



# Navigating the Landscape of Vape Product Waste Management: Challenges and Opportunities

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**PRODUCT  
STEWARDSHIP  
INSTITUTE**



# WHO IS THE PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE?



# Who is PSI?

- **National nonprofit**
- **Focus:** Consumer products and packaging
- **Members:** State & local governments (Board)
- **Partners:** Business, non-profits, international governments, academic
- **Collaborative problem solver**
- **Multi-stakeholder engagement**



# WHAT WE DO



# VAPE PRODUCT WASTE

A person wearing a white lab coat and blue gloves is sorting through a large pile of discarded vape products on a table. The products are in various colors and shapes, including pens, tubes, and small containers. The background shows a laboratory setting with shelves and equipment. The text "VAPE PRODUCT WASTE" is overlaid in large white letters.



# Many Stakeholders, Complex Problem

- National and local data shows a significant **rise in youth vaping rates**
- Vaping popularity led to recent vape-related policies (e.g., 2020 FDA flavor ban, local restrictions). New products created that exploit policy loopholes.
- Current situation:
  - **High rates** of vaping
  - Surplus of varied vaping devices available
  - **High waste management costs** burden schools and municipalities



# Local Policy Options



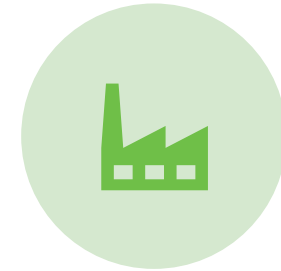
BANS



CONSUMER FEES



RETAIL LICENSE  
FEES



EXTENDED PRODUCER  
RESPONSIBILITY

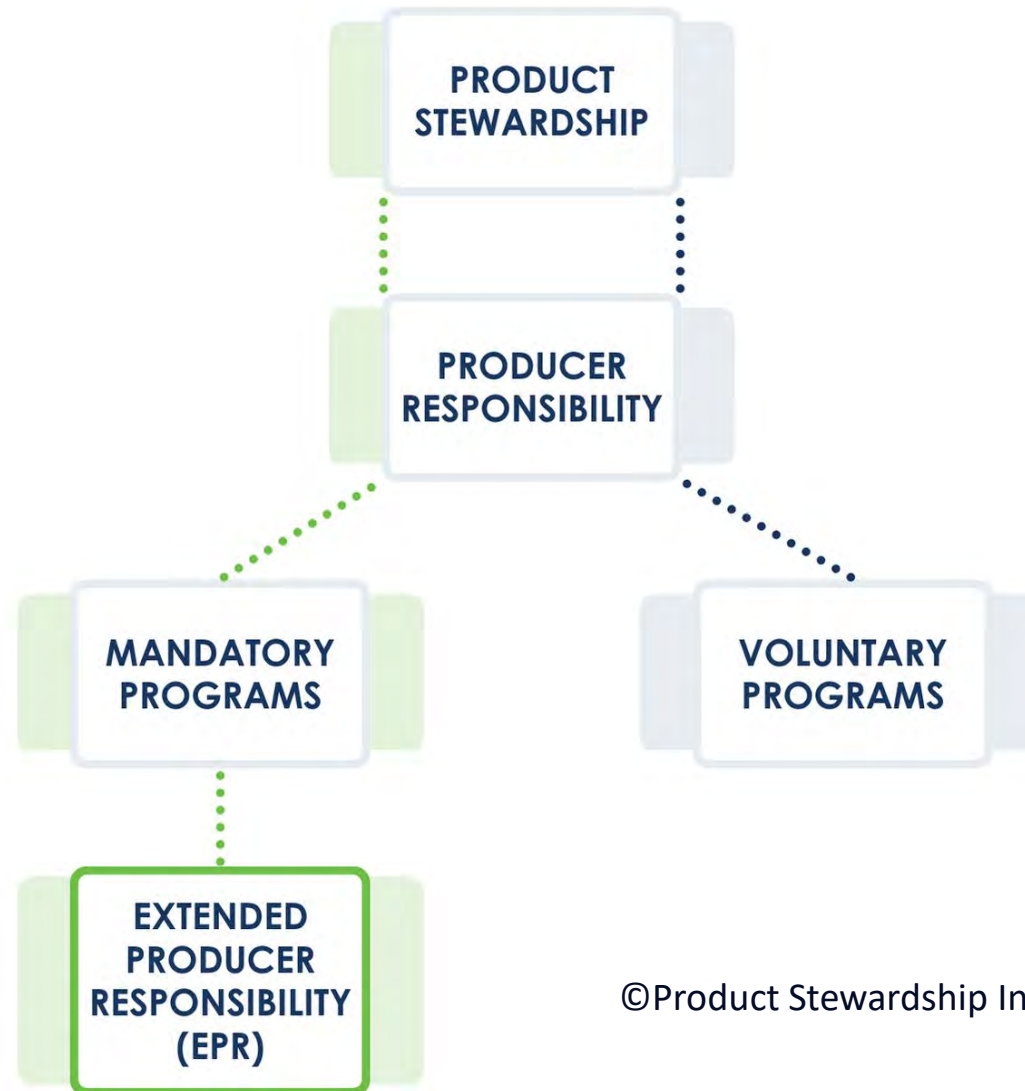
# Local Policy Options Explored

Policy Options	Summary	Challenges
<b>Bans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landfill</li> <li>• Single-use</li> <li>• Flavored products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unfunded mandate</li> <li>• Compliance</li> <li>• Enforcement</li> </ul>
