

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



NATIONAL STEWARDSHIP ACTION COUNCIL

ADVOCATING FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

As NSAC Board President I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the National Stewardship Action Council's (NSAC) funders, collaborating NGOs, past and present board members, and supporters. In the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year, NSAC and the world experienced unprecedented changes, challenges, and opportunities, and COVID-19 has presented us all with financial, physical, and emotional uncertainty and constraints. Despite these circumstances, what NSAC has been able to accomplish in its fifth year of operation is nothing short of amazing. From sponsoring successful, path-breaking legislation, to establishing its first full-time staff, our success is evident in our strong track record.

We now look forward to engaging with even more stakeholders, and to continue providing legislative advocacy, technical support, and public presentations and education. We are excited to continue this journey with our now twelve-member board which we just deliberately expanded in number and diversity. And of course, our staff continue to be the true engine of our organization. It has been a great pleasure to be the Board President, and I look forward to working with you to attain a circular economy.

With great appreciation and anticipation,
David Stitzhal, Board President

The National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) advocates for circular economy solutions to waste and pollution problems in the United States. The outstanding environmental leaders that make up NSAC's Board and staff have a proven record of passing cutting-edge policy and implementing programs to find practical and affordable solutions for problematic waste products. NSAC offers consulting services to state and local governments, corporations, and other organizations to identify solutions to materials management issues for products including pharmaceuticals and sharps, carpet, textiles, tobacco, cannabis waste, paint, and much more.

Successful Advocacy

Unlike a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose ability to lobby is limited, NSAC, a 501(c)4 non-profit that can practice unlimited lobbying anywhere in the U.S. and at any level of government. NSAC has had an impressive record of legislative accomplishments in its first five years, including but not limited to:

1. **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for statewide safe medicine and needle take-back: First in the Nation!** Authored by Senator Jackson and Assembly Members Ting & Gray, California's SB 212 passed with unanimous vote in the Senate and near unanimous vote in the Assembly.
2. To **improve California's existing carpet recycling program and set clear performance standards**, NSAC Sponsored and passed AB 1158 (Chu and Stone, 2017).
3. Sponsorship and passage of two bills in California in 2019 to:
 - a. **Remove barriers for Household Hazardous Waste reuse**, which was signed into law on October 2, 2019.
 - b. **Incentivize the purchase of recycled and recyclable carpet through differential fees** and ensure the carpet program consumer fee money be returned to the state should the stewardship organization's privileges be revoked, which was signed into law on October 9, 2019.
4. Executive Director Heidi Sanborn was appointed to the [Solid Waste Association of North America Advisory Board as the Materials Recovery Private Sector Representative](#). Director Sanborn was also appointed to the [California's Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling](#) and was subsequently elected as Chair.



American Clean Water Association

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: [TIME Magazine](#), [The Guardian](#), [Politico](#), [ABC News](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Waste360](#), [CalMatters](#), [Waste Today](#), [WasteDive](#), [Western City Magazine](#), and [KCET/PBS SoCal](#).
2. Presentations at events hosted by organizations such as, [NAHMMA](#), [Greenbuild](#), [Textile Exchange](#), [Global Product Stewardship Council](#), [Association of Women in Waste Energy, and Environment](#), etc.
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 nearly 1,500 NSAC funders and collaborating NGO staff.
5. Created a **collaborating non-government organization (NGO) reciprocal partnership** and had over 20 NGO's sign up to participate. NSAC's collaborating NGO program is a way to amplify like-minded organizations voices, without exchanging funding.
6. **Hosted webinars** on 1) Battery Recycling 2) Household Hazardous Waste Reuse 3) Textiles 4) Pharmaceuticals and Sharps 5) Tobacco Waste and 6) "Flushable" Wipes.



“You’ll never get the pharmaceutical industry to pay to take back drugs.’ That was the hardest, but we did it, and it paves the way for the rest to come a lot easier.”

- Heidi Sanborn, TIME Magazine

Flushable Wipes

In 2019, NSAC was requested to co-sponsor [Assembly Bill 1672 \(Bloom\)](#) for proper labeling of “flushable” wipes with “Do Not Flush” and accompanying moniker, and public education campaign about not flushing wet wipes, by the [California Association of Sanitation Agencies](#) (CASA). NSAC and CASA negotiated with the industry for months, coming to a mutual agreement on the bill language which had passed the Assembly and was in the Senate. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the bill died in the Senate Appropriations Committee. It will be reintroduced in early 2021.



