

EPR FOR PACKAGING & PAPER PRODUCTS

A statewide Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law and policy designed to benefit residents and the environment in Illinois by providing greater access to recycling and a statewide education program.

HOW WILL IT WORK IN ILLINOIS?

The state adopts an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law that requires companies to pay for recycling programs for their packaging and paper products. It requires recycling programs to be provided to single and multi-family residences, state and local agencies, public and private schools, and public spaces, which are considered "covered entities."



Producers form one or more independent nonprofit Producer Responsibility Organizations (PRO) to develop and implement a program plan. The PRO will manage the collection and distribution of funds to increase and improve recycling and meet the various performance requirements of the law.



The PRO conducts a statewide needs assessment following a scope of work approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to identify existing infrastructure, service gaps and needs, and develop a cost estimate for implementing a statewide recycling program. Based on this data, the PRO develops a five-year program plan to meet the recycling goals of 45% by 2030 and 50% by 2035 for covered materials as defined by the law.



Producers pay annual membership dues to the PRO based on the amount and type of packaging and paper products annually purchased in Illinois. The dues are structured to incentivize producers to reduce unnecessary packaging and use greener, more recyclable materials. Dues cover 100% of the costs to provide convenient, effective recycling services statewide -- including collection, processing, and marketing of recyclables.



The PRO must provide free and convenient recycling of packaging and paper products to all residents and covered entities across the state. This is accomplished through contracts with private haulers administered by the PRO or through reimbursement payments to local governments for their contracted or self-performed programs. The law establishes a statewide list of what is recyclable and must be accepted in the covered recycling system. The PRO must fund and provide recycling education programs throughout the state.



The IEPA will oversee the program and approve the PRO plan. A multi-stakeholder advisory committee will review and make recommendations to the PRO and IEPA on the needs assessment, PRO plan, plan implementation, and other programmatic decisions. The PRO will reimburse the state for administrative and oversight costs.



The program will be developed over a few years - if the law is enacted in 2023, full implementation would occur in July 2026. The PRO annually submits suggested plan changes and progress reports to the IEPA, including data on recycling rates, investments made to improve recycling, the use of recycled content in products, and third-party audited financial reports. The program plan is updated every five years and annual reports are required to be submitted to the IEPA after each program year.



For more information, visit the Illinois Product Stewardship Council.

www.illinoispsc.org

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