<b>Retail License Fees</b>	Annual fee, much like a business or alcohol license, imposed on vape retailer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retailer opposition</li> <li>• Administrative cost, enforcement, management all falls on locality</li> </ul>
<b>Consumer Fees</b>	Per unit or percentage of sale tax charged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retailer opposition</li> <li>• Requires voter approval</li> <li>• Border issues (local gov't)</li> </ul>
<b>Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)</b>	Producers responsible for funding a vape waste management system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement and implementation can be complex at the local level</li> </ul>



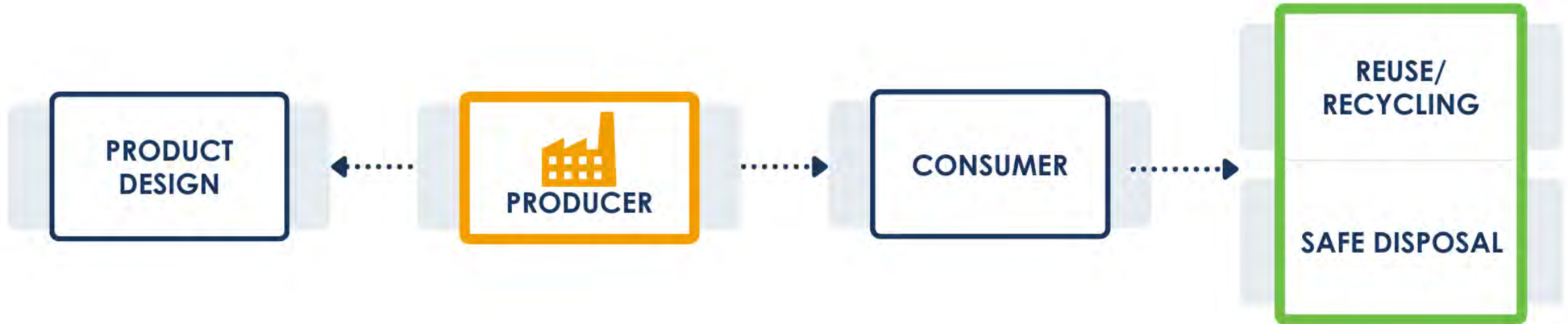
# WHAT IS EPR & PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP?

# EPR AND PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP





# EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

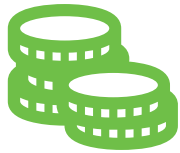


A **law** that **extends** a producer's financial and managerial **responsibility** for its products and packaging beyond the manufacturing stage — both **upstream** to product design and **downstream** to **postconsumer** reuse, recycling, or safe disposal.

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# WHY EPR?



Provides **sustainable funding**  
Reduces **government costs**



Incentivizes **waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and sustainable design**



Increases **collection convenience, education**



Establishes **performance goals** to gauge program effectiveness  
Ensures **transparency and accountability**

# WHY EPR?



EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

Municipal  
management  
of trash



Volunteer  
recycling



Municipal-funded  
and managed  
recycling programs



Producer-funded and managed  
recycling programs with multi-  
stakeholder accountability

