

# SUPPORT BATTERY STEWARDSHIP IN COLORADO



## IMPROPER BATTERY DISPOSAL CREATES FINANCIAL BURDENS & THREATENS THE SAFETY OF RESIDENTS, WASTE & RECYCLING WORKERS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, & FIREFIGHTERS.<sup>1</sup>

- Improper disposal of batteries can lead to dangerous fires, and soil and water pollution.
- In Colorado, battery-related fires have increased by 41% in the last five years. **Batteries cause an average of 19 fires per year at recycling facilities annually.**<sup>2</sup>
- Batteries contain valuable materials that should be recycled into new products.
- Collection events and facilities cost consumers, businesses, and local governments money and **collection and recycling costs tripled in 2024.**<sup>3</sup>

## WHAT IS BATTERY PRODUCER STEWARDSHIP?

Battery stewardship laws require producers to manage the end-of-life of their products. Producers join a Battery Stewardship Organization (BSO), which runs the program under state oversight. Battery stewardship benefits producers and Colorado residents by:



Reducing pollution and fire risk due to improperly disposed batteries.



Reducing consumer confusion about battery recycling through statewide education efforts.



Increasing battery recycling access to all Coloradans through collection facilities and events.



Shifting the cost of battery recycling from residents and local governments to battery producers. Programs reimburse the state for oversight costs.



Increasing the recovery of critical materials back into the supply chain by diverting batteries from landfills.



Leveling the playing field for all battery producers to take responsibility for the batteries they put on the market.

1.RRS. "Metrics on the Lithium-based Battery Threat to U.S. Single Stream Material Recovery Facilities ("MRFs") Summary Opinion." (2023) [resource-recycling.com/e-scrap/2024/01/18/study-quantifies-lithium-battery-threat-to-infrastructure/](https://resource-recycling.com/e-scrap/2024/01/18/study-quantifies-lithium-battery-threat-to-infrastructure/)

2.Metrics on the Lithium-based Battery Threat to U.S. Single Stream Material Recovery Facilities ("MRFs") Summary Opinion. <https://resource-recycling.com/e-scrap/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/01/RRS-Lithium-battery-opinion-final-2.pdf>



## COLORADO'S DRAFT BILL IS BASED ON NATIONAL MODELS

Colorado's bill is supported by the battery industry, recycling and waste industry, environmental groups, firefighters, and local governments.

### PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP IS EXPANDING

- ✓ 11 states already have Battery Stewardship laws in place
- ✓ In Colorado, Producer Responsibility for paint saves local governments money and recycles 800,000 gallons of paint annually.  
([paintcare.org/states/colorado](http://paintcare.org/states/colorado))
- ✓ Colorado is a national leader in Producer Responsibility for packaging (e.g. cans, bottles, boxes) and printed paper. This law will provide no-cost access to packaging recycling for ALL Coloradans starting in 2026.  
([cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/epr-program](http://cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/epr-program))
- ✓ Materials without producer stewardship laws, like electronics in Colorado, lack funding for recycling, leading to illegal dumping and loss of recyclable materials.

### The bill will benefit Colorado by:

- Collecting all types of small- and medium-format batteries that can be easily removed from products (e.g. button batteries to e-bikes).\*
- Fully funding collection, processing, transportation, and recycling or responsibly disposing of batteries.
- Reimbursing the state for administrative costs of overseeing the program.
- Requiring safety training and standards for service providers to minimize fire risks.
- Building on existing collection programs, infrastructure and events.
- Allowing retailers and communities to opt-in to providing collections, but does not require them to do so.
- Studying how to address batteries embedded in products like electric toothbrushes, laptops and light-up shoes.

\* Due to the difference in producers and collections of small- and medium format consumer-facing batteries versus large-format batteries (e.g. EVs), stewardship programs are best designed to either address small- and medium-format batteries or large format batteries; rather than covering all sizes of batteries in one program.

## BY SUPPORTING BATTERY PRODUCER STEWARDSHIP, YOU ARE SUPPORTING RESILIENT SUPPLY CHAINS AND PROTECTING COMMUNITIES.

Join our coalition to advance Battery Producer Stewardship in Colorado.

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