

WHY HERE?

Compared to other states, our need for safe disposal is greater and our disposal is more costly. Our unique rural community landfills are not designed for electronics. Once discarded, toxics can enter the lands, waters, or air via leaching or burning practices, and much sooner than it might take if discarded at an urban landfill. Subsistence resources, upon which not just rural Alaskans depend, but many urban Alaskans as well, can be impacted, as can tourism. At the same time, because there are no recycling facilities here, electronics must be transported to the Lower 48 for final recycling, incurring a hefty freight cost for our local and regional governments at a time of tightened budgets.



The End Result? With our recycling and transportation costs high but spread out over the industry's global consumer base, Alaskans stand to accrue from product stewardship a greater cost savings per person than other places. But because our population is very small, any additional cost per product for that base would still be relatively low.

BENEFITS

A product stewardship law will result in sustainable recycling funding from the electronics industry and convenient collection opportunities for urban and rural Alaska. It will benefit us in the following ways:

- Create recycling and waste sector jobs in rural and urban communities.
- Bring revenue to local governments and our Transportation Industry.
- Prevent toxics in subsistence resources and in Alaskans that use and consume them.
- Bolster rural technical skills capacity and ensure safe handling of hazardous materials.
- Enhance and protect Alaska's pristine image, which protects the tourism industry and local economies that depend on it.
- Poise Alaska to responsibly manage waste from Arctic development.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Several entities, including the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Alaska Municipal League, and several cities and tribes, have already passed resolutions in favor of a Product Stewardship Program. In January 2025, Senate Bill 61 was introduced by Senator Tobin in the Alaska Legislature. To view the current version of the bill, go to <https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Text/34?Hsid=SB0061A>, or search for 'SB61 Alaska recycling 2025'.



CONTACTS

To contact the Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce about product stewardship, please reach out to the following SWAT Executive Board members:

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