



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Extended Producer Responsibility Commission

MEETING 6

Wednesday, October 29, 2025 | 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
100 Cambridge Street, 2nd floor conference room | Boston
and via Zoom

Housekeeping



Housekeeping: roll call

Member	Agency / organization
CHAIR: John Beling	Deputy Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Rep. Christine Barber	House Chair, Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Appointee, Massachusetts House of Representatives
Sen. Mike Barrett	Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Energy, and Utilities
Sharon Byrne Kishida	Nominee, Senate Minority Leader
Leigh-Anne Cole	Executive Director, Community Action Works
Jose Delgado	Arise for Social Justice
Janet Domenitz	Executive Director, MassPIRG
Lew Dubuque	Vice President, Northeast Chapter, National Waste and Recycling Association
Magda Garncarz	Vice President of Government Affairs, Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Sarah Kalish	Executive Office of Economic Development
Kris Callahan	Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
David Melly	Legislative Director, Environmental League of Massachusetts
Conor O'Shaughnessy	Budget Director and Environmental Policy Analyst, Office of Representative Bradley Jones, House Minority Leader
Andrew Potter	Chair, Select Board, Town of West Stockbridge
Catherine Ratte	Director, Land Use and Environment Department, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Bill Rennie	Senior Vice President, Retailers Association of Massachusetts
Neil Rhein	Executive Director, Keep Massachusetts Beautiful
Waneta Trabert	Vice President, MassRecycle
Tracy Triplett	Senior Enforcement Counsel, Office of Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell
Abbie Webb	Vice President of Sustainability, Casella Waste Management

Note: the DEP is still seeking an individual to fill one vacancy



Housekeeping: staff and consultants

Staff/consultant	Organization
Greg Cooper	Director, Hazardous and Solid Waste, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
John Fischer	Deputy Director, Hazardous and Solid Waste, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Courtney Rainey	Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Government Affairs, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Julie McNeill	Attorney, Bureau of Air and Waste, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Jennifer Haugh	Vice President of Planning, GreenerU



Review of meeting goals and agenda

Wednesday, October 29, 2025
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Goals

- Roll call, approve agenda, and minutes
- Vote on battery recommendation
- Discuss electronics EPR recommendation
- Level set on past and present packaging EPR efforts
- Hear ideas, concerns, support
- Identify and discuss support for proposed packaging EPR recommendations

Agenda

- Roll call
- Approval of agenda and minutes
- Vote on battery recommendation
- Discussion on electronics EPR and vote using scale of agreement
- Presentation: overview of packaging EPR
- Presentation: packaging in Mass
- Clarifying questions
- Discussion: proposed packaging EPR recommendation
- Public input
- Next steps



Approval of agenda and minutes

- Adopt October 29 meeting agenda
- Adopt September 27 meeting minutes
 - Proposed changes to September 27 meeting minutes: none submitted



EPR Commission process update

	paint	mattresses	batteries	electronics	packaging
temperature check	☒ Jun 18, 2025		☒ Jul 16, 2025	☐ Oct 29, 2025	☐ Oct 29, 2025
initial vote	☒ Jun 18, 2025	☒ Sep 17, 2025	☐ Oct 29, 2025	☐ Dec 9, 2025	☐ Dec 9, 2025
final vote	☐ Dec 9, 2025	☐ Dec 9, 2025	☐ Dec 9, 2025	☐ Dec 9, 2025	☐ Dec 9, 2025

Battery EPR recommendation



EPR Commission recommendation on batteries

The Commission recommends that the Massachusetts Legislature enact legislation to establish an extended producer responsibility program for batteries. The Commission recommends the development and implementation of a program that aligns with PRBA—The Rechargeable Battery Association model EPR legislation to the greatest extent possible.

The Commission acknowledges proposed battery EPR legislation under consideration before the Massachusetts legislature at the time of this recommendation—H.968 and S.556—but does not endorse any specific bill.

The Commission recommends consideration of the following:

- As movement on EPR for batteries in other states is rapidly evolving to address various issues such as management of damaged, defective, recalled (DDR) batteries, embedded batteries in products, and proper collection and management solutions, harmonization of state programs will serve states and industry.
- Impacts of any restriction on parties outside the EPR program from collecting batteries through existing infrastructures should be considered.



