



Connecticut Law Provides Model for Convenient Recycling of Gas Cylinders

In May 2022, the State of Connecticut adopted first-of-its-kind legislation that requires an industry-led, convenient and operationally efficient stewardship recycling program for residential gas cylinders. The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law, Connecticut [Public Act No. 22-27](#) (SHB 5142), will:

- **Protect the environment.** The law applies to cylinders commonly used for camping, grilling, DIY projects and celebrations requiring portable propane and butane, hand-held torches and portable helium. The law removes these recyclable cylinders from the municipal solid waste system to allow for recycling and recovering residual gases.
- **Provide free, convenient, and accessible collection of discarded residential gas cylinders for residents.** The law requires residential gas cylinder producers to coordinate arrangements with qualified companies to pick up, transport and recycle cylinders that are sold at retail locations in Connecticut. The law also requires consumer education about proper end-of-life management of residential gas cylinders and collection site locations.
- **Save money for taxpayers.** Industry management of the recycling process stands to deliver up to \$200,000 in state savings annually by minimizing public sector involvement.

Industry-Led, Collaborative Approach

The pressurized cylinder industry worked with legislative leaders, state agencies, and a wide range of stakeholders to develop a stewardship program plan to address Connecticut's legislation. An industry-led approach was important because it:

- **Leveraged private-sector expertise.** Gas cylinder producers know the specifics of the cylinders, their distribution channels, and their customers better than anyone and are best positioned to find the most effective, efficient ways to manage these programs.
- **Focused on outcomes rather than process.** The law offers industry the flexibility to design effective, efficient programs. Solutions will focus on outcomes rather than mandating when and where cylinders must be collected. This approach will spur ongoing improvements to streamline collection and reduce costs through efficiency.
- **Reflected input from diverse stakeholders.** In 2021, stakeholder input and research was conducted over five months to understand the current management of residential gas cylinders and seek feedback on potential approaches. Stakeholder groups included local governments, retailers, waste management service providers, energy-from-waste facilities, propane distributors, state parks and private campgrounds, and state government.



- **Adapted best practices.** The Connecticut law is based on lessons learned from a program in Ontario, Canada, which has evolved from process-based approach to an outcomes-based approach. A prescriptive model was not effective, and the program now leverages the private sector's knowledge of the products and their customers to increase participation, capture rates and performance.

Timeline

- 2021: Five-month stakeholder research conducted
- January 17, 2022: Delivered a comprehensive report and recommendation to the Joint Standing Environment Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly
- April 13, 2022: Connecticut House of Representatives approved the bill
- May 2, 2022: Connecticut Senate approved the bill
- May 10, 2022: Governor Ned Lamont signed the bill into law
- July 1, 2023: Gas cylinder producers submit plans
- October 1, 2025: Stewardship program plan implementation

Leadership Testimonials

"After months of diligent efforts and conversations with all stakeholders, the industry presented a plan that will provide consumers with a convenient collection system while minimizing the impact on retailers and municipal solid waste facilities."

- Connecticut State Senate Ranking Member of the Environment Committee Craig Miner (R-Litchfield)

"Through an open and informed dialogue, we accomplished all our desired objectives."

- Connecticut House Environment Committee Chair Representative Joseph P. Gresko (D-Stratford)

"This approach focuses on outcomes, provides for proper oversight and enforcement, and establishes a timeline for successful implementation."

- Jennifer Heaton-Jones, executive director of Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (the regional, governmental, solid waste and recycling authority for the Housatonic Valley municipalities in western Connecticut)