

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT



NATIONAL
STEWARDSHIP
ACTION COUNCIL

ADVOCATING FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

As NSAC Board President I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the National Stewardship Action Council's (NSAC) funders, affiliates, past and present board members, and supporters. What NSAC has been able to accomplish in its first four years of operation is nothing short of outstanding. From sponsoring legislation and seeing it to passage, to establishing itself as the expert and leader in producer responsibility nationally, our success is evident in our strong track record. We look forward to engaging with more stakeholders and providing legislative advocacy, technical support, and public presentations and education. Critical to our success is funding from our partners, our 8-member board, and the NSAC staff.



It has been a great pleasure to be the Board President, and to watch as NSAC has grown tremendously in the past four years. Now I am more hopeful that together we can attain a circular economy.

With great pride,
David Stitzhal, Board President

Successful Advocacy

NSAC, a 501(c)4 non-profit organization, had an impressive record of legislative accomplishments in its first four years, including but not limited to:

1. Passage of California's SB 212 for **the nation's first statewide safe medicine and needle Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation!** Authored by Senator Jackson and Assembly Members Ting & Gray, SB 212 passed with unanimous vote in the Senate and near unanimous vote in the Assembly.
2. Sponsored and passed AB 1158 (Chu and Stone, 2017) to **improve California's existing carpet recycling program and set clear performance standards.**
3. Sponsorship and passage of two bills in 2019 to:
 - a. **Remove barriers for Household Hazardous Waste reuse**, which was signed by the Governor on October 2, 2019.
 - b. Ensure California carpet program consumer fee money be returned to the state should the stewardship organization's privileges be revoked and to incentivize the purchase of recycled and recyclable carpet through differential fees, which was signed by the Governor on October 9, 2019.
4. Collaborated with Senator Udall and Representative Lowenthal's staff on the federal plastic and packaging waste pollution legislation being introduced in January 2020.

*Dr. Joanne Brasch Giving Expert
Testimony on Tobacco Waste*



NSAC is the **thought leader and expert on Producer Responsibility to drive a circular economy in the United States.** **A uniquely successful organization, NSAC has passed all four bills it has sponsored.** We use the background we have built at the local, state, national, and international level to further our knowledge and networks. Because of this, NSAC Board and Staff are called upon regularly to provide testimony to legislatures and state agencies on producer responsibility best practices. NSAC also provides technical assistance to governments and businesses to improve legislation and programs which work to attain a circular economy.

Education & Outreach

In the last year, NSAC has worked diligently to reach larger and more influential audiences through in-person and online presentations, written articles, press interviews, and more. Some examples include:

1. **National and statewide press coverage** by: Huffington Post, Waste360, CalMatters, Western City Magazine, WasteDive, Audubon Magazine, Go Green Radio with Jill Buck, and more.
2. Presentations at events hosted by organizations such as [Global Product Stewardship Council](#), [Environmental Council of the States](#), [NAHMMA](#), [Solid Waste Association of North America](#), [State of Texas Alliance for Recycling](#), [Federation of New York Solid Waste Associations](#), Pacific Islands Environment Conference, and more.
3. Collaborated with the [American Sustainable Business Council](#) to include NSAC policy updates in their membership newsletter and participated in stakeholder calls for packaging policy.
4. **Quarterly newsletters**, which were distributed to over 500 NSAC funders.
5. **Hosted webinars** on 1) Safe Medicine and Needle Disposal 2) Carpet Stewardship 3) Tobacco Waste 4) 1 lb. Propane Gas Cylinders and 5) Household Hazardous Waste Tracking and Sorting.

Something is going to happen, whether it's local or state. And the faster industries come to the table, they won't be on the menu."

-Heidi Sanborn, CalMatters 6/24/19



*International Stewardship Forum
Paris, FR, July 2019*



*Environmental Council of the States
Washington, D.C, April 2019*

Textiles

NSAC has led several textiles focused projects and presentations to garner awareness of the negative impacts of the clothing industry, including:

- A project to **reduce or eliminate tariffs on environmentally preferable textile fibers**. Nine large companies, representing \$600 billion in total annual revenue in the United States, are funding NSAC to manage this project with the goal of incentivizing sustainable fibers over unsustainable fibers.