Roll call vote on batteries EPR recommendation

Member	Agency / organization
CHAIR: John Beling	Deputy Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Rep. Christine Barber	House Chair, Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Appointee, Massachusetts House of Representatives
Sen. Mike Barrett	Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Energy, and Utilities
Sharon Byrne Kishida	Nominee, Senate Minority Leader
Leigh-Anne Cole	Executive Director, Community Action Works
Jose Delgado	Arise for Social Justice
Janet Domenitz	Executive Director, MassPIRG
Lew Dubuque	Vice President, Northeast Chapter, National Waste and Recycling Association
Magda Garncarz	Vice President of Government Affairs, Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Sarah Kalish	Executive Office of Economic Development
Kris Callahan	Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
David Melly	Legislative Director, Environmental League of Massachusetts
Conor O'Shaughnessy	Budget Director and Environmental Policy Analyst, Office of Representative Bradley Jones, House Minority Leader
Andrew Potter	Chair, Select Board, Town of West Stockbridge
Catherine Ratte	Director, Land Use and Environment Department, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Bill Rennie	Senior Vice President, Retailers Association of Massachusetts
Neil Rhein	Executive Director, Keep Massachusetts Beautiful
Waneta Trabert	Vice President, MassRecycle
Tracy Triplett	Senior Enforcement Counsel, Office of Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell
Abbie Webb	Vice President of Sustainability, Casella Waste Management

Electronics EPR recommendation



EPR Commission discussion on electronics recommendation

The Commission endorses enactment of legislation to establish an extended producer responsibility program for electronics. The Commission recommends the development and implementation of a program that aligns with existing programs in other states to the greatest extent possible.

The Commission acknowledges proposed electronics EPR legislation under consideration before the Massachusetts legislature at the time of this recommendation—H.1015 and S.653—but does not endorse any specific bill.

Specific recommendations on elements to include in electronic EPR legislation are as follows:

Covered products	Computers, laptops, tablets, monitors, televisions, printers, computer peripherals; in 2026 to include fax machines, DVD players, VCRs, portable music players, game consoles, digital converter boxes, cable/satellite receivers, scanners, small-scale servers, routers, modems
Covered entities	Households, schools, government, small business
Performance goal	Convenience standard and target reduction of electronics in the waste stream
Collection/recycling service	Must include municipal electronics collection points
Financial structure	No fee to covered entity. Funding covered by producer based on market share of total cost, including orphaned electronics.
Recycling standards	Entities processing electronics on behalf of producers must have E-stewards, R2 certification or equivalent
Outreach and education	Comprehensive outreach and education plan by producers



Temperature check on electronics EPR recommendation

SCALE OF AGREEMENT				
ADAPTED FROM KANER ET AL.				
1	2	3	4	5
WHOLE-HEARTEDLY AGREE	AGREEMENT WITH A MINOR POINT OF CONTENTION	SUPPORT WITH RESERVATION	MORE DISCUSSION NEEDED	SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT
"I really like it"	"Not perfect but it's pretty good"	"I could live with it"	"There are small concerns to discuss before I could support"	"I am not on board with this"
VOTE BELOW				



Temperature check on electronics EPR recommendation

Member	Agency / organization
CHAIR: John Beling	Deputy Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Rep. Christine Barber	House Chair, Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Appointee, Massachusetts House of Representatives
Sen. Mike Barrett	Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Energy, and Utilities
Sharon Byrne Kishida	Nominee, Senate Minority Leader
Leigh-Anne Cole	Executive Director, Community Action Works
Jose Delgado	Arise for Social Justice
Janet Domenitz	Executive Director, MassPIRG
Lew Dubuque	Vice President, Northeast Chapter, National Waste and Recycling Association
Magda Garncarz	Vice President of Government Affairs, Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Sarah Kalish	Executive Office of Economic Development
Kris Callahan	Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
David Melly	Legislative Director, Environmental League of Massachusetts
Conor O'Shaughnessy	Budget Director and Environmental Policy Analyst, Office of Representative Bradley Jones, House Minority Leader
Andrew Potter	Chair, Select Board, Town of West Stockbridge
Catherine Ratte	Director, Land Use and Environment Department, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Bill Rennie	Senior Vice President, Retailers Association of Massachusetts
Neil Rhein	Executive Director, Keep Massachusetts Beautiful
Waneta Trabert	Vice President, MassRecycle
Tracy Triplett	Senior Enforcement Counsel, Office of Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell
Abbie Webb	Vice President of Sustainability, Casella Waste Management

Presentations: packaging EPR



Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) 101



In early 2024, Minnesota became the fifth state to establish an extended producer responsibility (EPR) law for packaging and paper products.

