



## Product Policy Institute

# What can Local Governments do to conserve resources and reduce taxes?

Local governments play a key role in the transition to  
**Extended Producer Responsibility.**

### **REGULATORY ROLE**

- **Adopt a local EPR resolution**  
*Announce to producers of throw-away products that your municipality is phasing out rate-payer and tax-payer financed management of their wastes. Producers will be expected to finance and/or and manage it themselves.*
- **Use disposal bans to drive products into recycling and EPR programs**  
*Help recycling programs be effective by eliminating the easy disposal options that compete for the products.*
- **Nurture recycling through smart zoning and business licensing**  
*Recognize recycling and reuse businesses as the mirror image of retail businesses. Make sure in-store product take-back is exempt from unnecessary regulation and that clean recycling businesses are not restricted from commercial areas by zoning rules.*
- **Adopt local take-back laws where feasible**  
*Where local authority and conditions permit, consider requiring take-back of hard-to-recycle products as a condition for sale in the jurisdiction.*
- **Lobby senior levels of government for EPR legislation**  
*Only senior governments can create a level playing field so that all brand-owners for a particular product category are subject to the same stewardship responsibilities.*

### **SERVICE PROVIDER ROLE**

- **Develop an exit strategy for product waste management**  
*Phase out public management of waste products and packaging as EPR programs take over this responsibility.*
- **Focus on organics (food scraps and yard trimmings)**  
*Encourage development of services to provide recycling for yard trimmings and food scraps as part of the community waste system.*
- **Take a new approach to waste characterization**  
*Survey current waste quantities and management costs by product category rather than by material type.*
- **Develop financing strategies for Zero Waste**  
*Anticipate a shift from disposal fees to recycling fees, and ultimately to local government not providing recycling at all.*

### **CONSUMER ROLE**

- **Specify take-back in purchasing**  
*Implement environmentally preferable purchasing with product take-back specifications.*