)

Michael E. Hoffman is the president and CEO of the National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA). He has been an active member of NWRA for several years and is a veteran of the sector with decades of environmental industry financial experience.

For more than 37 years, Hoffman's focus has been the waste and recycling industry, having most recently served as Stifel's managing director and group head of diversified industrial research for the environmental services, specialty distribution and other industrial sectors.

Hoffman has been recognized for his expertise and contribution to the industry by being inducted into NWRA's Hall of Fame in 2020 and ranking No. 2 in pollution control from Institutional Investor, Greenwich Associates and Reuters. He also is the 2001 owner/rider winner of the 105th Maryland Hunt Cup, an errant golfer and avid fly fisherman. Hoffman holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Widener University and a Master of Business Administration from Cornell University.



Dylan de Thomas (Vice President of Public Policy & Government Affairs, The Recycling Partnership)

Dylan de Thomas is the VP of Public Policy & Government Affairs at The Recycling Partnership, a nonprofit organization that works with stakeholders across the recycling value chain to transform the U.S. recycling system. With almost two decades of experience in the recycling industry, Dylan is a passionate advocate for advancing recycling policy and practices at the state and federal levels.



Dylan Domonoske (Executive VP, Potential Industries)

Dan Domonoske is Executive VP of Potential Industries, a private recycling company in SoCal that handles traditional post-consumer recyclable materials. For the past 30+ years he has focused on MRF sorting, glass beneficiation, marketing, and participation in the California Refund Value (CRV) bottle bill. For the past few years he has engaged with EPR in CO, OR, and CA.

Lunch (Includes 30-min Feature - PSI Projects in Action: Progress, Partnerships, and What's Next)

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | Location: Botanic Garden Ballroom

From landmark accomplishments to forward-looking initiatives, we will spotlight how PSI staff, members, and partners continue to shape the future of product stewardship through collaboration, innovation, and action. While PSI has had seminal achievements over the past 25 years, this spotlight session will bring us into the present by highlighting current projects as well as a newly developed PSI Packaging Harmonization Task Force.

Session 10A - Pioneering Under Pressure: Advancing Gas Cylinder Reuse then Recycling through EPR

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: Ravinia C-D

TRACK A

Single-use pressured gas cylinders come in multiple sizes and contain numerous gases. Although 20-lb home barbecue tanks have been reused for decades through a voluntary industry program, smaller 1-lb cylinders used for camping and related one-time uses have caused explosions in recycling and solid waste facilities, harmed waste management workers, caused millions of dollars of damage, and raised facility insurance costs. They have also littered our parks and public landscapes, and cost municipalities tens of thousands of dollars per year to manage.

In 2023, Connecticut legislators enacted the first EPR law for gas cylinders in the U.S., which requires producers of both large 20-pound cylinders and small 1-pound cylinders to fund and operate a convenient collection and recycling program. In 2024, Vermont established the first EPR law for HHW in the country, which also covers both large and small cylinders. Meanwhile, that same year, California took a different approach — requiring 1-pound cylinders to be reusable through an exchange program until they must be recycled. What's the best approach?

In this session, key stakeholders from Connecticut and California will discuss various policy approaches to cylinder stewardship to address worker safety, environmental concerns, and costs.

MODERATOR



Amanda Nicholson (Chief of Operations, Product Stewardship Institute)

Amanda Nicholson is COO of the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), a policy advocate and consulting nonprofit that powers the emerging circular economy to ensure products are responsibly managed from design to end of life. With 20 years of experience in both the private and nonprofit sectors, Amanda supports PSI's staff, board, government members, and partners; she has also managed research projects and programs for pharmaceuticals, medical sharps, plastics, and textiles, and supported product stewardship councils in Illinois, Connecticut, Vermont, and New York. Amanda holds an MBA from Babson's F.W. Olin Graduate School where she concentrated on environmental sustainability in the business context, including the burgeoning renewable energy sector.