EPR policies incentivize more sustainable design and hold producers responsible for reducing the environmental impacts of the items they produce and managing them throughout the entire life cycle.

Outcomes

- ✓ Require packaging and paper products to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable by 2032.
- ✓ Reduce customer's cost of recycling by at least 90%.
- ✓ Incentivize sustainable packaging.
- ✓ Expand options for refill and reuse.
- ✓ Expand recycling service access and convenience.
- ✓ Simplify and standardize recycling across the state by establishing a universal recycling list.

What materials are covered?

Covered materials include:



Packaging – *materials to transport, market, protect, or handle a product*



Food packaging – *materials to market, protect, handle, deliver, serve, contain, or store food and beverages*



Paper products – *excluding bound books or products deemed unsafe or unsanitary to handle by recycling and composting facilities*

Exempt materials

- Includes a list of specific exemptions primarily focused on packaging related to drug or medical devices, certain hazardous products, and materials managed through another program (e.g., PaintCare). It also includes news and magazine publications of a certain circulation limit.
- Defines a process where the MPCA can approve additional exemptions if a specific federal or state health and safety requirement prevents the material from being reduced or made reusable, recyclable, or compostable.



By 2032 all covered materials must be refillable, reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

Acceptable material collection lists



Recyclable



Compostable



Alternative collection

What are the program outcomes?



Developed by the MPCA – overarching statewide requirements for:

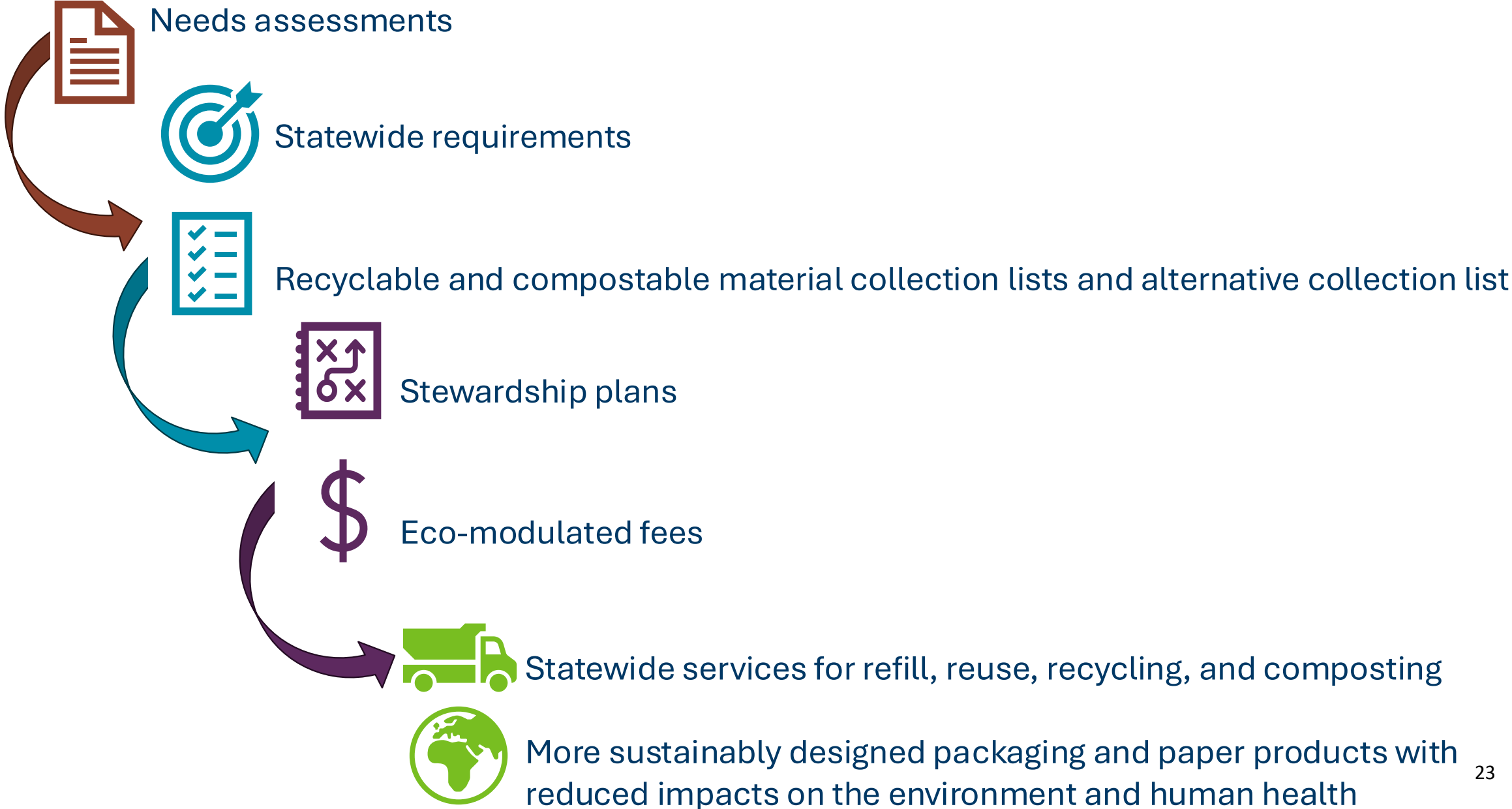
- Recycling rate, Composting rate, Reuse rate, Return rate
- % of covered materials to be reduced overall
- % of postconsumer recycled content to be used, as applicable by materials



