



Colorado Association for Recycling
Turning today's waste into tomorrow's resources

PLEASE OPPOSE SB 45 – DON'T REPEAL A BENEFICIAL PAINT RECYCLING PROGRAM THAT SAVES TAXPAYER MONEY AND PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT



Background: In 2014 the state legislature passed the Architectural Paint Stewardship Act that added a fee for recycling paint to the cost of paint. The fee ranges from \$0.35/pint to \$1.60/five gallons. The fee is used by PaintCare, a non-profit organization set up by paint manufacturers, to create free paint recycling sites across the state. This greatly reduced the costs to local governments who were previously using taxpayer money to fund programs. The cost of properly disposing of and recycling the paint is now placed on the consumer, rather than the taxpayer.

By repealing the Architectural Paint Stewardship Act, SB45 would:

- Cost cities and counties **MORE MONEY** by eliminating the current funding mechanism for recycling paint, potentially more than \$6.8 million per year.
- Increase illegal dumping of paint and other hazardous materials, and increase cities and counties costs for cleaning up these materials.
- Reduce or eliminate convenient recycling options for residents. Rural areas will be the hardest hit since these areas lack the tax base to support paint recycling programs with costs upward of \$120,000 per year.
- Increase water pollution—one gallon of latex paint can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water.
- Increase costs for low-income populations by decreasing the supply and availability of lower cost recycled paint.

The Architectural Paint Stewardship Act is a Colorado Success Story!

- **The current Architectural Paint Stewardship Act is Good Government by saving taxpayer money and protecting our environment.** Prior to the passage of the Architectural Paint Stewardship Act, cities and counties were using taxpayer dollars to collect and dispose of paint.
- **The law promotes the recycling of paint, a household hazardous waste.** Today, the program collects and recycles 60,000 gallons of paint per month and has collected 1.6 million gallons since its start in 2015.
- **The law makes recycling paint easy for consumers.** PaintCare has established 157 year-round drop-off sites. More than 93% of Colorado residents have a drop-off site within 15 miles. PaintCare is now focusing on expanding its drop-off sites to more rural and underserved areas.
- **The law reduces illegal dumping by providing convenient locations for paint recycling.** Landfills cannot accept liquid wastes, and paint should not be flushed down the drain because latex paint can contaminate groundwater and wreak havoc with water treatment facilities by disrupting the microbes used to treat wastewater. If convenient options are not available, residents will illegally dump these materials.

Paint recycling is free and easy for consumers. Under SB45, it would cost local governments more money and reduce program convenience.

Vote NO on SB45, a step backwards for Colorado counties and our environment.

- **The law lowers the cost of paint for low-income Coloradans.** It provides a supply of recycled paint at a discounted cost for economically disadvantaged property owners. Currently, paint recyclers donate a significant amount of recycled paint to nonprofits and local governments. Habitat for Humanity receives donated paint and sells it at a discounted rate. For example, in 2017, the Fremont Habitat for Humanity had a revenue of \$6,105 from its sale of discounted recycled paint.
- **The law is a model for managing hazardous products.** The law puts the burden of paint recycling on the manufacturer and the consumer, rather than the local government and the taxpayer. The paint manufacturers have become part of the solution regarding how to properly dispose of the product. The Act keeps government out of the cost of responsible disposal.
- **The Act does not favor one business over another.** Currently, there are five paint recyclers in Colorado and they all receive business as a result of the Architectural Paint Stewardship Act¹. PaintCare, a non-profit runs the state program. Currently, they are the only organization in the state set up to manage the program. The Act does allow for other entities to compete and manage the program if they choose to apply.
- **The Act ensures that the program has government oversight.** The Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) oversees the program by requiring PaintCare to submit a plan at the beginning of the program. Annually PaintCare is required to submit a report to CDPHE and the department reports to the legislature on the program's progress, conducts site visits, double checks geographic requirements with in-house GIS modeling and compares PaintCare numbers with reports from recycling facilities.
- **The Act does not discourage the sale of paint or take paint out of circulation.** It was paint manufacturers who formed the non-profit PaintCare. Colorado is one of eight states where PaintCare runs successful paint recycling programs. None of these states has seen a decrease in paint sales; instead they have seen a 2-3% increase in paint sales annually. In fact, the Act enables retailers to sell more paint, with the addition of recycled paint at a reduced cost.

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¹ Old Western Paint Company, Inc., Southern Colorado Services & Recycling, Amazon Environmental, Deco Products, and Green Sheen.