



New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse & Recycling, Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Governor Cuomo Signs Bill Establishing Statewide Paint Recycling Program

ALBANY – New York residents will soon have a new, more convenient way to recycle and safely dispose of unwanted paint thanks to a bill that Governor Andrew Cuomo recently signed establishing a postconsumer paint recovery program in NY State. **Under the new program, NY residents and businesses will be able to drop off unwanted paint all year long at no charge.** The recently passed legislation is based on the extended producer responsibility (EPR) model of assigning the responsibility of collection, recycling and disposal of unwanted products to the manufacturers of those products.

The new program is anticipated to go into effect within the next year, and will be managed by PaintCare, a non-profit organization created by the paint industry through the American Coatings Association. PaintCare currently manages paint recovery programs in nine other states and the District of Columbia.

Over two million gallons of leftover paint are generated annually in New York State and most is currently disposed of in the garbage, poured down the drain, or returned through local voluntary municipal collection programs that are funded by local municipalities. The existing voluntary collection programs have been very popular but have cost local municipalities millions of dollars to operate. Under the new law, the paint industry will provide a convenient, statewide paint stewardship or “take back” program that provides drop off locations for any unwanted post-consumer paint. Paint manufacturers will be responsible for program costs, including public education, collection, transportation, recycling and end use management of any paint not reused or recycled. The law will establish new convenient locations for residents to drop off their unused paint, increase paint reuse and recycling, and create recycling-sector jobs.

Kelli Timbrook, President of the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling (NYSAR³), stated that “NYSAR³ applauds the NY State Legislature and Governor Cuomo for supporting recycling by placing responsibility for recovery and reprocessing of unwanted materials where it best belongs: with product manufacturers. This new policy will increase recycling across New York State, while reducing municipal waste disposal costs.” NYSAR³ is the state’s largest organization of public and private sector recycling professionals. According to Timbrook, the organization worked with environmental, industry, and municipal groups around the state to urge the Assembly and Senate to approve this bill, which was passed with overwhelming support during the 2019 legislative session.

The bill was sponsored by Senator Tim Kennedy (Buffalo), and Assemblyman Steve Englebright (Brookhaven), with longtime leadership and support of Senator Tom O’Mara (Big Flats) and Assemblyman Al Stirpe (Cicero). Assemblyman Stirpe recently received NYSAR³’s 2019 Recycling Leadership Award for his efforts on behalf of this environmental legislation.

More information about the new paint recovery program is available [online](#)

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NYSAR³, the premiere recycling organization in New York State, provides members with expertise and education on waste reduction, reuse and recycling issues and practices to improve the environment. The group advocates for policies and programs that support environmental sustainability in the Empire State and provides access to a network of individuals and organizations that share ideas about starting and improving reduction, reuse, and recycling programs, as well as information on education and funding. More details are available on their website: www.NYSAR3.org.

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