Proposed by the PRO – material specific performance targets to benchmark to the statewide requirements:

- Recycling rate, Composting rate, Reuse rate, Return rate
- % of covered materials to be reduced overall
- % of postconsumer recycled content to be used, as applicable by materials

How does the program work?





Advisory Board

The advisory board provides recommendations and oversight of both the PRO and the agency on program implementation.



Producers

Producers must establish a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) and pay fees to the PRO based on what is sold into Minnesota.

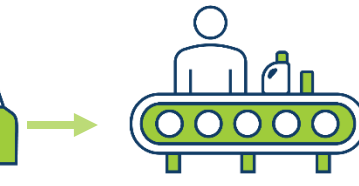


Producer Responsibility Organization

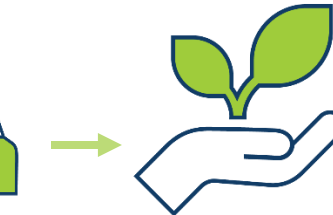
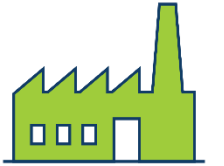
The PRO puts together a plan and reimburses costs of the reuse, recycling, and composting of covered materials.

Service Providers

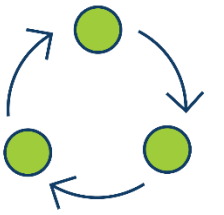
Examples include haulers, recycling facilities, and cities that contract for collection services.



Recycle



Compost



Reuse



Provide oversight and enforcement requirements

Establish statewide requirements (goals)



Complete needs Assessment



Create state-wide lists



2025-2026



Winter 2027

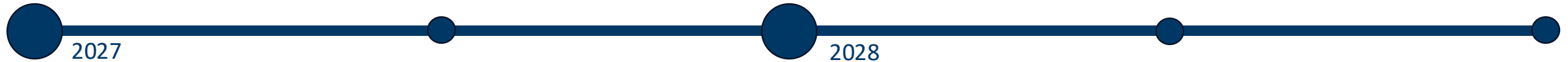
MPCA initiates effort to set:

1. Statewide Requirements
2. Recyclable/compostable lists
3. Alternative collection list

Oct. 1, 2028

Stewardship plan due
to MPCA (every five
years). **Oct. 2028**

Advisory Board
vacancies posted for
those with four-year
terms.



Summer 2028

PRO to provide draft plan to
Advisory Board, PRO for
review (min. 60 days.)
Comments must be addressed
in final plan submitted to
MPCA.

