



Batteries and Electronics Product Stewardship Programs

SWAA Product Stewardship Webinar | Amanda Cotton and Annika Bergen

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Require producers to participate in and fund product stewardship programs for covered batteries and electronics that:

- ✓ Improve public education on safety risks, environmental impacts, and best practices
- ✓ Expand access to free, convenient, statewide collection
- ✓ Ensure proper handling and end-of-life management of covered items
- ✓ Remove batteries from the waste stream that, when mishandled, cause safety risks to solid waste workers, vehicles, and facilities
- ✓ Increase the continued [re]use of existing materials and the recovery of materials through more recycling
- ✓ Reduce the release of toxic materials into the environment

Similar program structures:



Two separate programs:



(1) Loose battery
product stewardship



(2) Electronics
product stewardship

Provides oversight and enforcement

Allows for multiple stewardship organizations that develop a stewardship plan and are responsible for implementation, costs, and compliance of the program

- **Collectors** receive, sort, and temporarily store covered items
- **Covered services** include the transportation, processing, recycling, management, and disposal of covered items after collection.

A **covered battery** is a loose battery or a battery that is easily removable from a battery-containing product.

A **loose battery** is not contained in or attached to a product and is not contained in an enclosure unless it's integral to the operation of the battery.

Includes any:

- ✓ Brand
- ✓ Type
- ✓ Physical size
- ✓ Energy capacity
- ✓ Chemistry



Covered batteries do not include:

- Large lead acid batteries
- Batteries for motor vehicles
- Batteries solely for manufacturing, industrial, or commercial uses
- Batteries for some medical devices
- Batteries from permanent energy storage systems requiring professional removal

Covered electronics products include:

- audio devices
- video devices
- computers and peripherals
- data recording, retrieval, and storage devices
- network equipment

Covered battery-containing products include:

- indoor maintenance products
- lighting products
- personal care tools
- power tools
- drones
- yard and outdoor maintenance products

*When the battery is
not easily removable*



Covered products do not include:

- major appliances
- products designed and intended solely for industrial or commercial use
- devices powered by an internal combustion engine
- off-highway vehicles
- watercrafts
- snowmobiles
- motor vehicles

How do the programs work?



All costs of collection and services will be covered and the program must meet or exceed required convenience standards statewide.

- Advance payment or reimbursement for collectors
- Contracted services after collection



A stewardship plan is submitted to the MPCA every 5 years for review and approval/rejection.

Includes information such as:

- Identification of collectors and collection sites, entities providing covered services, and covered brands
- Eligibility criteria for prospective collectors and description of required site accessibility
- Description of plan for and monitoring of convenient, statewide collection according to required convenience standards
- Performance standards and oversight for entities providing covered services
- Description of outreach and education activities to be provided
- Description of the reporting for the quantity of collection and management
- Description of how program costs will be allocated between participating producers
- Etc.



Annual report is submitted to the MPCA summarizing the program activities and outcomes achieved.

How do the programs work?



Convenience standards will be established to ensure a statewide program with continuous improvement – not a poundage requirement.



Program establishes an education committee representing impacted parties to advise on and review/audit **outreach and education activities** (including signage and materials).



Disposal ban for covered batteries and covered products.



Labeling requirements require disclosing:

- producer's brand on every electronic device
- brand and chemistry of battery required on every battery (can be a QR code)



Covered batteries and covered products **cannot be sold in Minnesota** unless the producer/brand is in the program and operating under an approved stewardship plan.

How do the programs work?



****Electronics only****

Board recommends adding covered products to the MPCA every three years based on a set of criteria.

- Includes members representing producers, collectors, covered service providers, environmental nonprofits, retailers.
- The MPCA may list a new covered product through rule.



****Electronics only****

Repair, refurbishment, and reuse are encouraged in alignment with the state's waste management hierarchy and allowed in the program; however, collector costs associated with these activities aren't covered.

Next steps:

1. AMC, RECA, and MPCA are sharing draft battery language with stakeholders involved in 2025 sessions.
2. 2026 Legislative Session begins February 17 and must conclude May 18, 2026.

Questions?

Thank you!

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