SPEAKERS



Jen Heaton-Jones (Executive Director, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority)

Jennifer Heaton-Jones is the Executive Director of the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority. A regional, governmental solid waste management authority serving 14 municipalities in Western Connecticut. She has been with the HRRRA since 2009. Jen has been advocating for extended producer responsibility in Connecticut for over ten years. She led the first-in-the-nation EPR policy for Gas Cylinders, that became law in 2022 and the Connecticut Tire EPR law that passed in 2023. She serves as the President of the Northeast Chapter of NAHMMA and was currently elected to the NAHMMA board. She is the Chair of the CT Product Stewardship Council and President of the CT Recyclers Coalition. She is a board member of Connecticut's RecycleCT Foundation and is a local representative on the PSI Board.



David Keeling (Executive Director, Cylinder Collective)

David Keeling is the Executive Director of the Pressurized Cylinder Industry Association which monitors EPR legislation and advocates on behalf of the pressurized gas cylinder industry. He also serves as the Executive Director of The Cylinder Collective which is the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) responsible for implementing the statewide gas cylinder collection program to meet the producer obligations in the CT. gas cylinder EPR law.

Mr. Keeling has over 30 years of experience in the recycling industry.



Josh Simpson (Vice President of Marketing, Little Kamper)

In 2010, Josh met John Kamps and later joined Kamps Propane as Director of Marketing in 2013. That same year, Flame King introduced the first refillable 1 lb DOT 4BA240 propane cylinder—a product that sparked Josh’s interest in addressing the widespread environmental impact of disposable fuel cylinders. He proposed creating a 1 lb cylinder exchange program, which became Little Kamper—a refillable cylinder exchange designed for outdoor recreation. Josh continues to grow the program and promote sustainable alternatives to single-use fuel cylinders.



Tom Metzner (Environmental Analyst, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection)

Tom has been an Analyst with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for 30 years. His focus is on hazardous and solid waste planning. His responsibilities include administration of Connecticut’s EPR programs and planning for future programs. Tom represents Connecticut in the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse and Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse. He worked on implementation of the mercury product laws in Connecticut for many years and chaired a legislative task force on microfiber pollution.



Doug Kobold (Executive Director, California Product Stewardship Council)

Doug has been “talking trash” for over 30 years. Since August 2018, he has served as Executive Director for the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC). Previously, he spent over 18 years with Sacramento County managing contracts, procurement, new recycling programs development, HHW, and pending legislation. He also spent nearly 3 years with Edgar & Associates providing solid waste consulting services statewide and over 5 years with Yolo County managing the County’s landfill. He holds a Civil Engineering degree from California State University, Chico.

BREAKOUT

Session 10B - The Role of Compostable Packaging in EPR & Waste Reduction

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: Ravinia E-F

TRACK B

Compostable packaging has captured public attention as a sustainable alternative to single-use plastic — but how do we ensure it captures its full potential in reducing waste and not creating unintended consequences? This engaging session digs into the reality vs. the hype around compostable materials and explores how they fit into the next generation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs across the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

Whether you’re a policymaker, producer, composter, or just passionate about waste, this session will offer insight, clarity, and a healthy dose of reality on how to move from greenwashing to grounded, scalable solutions. Let’s talk dirt, systems, and what really breaks down.

MODERATOR



Darla Arians (Director of Policy & Programs, Product Stewardship Institute)

As the Policy & Program Director at PSI, Darla helps identify, design, and implement key initiatives to establish and implement EPR laws and evaluate and improve EPR programs across all product areas. She recently served as EPR Lead for the State of Colorado, providing technical expertise on Colorado’s packaging EPR program. Previously, as Division Manager of Boulder County’s Resource Conservation Division, she co-founded the Colorado Product Stewardship Council and helped lead the initiative that passed the Architectural Paint Stewardship Act in 2014. She brings 20 years of experience in waste industry operations and management.