Carpet

NSAC has also executed several projects and sponsored legislation on carpet, including:

- Organizing carpet recycling stakeholders to strategize on **improving carpet recycling by incentivizing green design and recyclability of carpet entering the market**.
- **Assisting and supporting carpet recycling programs and legislation.**
- Working with companies such as Aquafil, which manufactures recycled nylon-6 using feedstock from post-consumer carpet and fishing nets and assisting with the siting and opening of a new carpet recycling facility in Woodland, CA, which resulted in 100 new green jobs in the region.
- Promote the Carpet EPR Toolkit created by Eunomia, **which provides law makers with regulatory tools and support to pass EPR policies for carpet**.
- Tracking and analyzing research and federal regulations on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which are used in many products on the market, such as carpet.



Giulio Bonazzi, Aquafil, Heidi Sanborn; Franco Rossi, Aquafil

Tobacco Waste

Taking a leadership role in educating on tobacco waste and the producer responsibility policy options to regulate the waste material from all tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, and electronic smoking devices, NSAC has:

- **Sponsored legislation to ban single-use cigarette filters, tiparillos, e-cigarettes, and require producer-funded take-back of rechargeable e-cigarettes**
- **Held an internationally attended webinar on producer responsibility for tobacco waste**, featuring speakers from California State University, San Diego, Sidewalk Butler for collection receptacles, and Greenbutts who created a bio-degradable cigarette filter.



Medicine Stewardship



NSAC worked with affiliate organization, the California Product Stewardship Council, to promote safe medicine disposal through the [Don't Rush to Flush, Meds in the Bin We All Win](#) Campaign.

NSAC is now assisting other states in introducing, strengthening, and passing pharmaceutical and/or sharps producer responsibility legislation across the U.S.



Don't Rush to Flush Safe Medication Disposal [Whiteboard Videos](#) are customizable and FREE for funders

1 lb. Propane Cylinder Stewardship

NSAC expanded the [ReFuel Your Fun & Save](#) (RFYF) campaign into other states, promoting the use of reusable 1 lb. propane gas cylinders in lieu of single-use 1 lb. propane gas cylinders, reduce waste, save governments and consumers money, and eliminate the hassle of recycling. A California-based manufacturer redesigned the 1 lb. cylinder to offer a refillable option to consumers.

NSAC partnered with U-Haul International, Inc. to pilot reusables at select stores in Kansas, Texas, and Wisconsin, selling and refilling reusables at these locations that were strategically selected due to their proximity to participating REI stores. There are now over 350 retailers participating in RFYF, which can be found on the RFYF [website map](#).



Awards

NSAC gave Legislative Awards to Assemblymembers Kansen Chu and Mark Stone for authoring AB 1158 on carpet stewardship in 2017.



Heidi Sanborn & Assemblymember Chu



Assemblymember Stone & Heidi Sanborn



On September 16, 2019, NSAC honored U-Haul with the first annual Golden Arrow Award for outstanding leadership, innovation, and partnerships driving circularity at the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association's (NAHMMA) Conference in Denver, CO.

Partnerships

NSAC offers Government, Corporate, and Individual funder levels, as well as Sponsorship opportunities for speaking engagements, webinars, etc. NSAC also partners with companies and governments to help them reach their sustainability goals.

Platinum Partners

Smarter Sorting is cutting-edge machine learning technology enables cost-effective, compliant decisions for all unsold product advancing retailers zero waste goals. Smarter Sorting's technology has helped local governments such as San Mateo County, CA save \$25,000/year in household hazardous waste disposal costs by allowing acceptable items to be utilized for reuse by Habitat for Humanity.



Gold Sponsors



Other Sponsors

Other sponsors include a broad range of businesses such as the Colorado Medical Waste, California Electronic Asset Recovery, Planet Recycling, and more, and NSAC is always looking to collaborate with more businesses and governments. To sponsor or partner with NSAC, visit www.nsaction.us/donate

Information Exchange & Website

In 2019 the NSAC website was redesigned and is a comprehensive information source for local jurisdictions, businesses, and consumers on issues related to EPR and product stewardship. NSAC engages with the public on social media outlets Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to share updates and information on a less formal basis. **One of the many benefits for funders of NSAC is e-newsletters with the latest news in producer responsibility resources and legislative updates.** NSAC also offers product specific Listservs, including pharmaceuticals and sharps, tobacco waste, textiles, gas cylinders, carpet, cannabis waste, and solar panels.

Over 1,000 Followers!

