

New Hampshire

Contact Information

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State Policy Snapshot

New Hampshire’s solid waste and recycling policy framework includes statutory product bans for toxics in packaging and certain mercury- and PFAS-containing products, a producer-funded mercury thermostat collection program, limited minimum post-consumer recycled content procurement requirements, statutory disposal bans for specific materials that effectively require recycling, and a statutory disposal reduction goal.

Product Bans

Overview: New Hampshire bans toxics in packaging, certain mercury-containing products, and certain PFAS-containing products under statutory provisions.

| Product / Material | Description of Ban | Statute / Program Link |
|--|---|---|
| <i>Certain mercury-containing products</i> | Statutory ban on the sale of certain mercury-containing products. | RSA 149-M:53 https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/nhtoc/NHTOC-X-149-m.htm |
| <i>Certain PFAS-containing products</i> | Statutory ban on the sale of certain PFAS-containing products. | RSA 149-M:64 https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/nhtoc/NHTOC-X-149-m.htm |
| <i>Toxics in packaging</i> | Statutory ban on toxics in packaging. | RSA 149-M:32–40 |

| <i>Product / Material</i> | <i>Description of Ban</i> | <i>Statute / Program Link</i> |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| | | https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/nhtoc/NHTOC-X-149-m.htm |

Product Stewardship

Overview: New Hampshire's only active producer-funded stewardship program requires manufacturers of mercury-added thermostats to operate a thermostat collection and recycling program; no other EPR or consumer-fee programs are in place.

| <i>Material Category</i> | Producer-Funded | Consumer / Eco Fee | Both | Other | None |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| <i>Beverage Containers</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Boat Wrap</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Carpet</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Cell Phones</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Electric Vehicle Batteries</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Electronics</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Fluorescent Lighting</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Gas Cylinders</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Household Hazardous Waste</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Mattresses</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Mercury Switches</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Mercury Thermostats</i> | ✓ | | | | |
| <i>Packaging</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Paint</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Pesticide Containers</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Pharma</i> | | | | | ✓ |

| Material Category | Producer-Funded | Consumer / Eco Fee | Both | Other | None |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| <i>Rechargeable Batteries (including alkaline)</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Sharps</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Solar Panels</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Textiles</i> | | | | | ✓ |
| <i>Tires</i> | | | | | ✓ |

Producer-Funded: Program in which manufacturers or producers are responsible for financing and/or operating collection, recycling, or disposal of the product or material. Consumer / Eco Fee: Program funded in whole or in part through fees paid by consumers at the point of sale or disposal, such as advance recycling fees, eco-fees, or deposits. Both: Program that includes a combination of producer funding and consumer or eco-fees. Other: Any other active program or regulatory approach not captured in the categories above (e.g., take-back requirements, labeling, disclosure, recyclability standards). None: No statewide producer responsibility, consumer fee, or comparable program in place for the product or material.

Program Details:

| Product / Material | Description | Program | Statute / Program Link |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| <i>Mercury thermostats</i> | Manufacturers of mercury-added thermostats are required to operate a mercury thermostat collection and recycling program. | Producer-Funded | RSA 149-M:58-a https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/X/149-M/149-M-58-a.htm |

Minimum Post-Consumer Recycled Content

Overview: New Hampshire requires state agencies to procure printing paper with recycled content, though the statute does not specify whether the content must be post-consumer, post-industrial, or a combination of both.

| Product / Material | Requirement | Statute / Program Link |
|---|---|--|
| <i>Printing paper (state procurement)</i> | State agencies required to procure printing paper with recycled content but the law does not specify whether the recycled content must be post-consumer, post-industrial, or a combination of both. | RSA 9-C:9 https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/I/9-C/9-C-9.htm |

Mandatory Recycling Requirements

Overview: New Hampshire does not have laws that explicitly mandate recycling. The state has statutory disposal bans for a limited number of waste items, which effectively require recycling but are not defined as mandatory recycling laws.

Disposal Bans

Overview: New Hampshire prohibits disposal of wet-cell and lithium-ion batteries, electronic devices, leaf and yard waste, food waste from generators of one or more tons per week, and mercury-added products.

| Material | Disposal Restriction | Statute / Program Link |
|--|---|--|
| <i>Electronic devices</i> | Disposal prohibited. Defined terms apply. | RSA 149-M:27, II https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/X/149-M/149-M-27.htm |
| <i>Food waste from generators of 1+ ton per week</i> | Disposal prohibited. Defined terms apply. | RSA 149-M:27, V https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/X/149-M/149-M-27.htm |
| <i>Leaf or yard waste</i> | Disposal prohibited. | RSA 149-M:27, III https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/X/149-M/149-M-27.htm |
| <i>Lithium-ion batteries</i> | Disposal prohibited. | RSA 149-M:27, II |

| <i>Material</i> | Disposal Restriction | Statute / Program Link |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Mercury-added products</i> | | https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/X/149-M/149-M-27.htm |
| | Disposal prohibited. | RSA 149-M:58 https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/X/149-M/149-M-58-a.htm |
| <i>Wet-cell (lead-acid) batteries</i> | Disposal prohibited. | RSA 149-M:27, II https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/X/149-M/149-M-27.htm |

Some of the items listed above (like electronic devices, food waste) are defined terms in the law - see definitions in RSA 149-M:4 (<https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/X/149-M/149-M-4.htm>).

Other Relevant Policies

Overview: New Hampshire has a statutory goal to reduce municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris disposal by 25% by 2030 and 45% by 2050, measured against a 2018 baseline.

| Policy / Program | Description | Statute or Program Link |
|--|--|--|
| <i>Statutory disposal reduction goal</i> | New Hampshire has a statutory goal to reduce disposal of municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris by 25% by the year 2030, and by 45% by the year 2050. Reductions are to be measured against baseline disposal from 2018. | RSA 149-M:2 https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/X/149-M/149-M-2.htm |