NSAC also hosted a nationally attended webinar featuring speakers including legislators such as California's [Assemblymember Richard Bloom](#) and Washington's [Representative Joe Fitzgibbon](#), federal legislative staff for [Representative Alan Lowenthal](#), and representatives from [National Association of Clean Water Agencies](#) and CASA.



Packaging and Bottle Bills

NSAC has become more engaged in the packaging and “bottle bill” space, including:

- Collaborating with Senator Udall and Representative Lowenthal’s staff on the federal plastic and packaging waste pollution legislation.
- Working with the [Changing Markets Foundation](#) on a legislative strategy to fix California’s bottle bill to make it a Best In Class program.
- Working closely with the Authors of [Senate Bill 54](#) and [Assembly Bill 1080](#) in California, their staff, and key stakeholders. NSAC also supports the plastics tax ballot initiative, primarily funded by Recology.



Carpet and Other Textiles

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

- Organizing carpet recycling stakeholders to strategize on next steps after the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) ceased voluntary subsidy payments across the U.S., except in states with product stewardship legislated programs, such as California.
- Assisting and supporting carpet recycling programs and legislation.
- 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 and other textiles.
- Hosted a nationally attended webinar on textile waste which included speakers from sustainable clothing brand [Outerknown](#), and [ChicoBag](#).



Tobacco Waste

NSAC led the country in educating about 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 ([Senate Bill 424, Jackson](#)) to prohibit the sale of single-use cigarette filters, tiparillos, e-cigarettes, and require producer-funded take-back of rechargeable e-cigarettes. However, the bill died in August 2020 and was never taken for a vote in the Assembly due to the thinning of bills because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill will likely be reintroduced in early 2021.
- Hosted a nationally attended webinar on producer responsibility for tobacco waste, featuring speakers from federal legislative staff for Senator Tom Udall, Sidewalk Buttler for collection receptacles, and California Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, author of SB 424.



Medicine and Needle Stewardship



*DHCS Grant Safe
Medicine Disposal Bin*

NSAC worked with the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) to promote safe medicine disposal through the [Don’t Rush to Flush, Meds in the Bin We All Win](#) Campaign. In addition to sharing information on NSAC’s listserv and social media profiles, in December 2019 NSAC hosted a nationally attended webinar on pharmaceutical and sharps waste management.

NSAC also assisted CPSC with a \$3,000,000 grant project funded by the California Department of Health Care Services to install up to 300 safe medicine disposal bins across the State. NSAC facilitated a partnership with [Inmar Intelligence](#) and [Albertsons](#), which installed over 200 bins in Albertsons, Safeway, Von’s, and Pavilions stores in CA as part of the grant project. Inmar and NSAC are now collaborating to expand safe medicine disposal in other states.

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



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 Arizona, Kansas, Colorado, Texas, Wisconsin, and more, selling and refilling reusables at these locations that were strategically selected due to their proximity to participating REI stores. There are now over 400 retailers participating in RFYF, including Yosemite National Park, which can be found on the RFYF [website map](#).



Awards

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.

NAHMMA is one of NSAC's collaborating NGOs and the two organizations support one another's work year-round. NSAC is also a significant contributor to the annual NAHMMA conferences, presenting on numerous panels and hosting the Annual Arrow Awards during their awards ceremony.



Board President David Stitzhal, Staff Jordan Wells, Secretary Constance Hornig, U-Haul Representative Jeremy Bonner, Vice-President Tim Goncharoff, Executive Director Heidi Sanborn



Heidi Sanborn Presenting the 2019 Golden Arrow Award at NAHMMA National 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

natracare®



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

Over 2,500 Followers!

The NSAC website 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, packaging, “flushable” wipes, cannabis waste, and solar panels.

Financial Information

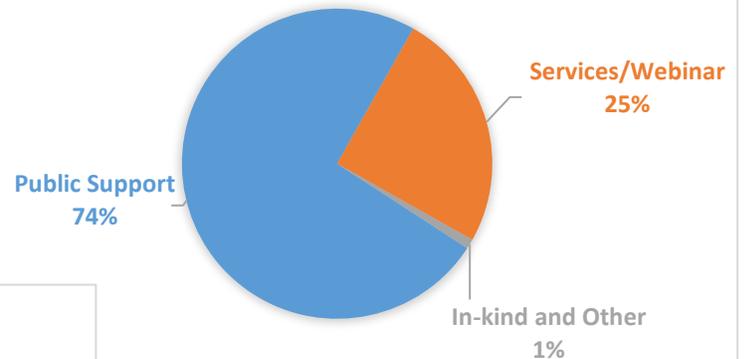
Financially, fiscal year 2019-2020 proved challenging for everyone with the arrival of COVID-19. An additional challenge for NSAC in its 5th year we added two full-time staff. Despite these challenges, we achieved impressive growth of 50% and many program accomplishments. We worked on several grants totaling \$24,075 from the Stichting Changing Markets Foundation. We received general funding of \$293,234 from corporate, foundation and individual donors and another \$6,075 from webinar revenues. We earned a total of \$323,384 in revenue and incurred \$336,597 in expenses. We spent 75% of our expenses on direct program work which is less than the prior FY but it was due to the organizations growth. We ended the year with a \$13,213 decrease in net assets.

