

REVOLUTIONIZING RECYCLING

THE FUTURE OF EPR IN THE U.S.

Waste in the environment, including plastic waste, is never acceptable.

America's Plastic Makers® are working toward an ambitious circular economy goal of 100% of U.S. plastic packaging being re-used, recycled, or recovered by 2040.

To improve the recycling rate for plastics, the recycling system must be improved and modernized.

Extended producer responsibility is a policy tool used to fund infrastructure improvements to fill the gaps in the current recycling system for all materials, including plastic.

Effective EPR must include:



Infrastructure buildout: EPR legislation should aim to invest in the necessary infrastructure to increase the recycling rate (i.e. capture rate of materials) through improved access, collection, sortation, and education.



Technological neutrality: All forms of recycling (i.e., mechanical and advanced recycling) are included. Advanced recycling must count toward the recycling rate and recycled content.



Certification: Plastics that are independently certified should qualify as recycled plastics in the EPR system.



Mass balance recognition: Recycled plastics may be attributed through a mass balance accounting system.



Special assessment: The producer responsibility organization may utilize a special assessment to support the infrastructure to increase the recycling rate for specific items.



Open material markets: Programs must establish fair, open, and competitive markets for post-use plastic materials within EPR systems.

EPR must not contain the following:



Material switching or production caps: Policies that encourage material switching through unachievable requirements or production caps.



Non-EPR provisions: Policies, including bans or restrictions on resins, plastic products or chemistries, with little nexus to recycling or are more appropriately addressed in other regulations.



Principles for collective support of EPR also include the following:



Cost allocation.

Cost allocated by material/ packaging type, weight, and attribution pursuant to a needs assessment.



Fees support plan.

Fees would fund access, collection, education, and infrastructure to achieve the plan's goals.



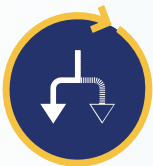
PRO governance.

A PRO must be producer-led, empowered to execute activities needed for successful outcomes and oversee a needs assessment.



Eco-modulated fees.

Fees are based on the weight of the packaging and other factors focused on the material's environmental impact.



Secondary sortation.

Secondary sortation specifically authorized.



Sunset.

Once assessment-identified goals are achieved, the PRO plan would terminate.



New product or material pathway.

To encourage market innovation, transitional requirements for newly developed products and materials.



Exemptions.

When required to support public health and supply chain needs critical for U.S. interests.