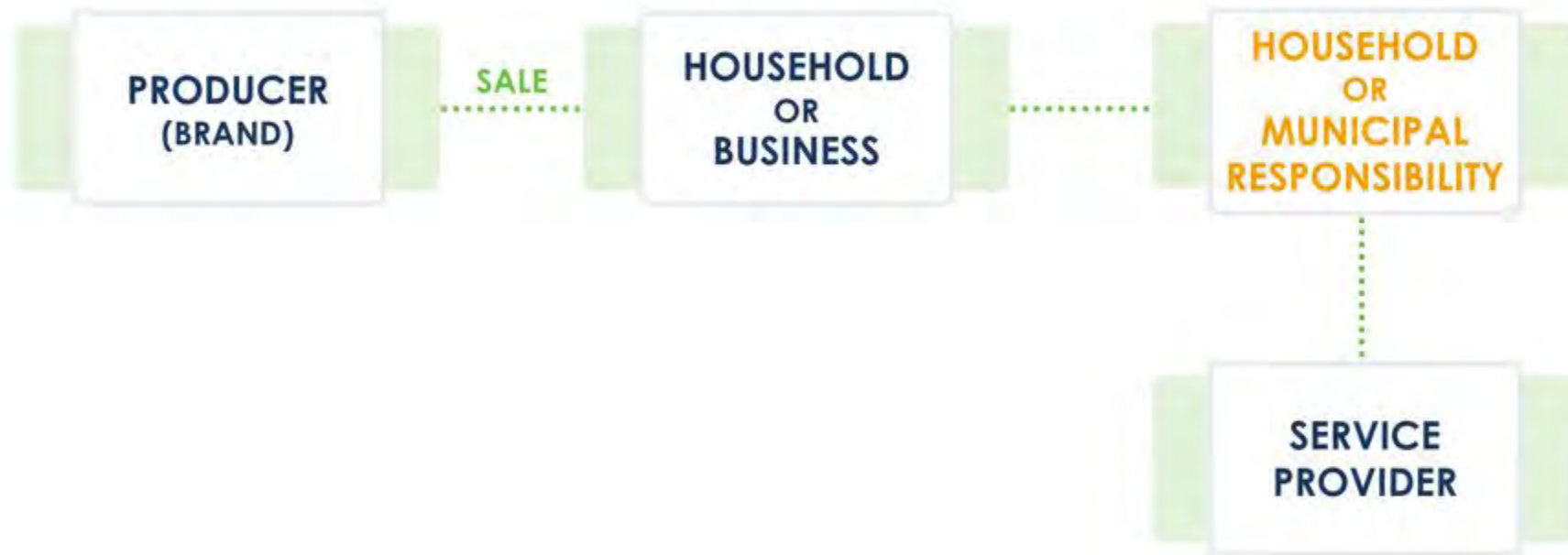


# Waste Management System Under EPR





# Current Waste Management System



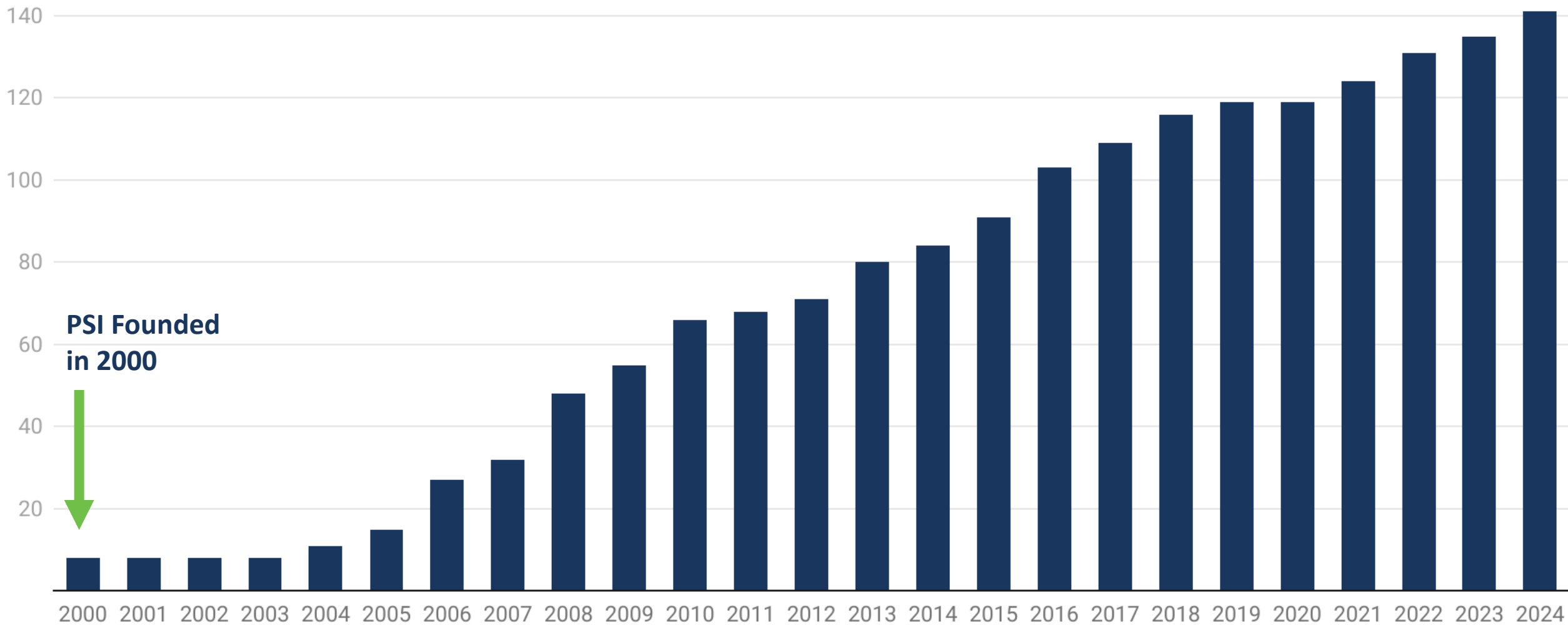
# EPR IN THE U.S.