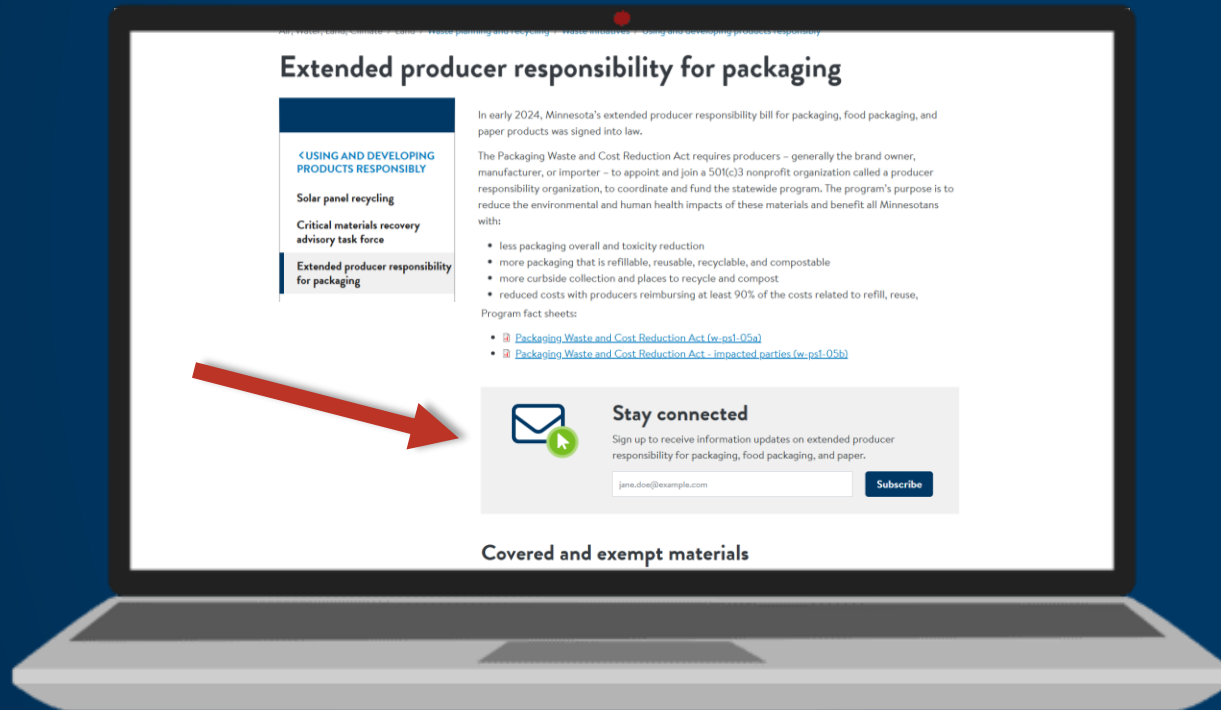
Fall 2028

MPCA to review plan
(within 120 days),
including a 45-day
public comment

Anticipated rulemaking process
for the statewide requirements
and collection lists. Rulemaking
is at minimum a year-and-a-half
process.

Program updates

- ✓ MPCA Program staff hired: Mallory Anderson (program lead), Molly Flynn (program admin), Quinn Carr (data analyst)
- ✓ 18-member advisory board appointed; monthly meetings ongoing
- ✓ Initial service provider registration is live
- ✓ Producers appointed Circular Action Alliance (CAA) as the packaging producer responsibility organization (PRO) and MPCA confirmed registration
- ✓ CAA is working to support producers in complying with the July 1, 2025 registration deadline



In process: Eunomia contracted for preliminary assessment (2025) and initial needs assessment (2026) to gather data to inform program



Circular
Action
Alliance®

MassDEP: EPR Commission – Plastics and Packaging

October 29, 2025

CAA Overview

The U.S. PRO – Circular Action Alliance

- Circular Action Alliance (CAA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit PRO dedicated to implementing effective EPR laws for paper and packaging in the U.S.
- CAA has 24 Founding Members, representing the food, beverage, consumer goods, and retail industries.
- CAA has been approved to be the single PRO in California, Colorado, Maryland, Minnesota and Oregon.



