LA County HHW EPR Ordinance Stakeholder Meeting

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Public Works
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Meeting Objectives

- **Review Comments Received and Related Ordinance Changes**

- **Review Policy Gaps**
  - Identify areas where the draft ordinance does not yet provide enough clarity, specifically, around covered products, and state program coordination.

- **Clarify Operational Logistics**
  - Solidify the frameworks for local city participation, direct reimbursement, and long-term program governance.

- **Establish Next Steps**
  - The ordinance development timeline, public comment opportunities, and the path forward to Board adoption.

- **Q & A**

Proposed Ordinance Overview

LA County HHW EPR Program

- Producers are financially and operationally responsible for cradle-to-grave management of HHW waste included in the Covered Product List
- Includes collection, handling, processing, transport, recycling, and disposal.
- Voluntary participation by retailers
- Encourages safer product design
- Applies to HHW not covered / partially covered by State law
- Commercial and Industrial waste streams are not included in this program.



Two Pathways for Managing Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

1. PRO-Managed HHW Program

* PRO manages the HHW program

- PRO arranges and oversees HHW collection and management
- PRO contracts with service providers
- PRO is responsible for program administration

2. Jurisdiction-Managed HHW Program

* Jurisdiction manages the HHW program

- Jurisdiction arranges and oversees HHW collection and management
- Jurisdiction contracts with service providers
- Jurisdiction is responsible for program administration

Under either pathway, the PRO reimburses the jurisdiction directly for all eligible HHW program costs.

What We Heard From You

Comments Received	
1) Make the Covered Product List clearer	5) Make costs and responsibilities clear
2) Avoid conflicts with State programs	6) Clarify how the program operates if a PRO or service provider leaves
3) Provide more direction and clarity on how Cities can Opt-in	7) Improve reporting and enforcement
4) Protect existing HHW programs	8) Make point-of-sale requirements practical

How the County Assessed HHW Program Needs

The County's needs assessment was informed by multiple sources of data, research, and decades of operational experience:

County Studies

- Two waste characterization reports
- One household hazardous waste assessment report
- Reports posted on the County's website

CalRecycle Data

- Form 303 reporting data
- Information on types and quantities of HHW collected and managed

Program Experience

- Decades of County experience directly managing HHW collection events
- Staff expertise regarding materials collected, quantities, service needs, and operational challenges

Other EPR Programs

- Consultation with the State of Vermont regarding its HHW EPR program
- Lessons learned regarding what has worked and challenges encountered

How this information was used:

These sources collectively helped to develop the draft Covered Product List, program design, and operational needs for the proposed HHW-EPR ordinance.

What We Heard From You

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Making the Covered Product List Clearer

- As much as possible and feasible identify specific products rather than relying on broad categories.
- To the extent possible use plain-language product names that people commonly recognize.
- For each category, clearly state what is included and, where appropriate, what is excluded.
- We will provide examples of products within each category.
- As much as possible, we will clearly identify products that are already covered by State EPR requirements and therefore are not covered by the County program.
- For products with partial State coverage, we will explain which portion of the product or waste stream the County program would address.
- We will establish a clear process for adding or removing products as State requirements, products, or HHW management needs change.

How County HHW-EPR Coordinates With State Programs

Situation	County Approach
State Programs fully addresses the product	Exclude from County program
State Programs addresses only part of the product	County may address the remaining component or hazardous material
State Programs does not address the product	County may include the product
Regulations change in the future	Covered Product List can be updated

Example - Pesticide container

State Programs may address the packaging, while the County program may address:

- Remaining hazardous contents
- Residual material
- Applicator/nozzle
- Contaminated container

Result: Avoids leaving an orphaned HHW stream simply because one component is covered by another program.

How Products Are Added or Removed

Trigger → Evaluate → Determine → Notify → Update

Trigger	**Evaluate**
▪ New State/federal regulation ▪ Stakeholder input ▪ HHW collection data ▪ Emerging product or waste stream	▪ Regulatory overlap ▪ HHW management needs ▪ Existing alternatives ▪ Environmental/operational consideration
Determine	**Notify**
▪ Director determines whether the product, component, or residual should be added, modified, or removed.	▪ Public notice and stakeholder opportunity to comment.
Update (Implement)	
▪ Update Covered Product List	
▪ Amend applicable Stewardship Plan	
▪ Implement the change	



The Covered Product List is intended to be a living list that can respond to regulatory changes, program experience, and emerging HHW management needs.