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# U.S. EPR LAWS SINCE 2000



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# PRODUCT CATEGORIES



Batteries



Carpet



Electronics



Gas Cylinders



HHW



Junk Mail



Mercury Thermostats



Lighting



Mattresses



Medical Sharps



Mercury Auto Switches



Motor Oil



Packaging & Plastics



Paint



Pesticides



Pharmaceuticals



Phone Books



Radioactive Devices



Refrigerant-Containing Appliances



Solar Panels



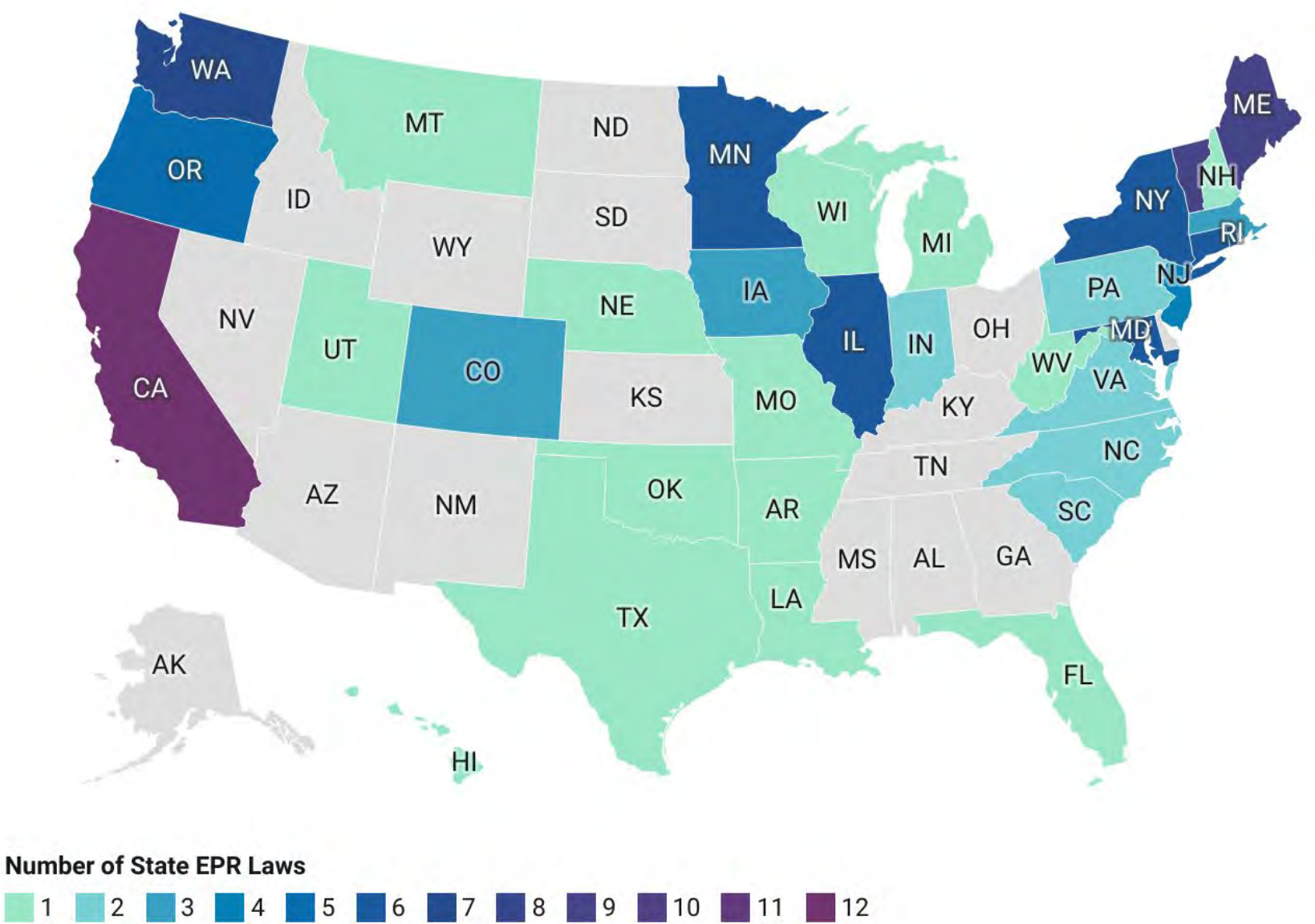
Textiles



Tires

# U.S. EPR Laws

146 laws  
21 products  
35 states



# U.S. EPR Bills INTRODUCED IN 2025

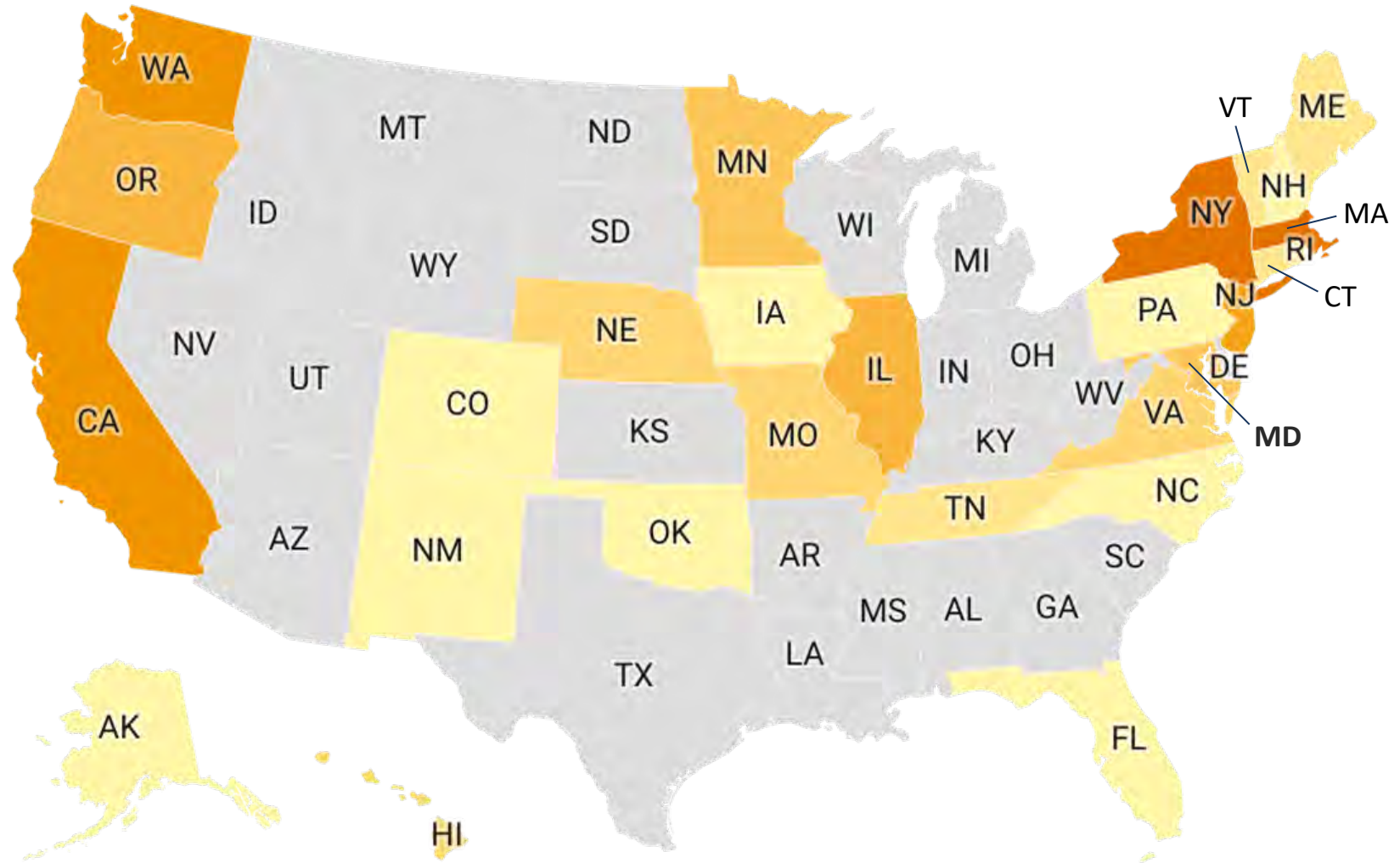
70 bills

18 products

4 new laws

\* Packaging

\* Batteries



Number of Bills Introduced (As of 05/30/2025)





