

April 30, 2024

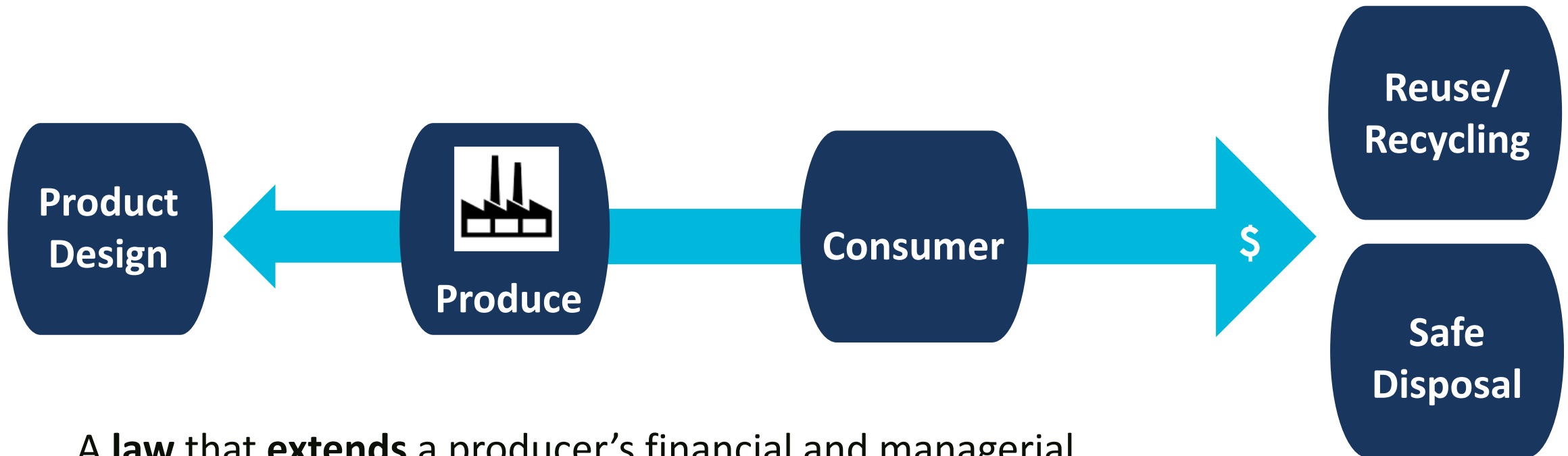
Waste Reduction Advisory Committee (WRAC) EPR and Policy Making

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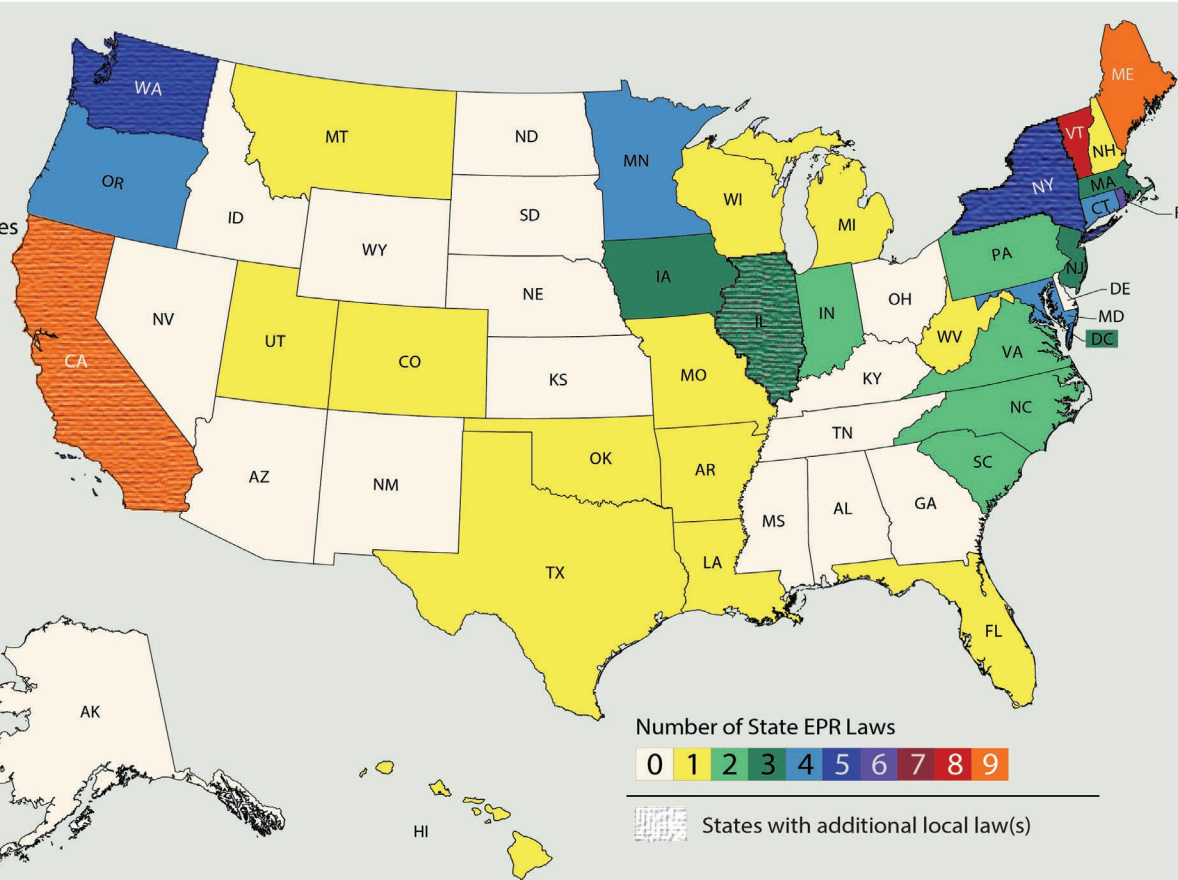
What is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?