Financial Information

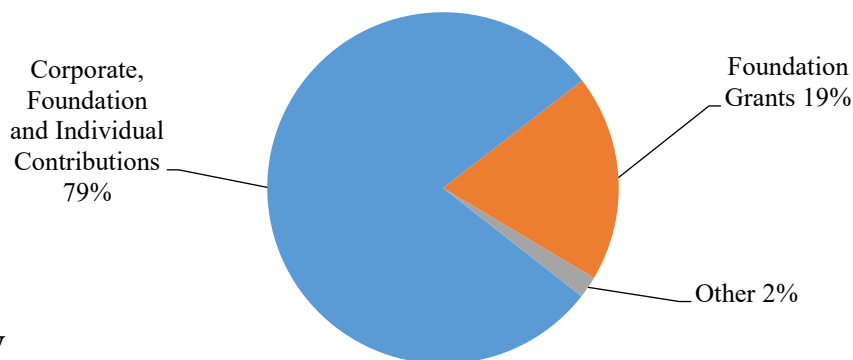
Financially, fiscal year 2018-2019 was a solid year for National Stewardship Action Council. We worked on several grants totaling \$41,102 from the Stichting Changing Markets Foundation. We received general funding of \$172,475 from corporate, foundation and individual donors. We earned a total of \$217,531 in revenue and incurred \$199,091 in expenses. We spent 86% of our expenses on direct program work. We ended the year with an \$18,439 increase to our net assets to add to our reserves.

Our financial outlook for the upcoming fiscal year is strong with revenue budgeted at over \$369,000. We will continue to work on existing grants and anticipate receiving additional funding throughout the year. We also anticipate maintaining or increasing contributions during this upcoming fiscal year. We will continue to apply a high percentage of our funding toward program expenses and keep fundraising and management expenses to a minimum. We have budgeted a small increase in net assets for the upcoming fiscal year.

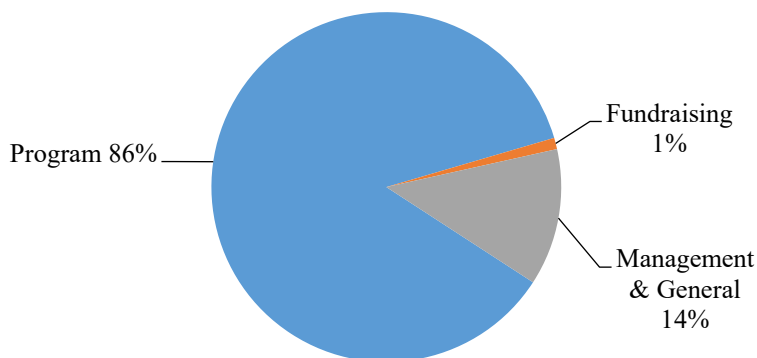
Patty Garbarino
Treasurer, Board of Directors

Funding Sources & Efficiency

Source of Revenues



Programmatic Efficiency



Remembering John G. Waffenschmidt

In December 2018, NSAC lost one of its founding Board Members, John G. Waffenschmidt. As Vice President of Environmental Science and Community Affairs for Covanta, John was passionate about safe medicine disposal to protect human health and the environment. John was kind, insightful, intelligent, and thoughtful, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Bahman Hajialiakbar, Los Angeles County; Kreigh Hampel, City of Burbank; John G. Waffenschmidt, 2016



Facebook Comment to NSAC, Written by John G. Waffenschmidt



Founding Board Members and Executive Director, 2015



NSAC and CPSC Joint Board Legislative Reception and Dinner, 2016

Looking Forward

Over the last four years, NSAC has grown from a small, new non-profit to a nationally recognized organization, working at the national level and in numerous states on producer responsibility education and legislation.

For the next five years, NSAC has laid out a strategic plan that will continue to engage supporters and stakeholders to promote EPR and product stewardship at the local, state, and national levels. Funders will continue to benefit from cost-savings of keeping hard-to-handle products out of the waste stream and improve product design for circularity. **But we still need your help.**

Help us help you. **Share our posts for NSAC**, and the [Don't Rush To Flush, Meds in the Bin We All Win](#) and [ReFuel Your Fun](#) Campaigns!



facebook.com/nationalstewardshipactioncouncil/

twitter.com/NSACTION_US

linkedin.com/company/national-stewardship-action-council/



facebook.com/RefuelYourFun/

instagram.com/refuelyourfun/



facebook.com/DontRushToFlush

twitter.com/DontRushToFlush

instagram.com/dontrushtoflush/

Producer Responsibility Addresses Multiple Issues

Solid waste

Hazardous waste

Resource depletion

Stormwater

Ocean litter

Climate change

Wastewater

Public health

Energy usage



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