# 2025 National Vape Product Waste Policy Summary

# 2025 E-cigarette (i.e., Vape) EPR Bills Introduced

**6 EPR Bills**  
**2 Complementary Policies**

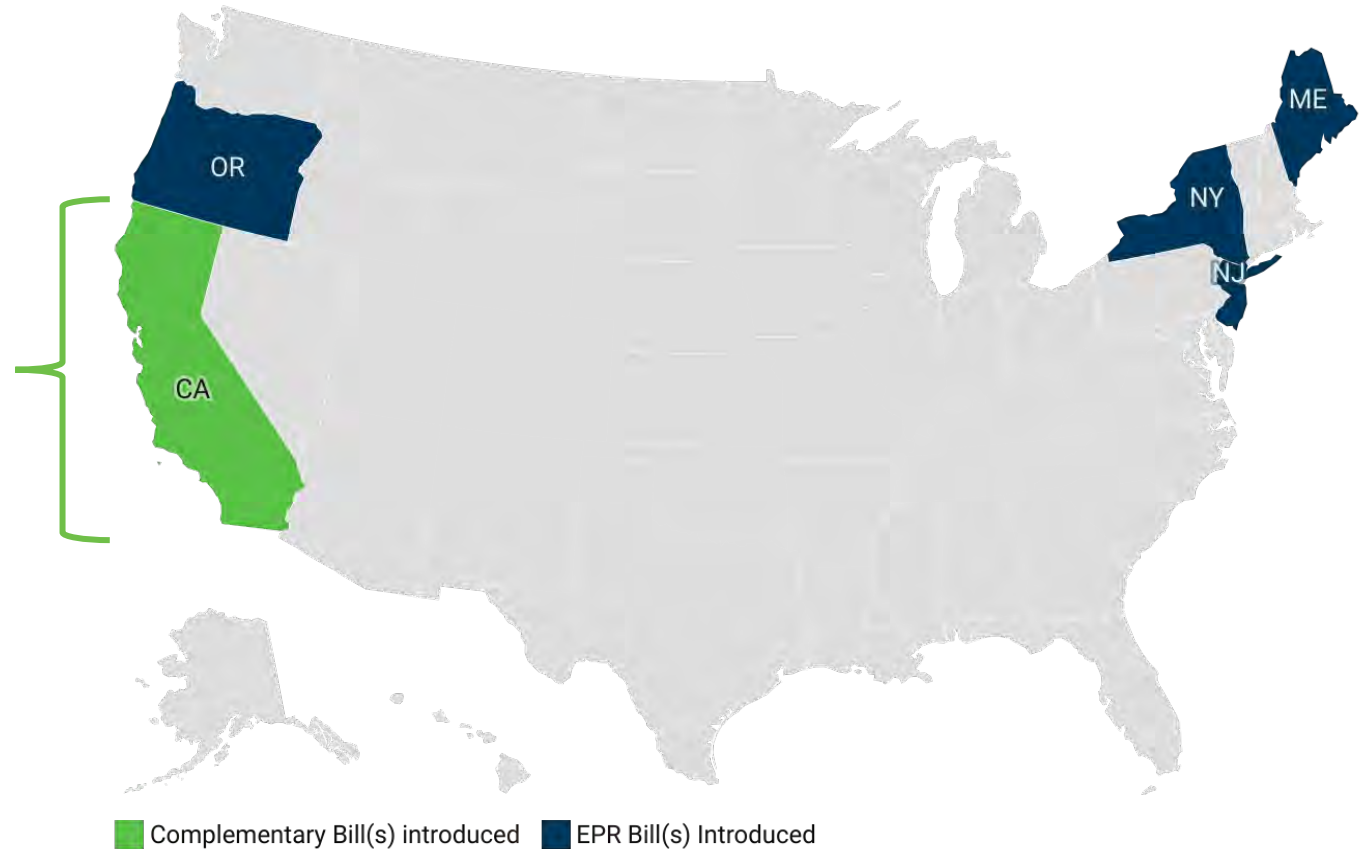




# 2025 E-cigarette (i.e., Vape) EPR Bills Introduced

## Complementary Policies:

- 1) Ban the sale of single-use vapes
