

**MASS DEP | EPR COMMISSION**  
**ELECTRONICS ADVISORY GROUP MEETING 1**  
Monday, June 30, 2025 | 1–3 p.m.  
via Zoom

**Attendees**

- Alex Baker, National Electronic Manufacturers Association
- John Beling, Deputy Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and Chair, EPR Commission\*
- Scott Cassell, Product Stewardship Institute
- Irene Congdon, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission
- Janelle Conlan, Möbius Industries
- Tricia Conroy, MRM: Electronic Manufacturers Recycling Management Company
- Andrew Ferrera, Berkshire Environmental Action Team
- John Fischer, Deputy Division Director, Solid Waste, MassDEP
- Phil Goddard, Town of Bourne, MA
- Jennifer Haugh, GreenerU
- Paul Hebert
- Maryam Kamangar, Goodwill Berkshires
- Joann Lai, Environmental Analyst, MassDEP
- Jason Linnell, National Center for Electronics Recycling
- Dani Marini-King, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
- Julie McNeill, Attorney, Bureau of Air and Waste, MassDEP
- David Melly, Environmental League of Massachusetts\*
- Madeline Montgomery, Zero Waste Program Manager, City of Boston
- Amanda Nicholson, Product Stewardship Institute
- Ally Peck, Consumer Technology Association
- Bill Rennie, Retail Association of Massachusetts\*
- Andrea Serlin, Serlin Haley Law Firm
- Waneta Trabert, City of Newton, Sustainable Materials Management Division, and MassRecycle\*

**Meeting goals**

- Level set on past and present electronics EPR efforts in the U.S.
- Brainstorm ideas, concerns, support, opposition
- Assign responsibilities for gathering additional information

**Meeting notes**

1. Welcome and introductions
  - a. Meeting participants were encouraged to use the [Mural board](#) to sign in.
2. Presentation
  - a. Scott Cassell, Product Stewardship Institute, provided an overview of existing electronics EPR laws and performance in the United States.
3. Clarifying questions

\* EPR Commission members

#### 4. Brainstorming

- a. Meeting participants used the [Mural board](#) to provide answers to the following questions:
  - i. What has worked well so far in Massachusetts regarding electronics recycling?
    1. Municipalities are doing a great job
    2. Zero waste days
    3. There is a ban on cathode ray tube (CRT) disposal
    4. There is robust recycling from the commercial sector, which has higher-value materials than the residential sector
    5. There are free programs through Staples, Dell, Goodwill
    6. Transfer stations provide a consistent drop-off location for electronics year-round
  - ii. What doesn't work?
    1. There is inconsistency across municipalities and confusion over what counts as electronics, which causes confusion for consumers
    2. It is very expensive for municipalities and taxpayers to run electronics recycling programs
    3. Electronics recycling drop-off locations are not equitably distributed
    4. There are infrequent opportunities to dispose of items properly. Residents don't want to hold onto electronics until the next drop-off day.
    5. Electronics recycling is not mandatory or universal
    6. Consumers lack information on the "cost" of throwing electronics into the trash
    7. Costs to consumers for recycling big items leads to lots of dumping
    8. There is no incentive for residents to dispose of electronics properly; it's often easier to throw items in the trash, which is not against the law
    9. Municipalities pay approximately \$0.28 per pound for cathode ray tube recycling, which adds up
  - iii. What should an electronics EPR program avoid or include?
    1. DON'T incentivize recycling by using static weight-based targets that do not recognize product innovation
    2. DO be cutting edge
    3. DON'T have complex or overly burdensome regulations
    4. DO educate customers at program launch
    5. DON'T allow electronics recyclers to be undercut by producers' price
    6. DO encourage flexibility to control costs and allow for competition
  - iv. What additional data would help clarify and inform a Commission recommendation on electronics EPR legislation?
    1. **Note that many suggestions were converted into research and data-gathering assignments (below).**
    2. Description of the electronics recycling process
    3. Data on the composition of electronics waste stream (e.g., CRTs, flat screen panels, other computer components, etc.)
    4. Clarity and precision on what would be included, as there is no producer responsibility organization (PRO)
    5. Protocols for online electronic purchases shipped directly to consumers from other countries
    6. Consumer protections in place ensuring data privacy on discarded electronic devices

7. Any additional raw materials or products that should be included in a waste ban
  8. What happens to embedded batteries in e-waste
- v. What questions remain that would help clarify how an electronics EPR program would work in Massachusetts?
1. **Note that many suggestions were converted into research and data-gathering assignments (below).**
  2. Clarity that costs really do fall on the producer and not passed on to consumers as they are with paint and mattresses
    - a. Though it was pointed out that all costs will be baked in somewhere in the cycle

5. Task assignments

- a. **Ally Peck**, Consumer Technology Association, and **Tricia Conroy**, MRM: Electronic Manufacturers Recycling Management Company, committed to research the following:
  - i. What happens to products after electronics disassembly—what happens to different components of electronics after pick-up for disposal or recycling, information on third-party auditors, who is buying recycled components
  - ii. What components and percentage of electronics raw materials are valuable—what is the market for recycled electronics components or resale of whole products, what is possible to recycle and what is just trash; could be surveys on other states
  - iii. The level of decline of e-waste in the waste stream
  - iv. Who is responsible for funding EPR and how it's determined in other states
    1. Note comparative document attachment on electronics recycling from Product Stewardship Institute in New England states
- b. **Jason Linnell**, National Center for Electronics Recycling, committed to research the following:
  - i. Pounds per product type
  - ii. State resources (e.g., Wisconsin) or other general information about the recycling on a high level
- c. **Waneta Trabert**, MassRecycle, committed to research the following:
  - i. 2022–2023 survey results on how much municipalities are paying for electronics recycling
- d. **MassDEP** staff committed to research the following:
  - i. Drop-off fees for anywhere in Massachusetts
  - ii. Expansiveness, convenience, and cost of electronics collection in Massachusetts
  - iii. Current landscape of licensing for electronics recyclers, including requirements, regulations, permits
  - iv. How municipalities are collecting electronics in Massachusetts via available waste characterization data
- e. **Jennifer Haugh**, GreenerU, committed to the following:
  - i. Research EPA data on the environmental costs of putting electronics into the waste stream
  - ii. Research ways to communicate these environmental costs to consumers
  - iii. Research population density of Massachusetts to determine how many collection sites would be needed
  - iv. Develop a straw proposal on a workable electronics EPR model that includes collection, consumer education, funding, etc., based on comparisons with other New England states (see updated PSI spreadsheet)
  - v. Share current Massachusetts bills on electronics EPR with the advisory group (H.1015 and S.653)
- f. **All tasks should be completed by Monday, July 21, to allow for adequate time to review and prepare for the next electronics advisory group meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, July**

**28, 2025, 1–3 p.m. via Zoom.**

- g. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.