SPEAKERS



Christopher Tom (Division Manager of Sales and Marketing, Futamura)

Born and raised in Montreal, Canada. Bachelor of Commerce degree from the John Molson School of Business of Concordia University In business for over 30 years with 20+ years of experience in the packaging industry. A true believer in sustainable/compostable packaging since 2005 when I learned about NatureFlex™ compostable films while I was at Innovia. Been with Futamura since 2016 when they purchased the cellophane assets from Innovia.



Mallory Anderson (Packaging Program Coordinator, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)

Mallory Anderson is the Packaging EPR Coordinator at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. She leads implementation of the new Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act, which requires producers to fund a statewide program that ensures all packaging is refillable, reusable, recyclable, and/or compostable by 2032. Previously, she worked in solid waste and policy for Hennepin County, supporting the business recycling program including food waste requirements. Mallory holds a B.A. in environmental studies from UMN-Duluth and an M.S. in environmental management and policy from Lund University, Sweden.



Alexander Truelove (Legislation & Advocacy, Biodegradable Products Institute)

BREAKOUT

Break

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM | Location: Botanic Garden Ballroom

Session 11 - EPR Readiness for Local & State Governments

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Ravinia C-D

TRACK A

EPR is a paradigm shift in how we manage waste—but are local and state governments ready to meet the moment? While much of the spotlight has focused on the readiness of producers and waste haulers, the shift in oversight, enforcement, and coordination responsibilities for governments is just as significant. This session will unpack what it truly means to be “EPR-ready,” with real talk from public sector leaders and experts who are navigating the front lines of this policy transition.

MODERATOR



Christina Seibert (Executive Director, Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County)

Christina Seibert is the Executive Director for the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), an intergovernmental agency facilitating waste management operations, programs, and policy for its 23 member municipalities and 800,000 residents in north and northwest Cook County. She has 24 years of experience in the solid waste and recycling arena and is the Vice President of the Illinois Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), chair of the Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council, co-chair of the Illinois Task Force on Recycling Contamination Solutions, chair of the Illinois Electronic Recycling Task Force, and a member of the Product Stewardship Institute's Board of Directors.

SPEAKERS



Tom Metzner (Environmental Analyst, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection)

Tom has been an Analyst with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for 30 years. His focus is on hazardous and solid waste planning. His responsibilities include administration of Connecticut's EPR programs and planning for future programs. Tom represents Connecticut in the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse and Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse. He worked on implementation of the mercury product laws in Connecticut for many years and chaired a legislative task force on microfiber pollution.



Kristyn Oldendorf (Senior Director of Public Policy & Communications, Solid Waste Association of North America)

Kristyn Oldendorf is Senior Director of Public Policy and Communications for the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), leading advocacy, public affairs, safety initiatives, and communications for the organization. Kristyn spearheads the SWANA Core Advocacy Group, the Safety Ambassadors, and the Lithium-Ion Battery Workgroup, among other projects.



McKenna Morrigan (Policy Advisor, Seattle Public Utilities)

McKenna Morrigan is a policy advisor on waste prevention and product stewardship for the City of Seattle. She has been directly involved in the development of multiple extended producer responsibility policy proposals in Washington state, including the Recycling Reform Act, which was passed by the state legislature this year. Previously, McKenna was a senior associate at Cascadia Consulting Group, where she led research and evaluation projects for local and state governments related to recycling programs, policies, and markets.



Anthony Tindall (Solid Waste Coordinator, Cook County)

Anthony Tindall was appointed Solid Waste Coordinator for Cook County in 2022. In this role, he serves as the senior regulator of the solid waste industry in Cook County and is responsible for the implementation of the County's zero waste and circular economy related plans and activities. He also coordinates solid waste planning efforts for all 134 Cook County municipalities, is the liaison with IL EPA officials, and manages a team of environmental control engineers and inspectors. Previously, Anthony worked for nine years as the Policy & Sustainability Manager for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Anthony received his Master of Public Administration degree from DePaul University. He currently serves as Secretary of the Illinois Recycling Foundation's Board of Directors and is a member of the Illinois Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council.