CAA's Mission

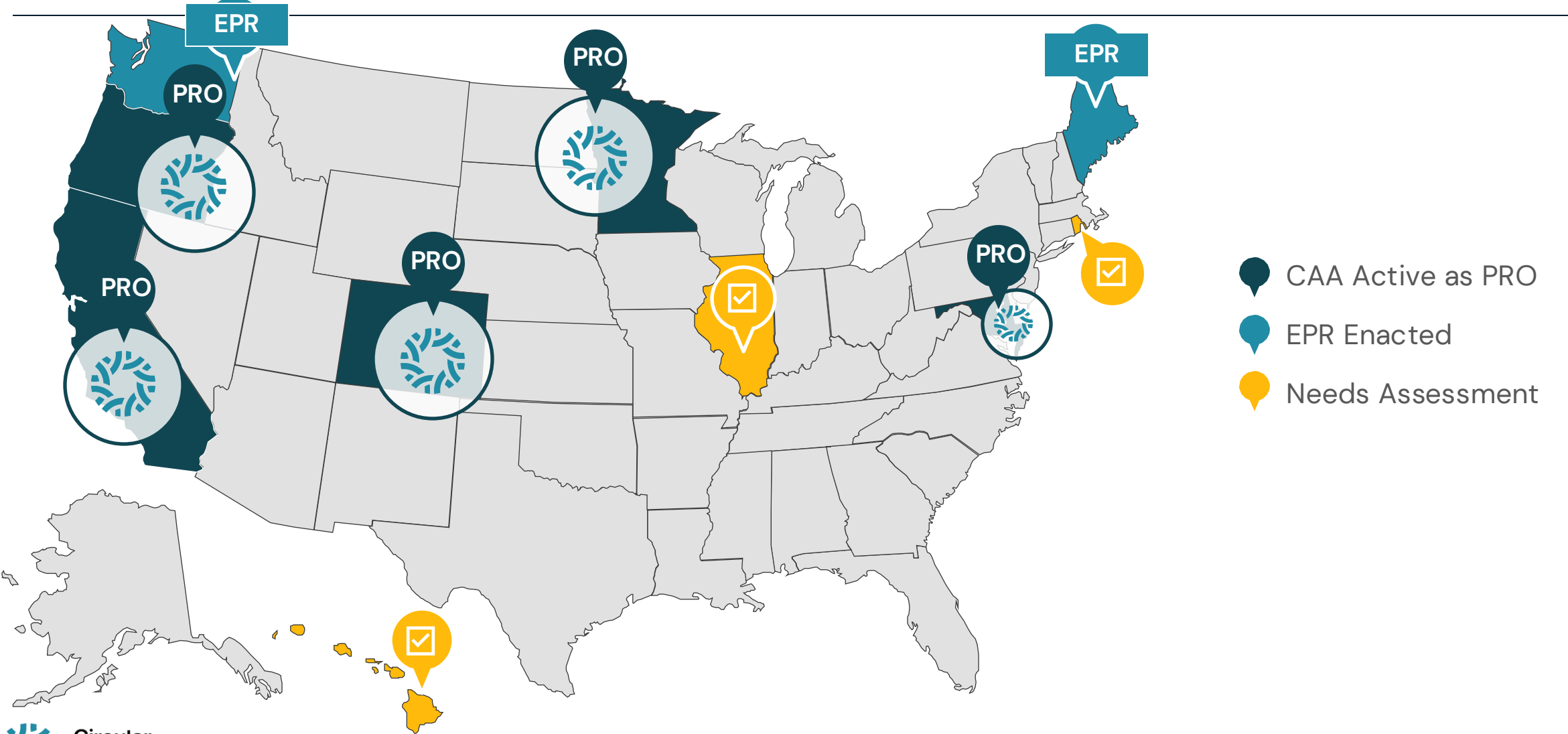
- CAA's mission is to help producers comply with EPR laws, deliver harmonized, best-in-class services and work with governments, businesses and communities to reduce waste and recycle more.

CAA will:

- Meet state-specific regulatory requirements;
- Leverage existing recycling systems and infrastructure; and
- Advance the circularity of covered materials through collaboration with local governments, service providers, and recycling system interest holders.