Despite COVID 19, our financial outlook for the upcoming fiscal year is strong with revenue budgeted at over \$369,200. We anticipate receiving additional funding throughout the year and maintaining or increasing contributions during this upcoming fiscal year. We will continue to apply a high percentage of our funding toward program expenses and expect to be back at 80% or greater in FY 20/21 and will keep fundraising and management expenses to a minimum. We have budgeted a small increase in net assets for FY 20/21. Our future is bright.

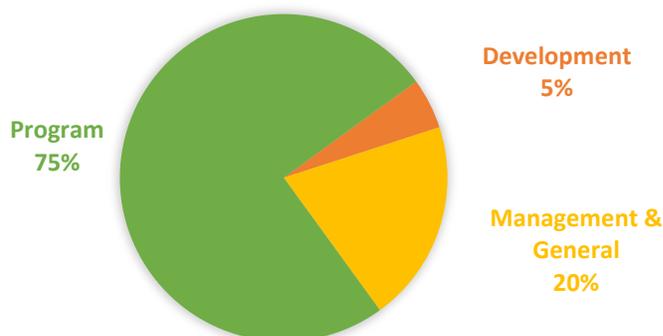
Patty Garbarino
Treasurer, Board of Directors

Funding Sources & Efficiency

SOURCES OF REVENUE



PROGRAMMATIC EFFICIENCY



Connecting Labor, Business, Local Government, Environmental Leaders, Elected Officials, & Policymakers

In 2019, NSAC became a member of the [California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy \(CFEE\)](#) Board of Directors, a foundation that facilitates solutions-oriented and nonpartisan dialogue on California's fundamental challenges. CFEE organizes discussion forums and study travel projects that are designed to maximize engagement and collaboration to move the needle on complex public policy. In 2019, CFEE hosted its first recycling/waste management study tour to Vancouver, British Columbia, and Seattle, WA. In 2020, the second recycling study trip will take place, taking legislators and other key decision makers to Seattle, WA and Portland, OR in October 2020.



A Diverse and Active Board

In June 2020, we began actively seeking more diverse representatives for NSAC's our Board and Advisory Board. In July 2020, NSAC sat five new Board Members and six Advisors, nine of which are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color. Our newest Board Members include the following five highly skilled and seasoned professionals.



*Maia Corbitt,
Texans for Clean Water*



*Michael Simpson,
Los Angeles Sanitation
and Environment*



*Nicholas Oliver,
State of California Department
of Consumer Affairs*



*Rubi Rajbanshi,
Terrascope Consulting*



*Eric Zetz,
Merced County Association
of Governments*

The NSAC Board now better represents the communities we serve and the world we live in, and we are continually working to incorporate social justice into the work we do. In addition, the NSAC Board represents a variety of industries and professions, including government, foundations, legal experts, and consultants. Lastly, with Members and Advisors in all parts of the country, we also have diverse geographic representation.

NSAC Board Members are extremely active and there are two Advisory Committees that the [13 Board Members and 15 Advisors](#) can sit on, Policy and Operations. Board Members are very involved in the policy decisions and execution of projects for the organization.

What's Next

Over the last five 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.

In 2021, NSAC will be working closely with stakeholders from across the Country and legislators to pass national, state, and local legislation that drives a circular economy. We will be focusing our efforts where we feel the political landscape and stakeholder groups are eager to achieve a circular economy. If you are interested in NSAC working in your region, please contact us.

At NSAC, we are working to create a sustainable organization that can withstand the uncertainties of global pandemics and impacted economies. 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. Please join us to support our advocating for a circular economy.**

Connect with Us

Help us help you. **Share our posts for NSAC** and the [ReFuel Your Fun](#) Campaigns!



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twitter.com/NSACTION_US



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



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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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