- 2) Allow school transportation and management of confiscated vapes as HHW



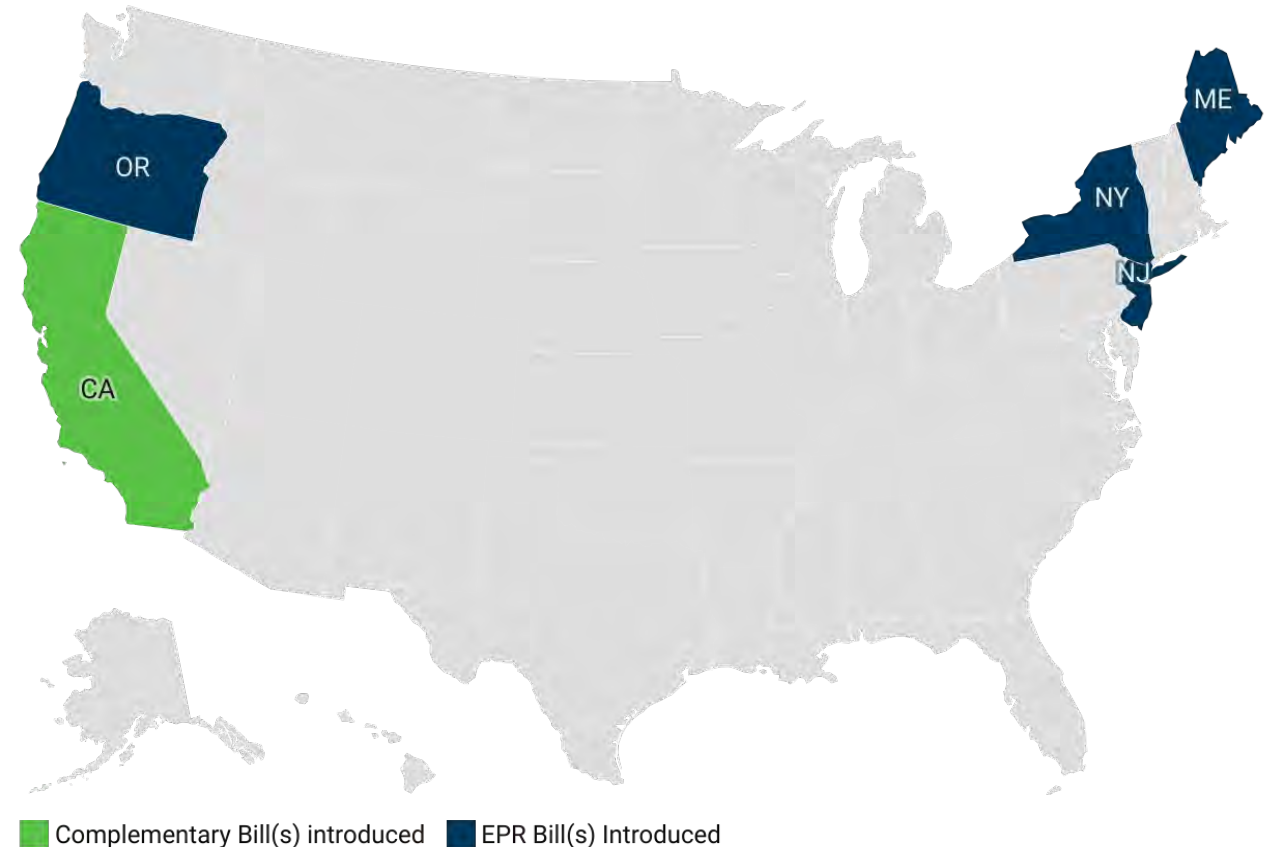
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# 2025 E-cigarette (i.e., Vape) EPR Bills Introduced

## EPR Policies – Key Elements:

- 1) Producer-funded collection and disposal.
- 2) Permanent, convenient collection locations.