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City Participation: How a City Joins

Participation would be **voluntary** and would generally follow this process:

1. City Establishes Authority to Participate
City adopts the County HHW-EPR requirements (ordinance).

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2. City Submits A Request to Participate
City submits a request to participate in the program to both LA County Public Works and the PRO (s).

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3. City Provides Program Information
City provides information and all data needed to evaluate existing services, eligible costs, facilities, collection activities, and implementation needs.

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4. PRO Evaluates Participation
Applicable Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) evaluates the City's participation consistent with the Stewardship Plan.

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5. County Reviews and Coordinates
LA County reviews the proposed participation and coordinates with the City and PRO.

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6. Stewardship Plan Is Updated
If necessary, the applicable Stewardship Plan is amended to incorporate the City.

Bottom line
Participation is voluntary; the City does not have to transfer ownership or management of its existing HHW program to the County or PRO.

City Participation: Roles and Responsibilities

Participating City	Producer / PRO	LA County Public Works
Provides required program and cost information to PRO by December 31, for participation beginning on July 1 of the subsequent year.	Evaluates the City's submitted information for participation in program	Coordinates with the City and PRO on implementation
Maintains its existing HHW program, unless otherwise agreed	Develops Stewardship Plan and/or necessary amendments	Reviews and approves applicable Stewardship Plan and/or amendments
Provides information on existing services, collection activities, facilities, volumes, and eligible costs	Provides or coordinates applicable producer-funded HHW services	Retains overall program oversight and monitors program compliance
Submits reimbursement claims in accordance with the Stewardship Plan	Directly reimburses participating Cities for eligible costs	Provides oversight, coordinates program implementation with participating Cities and PROs
Participates in program reporting and compliance requirements	Fulfills producer responsibility and Stewardship Plan obligations	Reviews program performance and required reporting

City Participation: Annual Enrollment, Timing & Reimbursement

Annual Participation Schedule - By December 31

City submits required information to PRO

- Existing HHW program information
- Collection volumes and material data
- Facilities, services, and eligible costs
- Other information required by the Stewardship Plan

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January–June

PRO & County Review

- PRO evaluates City participation and reimbursement requirements
- PRO develops any necessary Stewardship Plan amendments and submits to County by April 30
- Public Works reviews and approves the Stewardship Plan by May 31
  - Conditional approval may suffice to have the city begin participation
- Implementation details are coordinated with the City

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July 1 of subsequent year

City Joins Program

- City participation begins
- PRO assumes applicable producer responsibility obligations
- Eligible City costs are reimbursed in accordance with the Stewardship Plan

Why annual enrollment?

Limiting City enrollment to one annual participation date provides sufficient time for PROs to evaluate new Cities, make necessary Stewardship Plan changes, and allow Public Works to review and approve those changes

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Protecting Existing HHW Programs

You asked us to:

- Allow existing County and City HHW programs to continue operating.
- Ensure Producers/PROs provide funding for eligible existing services.
- Avoid requiring local governments to transfer operation or management of their programs.

What we propose to do:

- Allow existing County and City HHW programs to continue operating.
- Allow Producers/PROs to reimburse eligible costs through an approved Stewardship Plan.
- Clarify that local governments are not required to transfer operation or management of their HHW programs.

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Funding/Cost Sharing Responsibilities

You asked us to clarify:

- How Producer fees are calculated and collected.
- How shared costs are divided.
- How Cities are reimbursed.
- How nonparticipating Producers are identified.
- How payment disputes are handled.

What we propose to do:

- Require Stewardship Plans to explain how Producer fees are calculated and collected.
- Establish reasonable methods for allocating shared program costs.
- Clearly identify eligible reimbursement costs for the Cities and supporting documentation.
- Require Stewardship Plans to describe Producer participation and compliance.
- Establish timely verification procedures and payment.

What We Heard From You

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PRO Continuity & Program Governance

You asked us:

- What happens if a PRO or another key service provider can no longer provide the required services?
- What happens if a PRO does not form or an approved PRO plan fails?

What we propose to do:

- Require Stewardship Plans to include a backup plan.
- Address what happens if a PRO, collector, transporter, Collection Site or other key provider stops operating.
- Establish a process for maintaining collection and management services during a transition.
- Maintain Producer financial responsibility.
- In coordination with other PROs, establish a process for maintaining the program if a PRO is not available or can no longer operate.

Program Governance: Public Works would retain oversight of the program, including Covered Product List updates, Stewardship Plan review and approval, compliance monitoring, and coordination with participating PROs and jurisdictions. Funding will be provided for these services by the PROs.