BREAKOUT

Break

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM | Location: Botanic Garden Ballroom

Session 12 - Achieving the End Goal: Where do we go from here?

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Ravinia C-D

PLENARY

After two days of powerful dialogue, practical insights, and cross-sector collaboration, we arrive at the central question: Where do we go from here? This final session brings everyone back together to reflect on what we've learned, reconnect with our shared purpose, and chart a bold path forward. This session is designed to unite governments, producers, recyclers, and others to chart a shared vision for the future and explore how to translate this momentum into real-world progress.

Featuring leading voices from EPR, this session will synthesize the Forum's top takeaways and emerging action items, highlight breakthrough moments and success stories shared over the past two days, spark a call to action for collective leadership, strategic partnerships, and next steps. Join us to close the Forum not with a period, but with an exclamation point—one that launches us toward the next 25 years of impact!

MODERATOR



Scott Cassel (CEO & Founder, Product Stewardship Institute)

Scott Cassel has over 40 years of experience addressing waste management issues in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. In 2000, he founded the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI). Prior to founding PSI, Scott served seven years as the director of waste policy and planning for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, where he developed and implemented solid and hazardous waste management policies and programs. In 2022, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) appointed Scott to its Marine Debris Foundation board of directors, where he works on policy, infrastructure development, and innovative technologies to clean up and prevent pollution of our waterways and ocean.

SPEAKERS



Abby Bourdouris (Senior Legislative Analyst, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality)

Abby Bourdouris is a Senior Legislative Analyst at Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Over the past 30 plus years at DEQ, Abby has worked throughout the Land Quality Program areas including Materials Management, Environmental Cleanup, and Hazardous Waste. Abby earned her undergraduate degree in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan and her Master's in Public Health from the University of North Carolina.

Coordinating the Oregon DEQ Household Hazardous waste program for over decade illuminated the need to shift the responsibility for the impacts of products to producers and Abby has focused on many EPR bills in her role as legislative analyst since then and has led the Department's efforts to pass legislation establishing EPR laws for paint, unwanted medications, printing paper and packaging, and mattresses in Oregon.



Dylan de Thomas (Vice President of Public Policy & Government Affairs, The Recycling Partnership)

Dylan de Thomas is the VP of Public Policy & Government Affairs at The Recycling Partnership, a nonprofit organization that works with stakeholders across the recycling value chain to transform the U.S. recycling system. With almost two decades of experience in the recycling industry, Dylan is a passionate advocate for advancing recycling policy and practices at the state and federal levels.



Paul Nowak (Executive Director, GreenBlue)

Paul Nowak, the Executive Director of GreenBlue, brings 30+ years of experience to the table through a variety of roles across the supply chain including, vice president of sustainability at Quad, general manager of manufacturing, senior director of client experience, and vice president of enterprise solutions for brands. Nowak's passion for sustainability and embodiment of GreenBlue's core pillars are demonstrated through his career accomplishments, including the creation of the first Quad Sustainable Packaging Public Report, the Annual Client Sustainability Symposium, and the development of the Quad Community Education Program.



Shane Buckingham (Chief of Staff, Circular Action Alliance)

Shane has 15 years of experience in circular economy policy and extended producer responsibility. At CAA, Shane is responsible for managing national operations, overseeing state implementation of EPR laws, and supporting collaboration across the executive leadership team and organization.



Lynn Dyer (Executive Director, AMERIPEN)

Lynn Dyer is Executive Director at AMERIPEN, the only material-inclusive organization solely focused on advancing the packaging industry's public policy objectives in the U.S. In her current role, she leads the trade association's strategy to support its mission and vision, directs policy supporting projects, and manages its operations.

A recognized leader in the packaging industry, Ms. Dyer has three decades of experience in public policy, sustainability, and industry collaboration. She is a frequent speaker at industry events and quoted regularly in print and television media, providing valuable insights and commentary on today's packaging issues.

Breakdown

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Location: All Conference Rooms