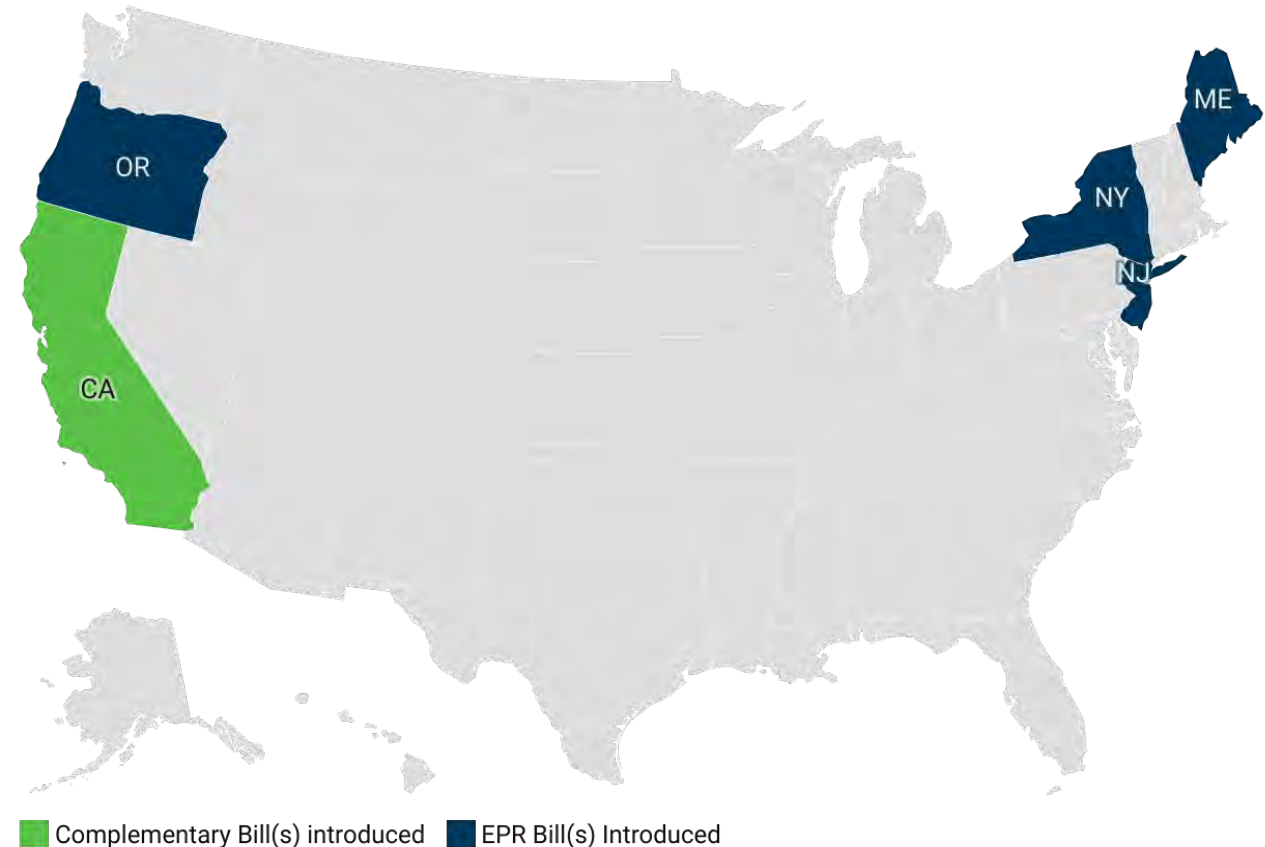


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# 2025 E-cigarette (i.e., Vape) EPR Bills Introduced

## Additional Elements:

- 1) Labeling requirements
- 2) Responsibly manage / recycle batteries
- 3) **Eco-fees:** incentivizes producers to reduce the environmental and human health impacts
- 4) \$5 deposit **per vape**
- 5) Education at point of sale



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# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Complex product
- Single-use vapes identified as problematic
- Vape waste management solutions in development
- Communities and States are ready to act





# THANK YOU

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# **Vaping Unveiled**

## **E-Cigarettes and Eco-Consequences**

**Prevention - Health - Waste Management**

**Panel II Q and A...**



**Closing Remarks- Kathy Hanley and Jennifer Heaton Jones**  
**Distinguished Guests:**  
**Senator Stephen Harding**  
**Representative Klarides- Ditria**





**Thank you for being here!**

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