Bottom line:

Residents should not lose access to HHW services because a program participant or service provider leaves.

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Improve Reporting and Enforcement

You asked us to:

- Provide more product-specific collection information.
- Clarify who is responsible for enforcement.
- Allow Cities to report suspected violations or assist with enforcement.
- Clarify responsibility for unauthorized sales.

What we propose to do:

- As much as feasible, collect and report quantities by Covered Product or product category when practical. Provide collection data by product or product category when practical.
  - Use the information to improve the program and Covered Product List.
  - Avoid requiring information that is not useful or publicly available.
- The County retains enforcement authority.
- Allow Participating Cities and general public to report suspected violations and assist as authorized.
- Clarify that manufacturers/brand owners are not responsible for unauthorized sales they did not authorize or control.

What We Heard From You

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Point-of-Sale Information

You asked us to:

- Make the requirement practical for retailers.
- Focus on factual information about proper disposal.
- Allow reasonable ways for retailers to provide the information.
- Avoid unnecessary approval requirements.

What we propose to do:

- Focus the requirement on factual and useful disposal information.
- Provide flexibility in the format and location used to provide disposal information.
- Remove unnecessary advance approval for compliant alternatives.

Other Misc. Questions/Concerns

Automotive Products - More Specific Definitions

You asked us to:

- Avoid broad descriptions of automotive products.
- Clearly identify which products are included.
- Review overlap with existing California programs.

What we propose to do:

- Provide more specific product descriptions with assistance from PROs, Producers and Cities.
- Evaluate the feasibility of reviewing products such as lubricants, used oil, brake fluid, hydraulic fluids and premixed fuel/oil individually.
- Coordinate the list with applicable State requirements to determine if they are fully covered.

Other Misc. Questions/Concerns (Cont'd)

Out-of-Jurisdiction Activities

You asked us to:

- Clarify how the Ordinance applies to activities outside the County.
- Avoid regulating lawful activities that occur outside the County.

What we propose to do:

- Clarify that the Ordinance applies to compliance requirements within the County.
- Clarify that facilities and activities outside the County remain subject to the laws of the jurisdiction where they operate.

Making the Program Easier to Use

Public information hub

What we propose to do:

Create a coordinated public information hub with consistent information about where residents can take covered products. Multiple PROs can participate in the system.

Clear Language:

One place for residents to find out where and how to dispose of HHW in multiple languages.

How We Propose to Improve the Draft Ordinance

What You Told Us	How we Propose to Improve the Draft Ordinance
1) Make the Covered Product List More Clear	• As much as possible, narrow and clarify product descriptions. • Review products that may overlap with existing State programs. • Establish a clear process for adding or removing products.
2) Make State Programs Coordination Clearer	• Avoid duplicating existing State Programs. • Clearly identify which parts of a product are covered by which program. • Provide a process for updating the County program when State requirements change.
3) Give Participating Cities Clearer Procedures to Opt-in	• Explain how Cities can join the program and when they can make service-area changes. • Clarify how Cities submit reimbursement claims. • Allow existing County and City HHW programs to continue operating with Producer/PRO funding.

How We Propose to Improve the Draft Ordinance (Cont'd)

What You Told Us	How we Propose to Improve the Draft Ordinance
4) Make Funding and Cost Sharing More Transparent	• Clarify how Producer/PRO fees and payments work. • Establish reasonable methods for sharing common program costs. • Provide clear reimbursement procedures and timelines.
5) Strengthen Program Continuity	• Establish a process to keep collection services operating if a PRO or other key service provider can no longer perform its role. • Maintain Producer financial responsibility during a transition.
6) Make Reporting, Enforcement and Point-of-Sale Requirements More Practical	• Provide product/category-level information when practical. • Clarify the County's enforcement role. • Protect manufacturers from responsibility for unauthorized sales they did not control. • Focus point-of-sale information on factual disposal information.

Next Steps

- Complete stakeholder engagement and review comments – Fall 2026
  - Comments for Round 2 stakeholder meetings are due by October 30, 2026.
- Finalize draft ordinance – end of 2026
- County Counsel review – Early 2027
- Board consideration – March 2027

HHW EPR Ordinance Contact Information



Contact Information

- Email: HHW-EPR@dpw.lacounty.gov
- HHW webpage: LACounty.PW/HHW-EPR

Comment period is currently open and will close on October 30, 2026.

Q&A

