



NEWS

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Devens Enterprise Commission adopts Extended Producer Responsibility Resolution

At the Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC) meeting of May 28, 2024, the Commission adopted an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Resolution. The Massachusetts Legislature is considering several bills this session that would hold producers responsible for the end-of-life management of their products and packaging, a concept that could help local governments manage their increasing recycling and solid waste costs and reduce waste. The State is looking to create a group to explore opportunities to minimize waste generation and encourage recycling and reuse by manufacturers to reduce the burden of disposal costs that are typically borne by the consumer. The resolution passed by the DEC indicates the Commission's support for favorable legislative action.

Massachusetts municipalities are feeling the financial impacts of waste management as disposal and recycling costs continue to rise significantly. These EPR laws are a proven solution, with numerous states, including Maine, having embraced EPR programs to alleviate cost burdens to municipal governments. Additional action by the Massachusetts Legislature will help to cut municipal costs for recycling services, capture more recyclable materials, reduce waste generation, and ensure that proper procedures are followed.

Devens operates as an Eco-Industrial Park and is poised to help producers manage lifecycle costs of products through mutually beneficial relationships between Devens businesses that support by-product exchanges where one firm's waste becomes another firm's raw material resource – maximizing efficiency and reducing waste and associated purchasing and disposal costs. The Devens Eco-Efficiency Center assists businesses in these efforts (<https://devensecoefficiencycenter.wordpress.com/>). Additionally, DEC partners with Devens Public Works, MassDevelopment, and MassToss to help fund recycling and waste management efforts in Devens, including the regional Household Hazardous Waste Disposal facility on Devens that supports and serves the residents and small businesses within 14 member towns (<https://devenshhw.com/>). Exploring opportunities to implement EPR policy in the Commonwealth will provide economic, social, and environmental benefits for Devens and the surrounding communities in the region.

The full Extended Producer Responsibility resolution is available on-line at: <https://www.devensec.com/news.html>

The Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council (MassPSC) is a formal committee of MassRecycle with the goal of shifting the costs of materials management and recycling from taxpayers to the companies that design and market products through product stewardship and extended producer responsibility. MassPSC has advocated for the passage of EPR bills and additional information on the topic and current legislative bills may be found at their website, <https://massrecycle.org/initiatives-events/massachusetts-product-stewardship-council/#advocacy>.

The Devens Enterprise Commission is the regulatory and permitting authority for redevelopment of the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone. Its role is to administer and enforce the reuse plan, by-laws, regulations and sustainability vision within the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone: <https://www.devensec.com/index.html>