A **law** that **extends** a producer's financial and managerial **responsibility** for its products and packaging beyond the manufacturing stage — both **upstream** to product design and **downstream** to **postconsumer** reuse, recycling, or safe disposal.

Product Categories

- Appliances Containing Refrigerants
- Auto Switches
- Batteries
- Carpet
- Electronics & Cell Phones
- Fluorescent Lighting
- Framework
- Mattresses
- Medical Sharps
- Mercury Thermostats
- Packaging
- Paint
- Pesticide Containers
- Pharmaceuticals
- Solar Panels



Source: Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. (2021)

EPR in the United States

- 124 Laws
- 15 Products
- 33 states + D.C.

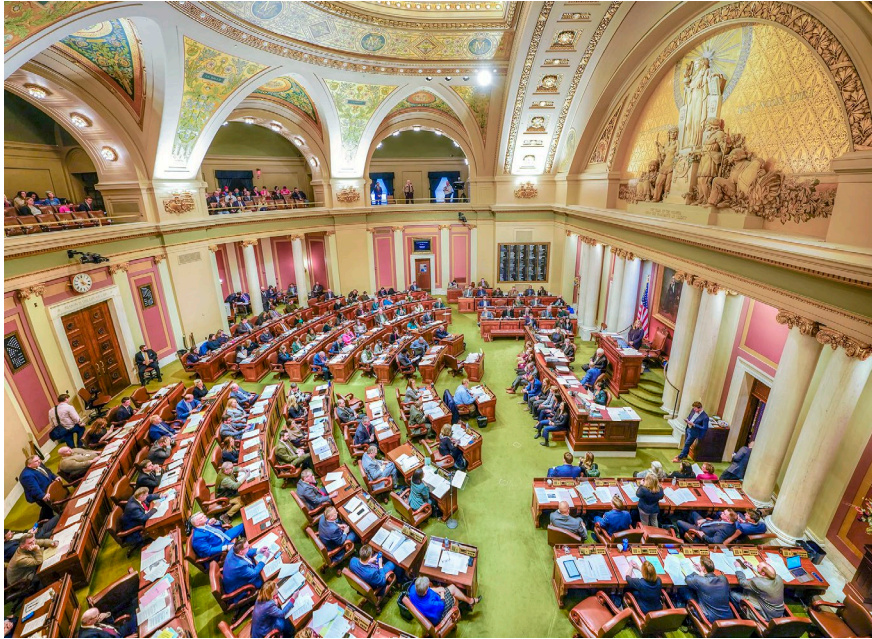
MN EPR/Product Stewardship

- Certain Electronics
- Paint
- Certain Batteries
- Pesticides

What products might be ahead for EPR and product stewardship in Minnesota?



- Boat wrap
- Packaging and single-use products
- Electronics (broader than current)
- Batteries (broader than current)
- Mattresses
- Carpet
- Medicines, sharps
- Solar panels



How do these things become law in Minnesota?

- Advocates and legislators team up
- Bill is introduced in the House or Senate, usually with a “companion” in the other body
- 1 or more committees hear the bill
- Committee chair support is key—higher level leadership support a big plus
- Bill usually gets amended, sometimes a lot
- Politics can sideline “rational” policy making
- House and Senate must agree on final bill and get governor to sign it



What waste issues got attention this biennium (2023-24)?

Passed in 2023

- SCORE grant funding increase
- One-time grant funding from surplus for waste reduction, reuse, food waste prevention, organics management, recycling, deconstruction
- EAB, wood waste management
- Compostable products standards, labeling
- 100% Clean Energy (affects WTE)
- Landfill clean-up fund repaid
- PFAS restrictions in certain products
- Right-to-repair



2024—up in the air until May 20th!

- EPR for packaging and single-use products
- Mercury lighting ban
- Boat wrap product stewardship
- Critical materials recovery task force
- Repeal of the “bag ban”
- SCORE funding increase
- Funding for anaerobic digestion

2024—no longer in play

- EPR for e-waste
- Bev container recycling refund (“bottle bill”)
- “Wasted food” requirements on businesses
- Right-to-repair expansion
- EPR for batteries