

# ELECTRONICS PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP IN ALASKA: BACKGROUND



In 2016, with support from the US EPA, SWAT began exploring product stewardship in other states and Canada to identify potential models that could apply to both rural and urban electronics disposal circumstances. A Product Stewardship Workgroup comprised of multiple stakeholders from across the state was convened to identify key issues and draft the basic principles needed for a program that could work for both demographics. A draft program outline resulted and initial public forum education began. The intervening pandemic stalled that effort, but in Fall 2021 SWAT contracted PSI, a national product stewardship subject matter expert, to help develop the program's details needed for successful legislation and to guide them through the process.

PSI uses 16 key "Elements" critical to successful legislation, including which electronics are covered, how manufacturers will ensure convenient collection access for all Alaskans, and how funding enters the program and for what purposes it is used. Working together with SWAT's knowledge of Alaska's waste management and PSI's expertise, these Elements were adapted to Alaska and then, via several meetings, presented to an Alaska Electronics Stewardship Committee for input and revision. The Committee, established for this purpose, was comprised of representatives from 13 rural and urban entities, including local governments, Alaska Tribal Consortia, and waste transporters.

In 2022, PSI and SWAT interviewed additional stakeholders in a one-on-one format to obtain more nuanced and entity specific input. SWAT's efforts over 2023 resulted in the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) passing a resolution supporting electronics product stewardship legislation and the Alaska Chapter of Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) passing a resolution supporting electronics product stewardship. Senate Bill 175 was introduced in 2024 to establish an electronics product stewardship program for Alaska.

## ABOUT THE SOLID WASTE ALASKA TASKFORCE

The **Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce (SWAT)** is comprised of representatives from non-profit and governmental entities working statewide in the field of waste management. SWAT collaboratively tackles Alaska solid waste challenges at the local, regional, statewide, and national levels. It organizes assistance and training and develops initiatives that include Backhaul Alaska, which is a statewide multi-stakeholder coordinated waste backhaul system that bolsters rural community capacity and infrastructure and builds Alaska for the circular economy. Visit us at [907swat.org](http://907swat.org).

## ABOUT THE PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE

The **Product Stewardship Institute (PSI)** is a policy advocate and consulting nonprofit to ensure products are responsibly managed from design to end of life, helping to power the emerging circular economy. Its members include state, local, and tribal governments in 48 states, and its partners include 120 businesses, academic institutions, environmental nonprofits, and international governments.

## CONTACTS

The Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce has contracted PSI to serve as the primary point of contact for this effort.

### PSI Project contacts:

- ❖ Scott Cassel, CEO and Founder, at [scott@productstewardship.us](mailto:scott@productstewardship.us) or (617) 513-3954.
- ❖ Lelande Rehard, Senior Associate, at [Lelande@productstewardship.us](mailto:Lelande@productstewardship.us) or (617) 236-4853.

### To contact the Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce, please contact:

- ❖ The SWAT Executive Board at [907swat@gmail.com](mailto:907swat@gmail.com), or (907) 277-2111.