Packaging EPR in the US



U.S. EPR

EPR Across U.S. States

	Covered Materials	Sectors	Full or Partial Recycling System Funding?
CALIFORNIA	• Packaging • Plastic foodservice ware	• Consumer Packaging • IC&I	• Partial (new or incremental)
OREGON	• Packaging • Printing and writing paper • Foodservice ware	• Consumer Packaging • IC&I*	• Partial (capital for collection; MRF payments and operation of PRO depot network)
COLORADO	• Packaging • Paper products • Foodservice ware	• Consumer Packaging • Limited IC&I*	• Full (100% of the net cost of recycling services)
MINNESOTA	• Packaging • Paper products • Foodservice ware	• Consumer Packaging • Limited IC&I**	• Partial (but increasing)
MARYLAND	• Packaging • Paper products • Foodservice ware	• Consumer packaging • Limited IC&I**	• Partial (but increasing)
MAINE	• Packaging • Some foodservice ware	• Consumer Packaging • Limited IC&I**	• Full
WASHINGTON	• Packaging • Paper products • Foodservice ware	• Consumer packaging • Limited IC&I**	• Partial (but increasing)

*Potentially subject to change.

**May include small businesses, public spaces, schools, childcare centers, non-profit, and government-operated buildings.

State Updates

State Updates – Oregon



- CAA Oregon launched its program on July 1 this year.
- On Aug. 8, 2025, CAA submitted a REMs amendment to the program plan.
- CAA will be supporting the development of a national standard for REMs as part of the amendment proposal.
- Oregon's statewide education and outreach campaign launched on Aug. 1 including video, radio, online and social media . Residents and businesses can find clear guidance, accepted materials lists, and program updates at RecycleOn.org/Oregon.
- On Sept. 12, 2025, DEQ approved the Bonus C program plan amendment, with a few directed changes. Producer guidance is in development for November.
- Rulemaking 3 is expected to continue through Feb. 2027.

State Updates – ME and MD



- Maine’s Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) released draft final rules amending Chapter 428: Stewardship Program for Packaging. Revisions cover changes due to passage of LD 1423 (clean-up bill passed in June) and add the first Packaging Material Types List.
- There was a public hearing on Oct. 16 and comments were due Oct. 27. Final rules are expected in December 2025.
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued by Maine later this year (previously slated for September) to select the Stewardship Organization responsible for managing the state’s EPR program.



- CAA is the appointed PRO and serves as the PRO representative on Maryland’s Producer Responsibility Advisory Council.
- Maryland intends to release its first rulemaking this fall that will be focused on the covered materials list and exemptions.
- Producers will register with CAA spring 2026 and CAA must register with Maryland by July 1, 2026.
- CAA must submit the 5-year program plan to Maryland by July 2028.

State Updates – MN and WA



- Producers were required to register with CAA by July 1, 2025. C
- Minnesota's preliminary needs assessment is due December 2025. The full needs assessment is due December 2026. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is required to consult with CAA on the Needs Assessment process.
- CAA is required to submit its 5-year Program Plan by Oct. 1, 2028.



- Producers must appoint a PRO by January 1, 2026 and the Department of Ecology must form an advisory council by January 2026.
- The PRO must register with the Department by March 1, 2026.
- Washington's needs assessment is due December 2026.
- The PRO is required to submit its 5-year Program Plan by Oct 1, 2028

State Updates – CA and CO



- CalRecycle issued a new version of the SB 54 draft regulations on Aug. 22, commencing the 45-day formal rulemaking comment period.
- CAA's California reporting portal, Interim State Addendum, early fee range estimates, and producer guidance are live in the portal. The 2025 California Baseline Producer Report (2023 Data Year) is due Nov. 15.
- The California team started a series of public consultations on Program Plan elements.



- CAA Colorado has released its dues schedule for 2026 and preliminary eco-modulation justification guidance will be released at the end of October.
- The Program Plan has been submitted and we are now awaiting the conclusion of the CPDHE's review process.
- Expect approval decision will be made in December with a program launch date of June 2026.

Key Opportunities & Challenges

CAA Policy Playbook

CAA will release a policy playbook in the coming weeks outlining the best opportunities for regulators to harmonize their approaches.

- Harmonizing state approaches will:
 - Help ensure the successful implementation of laws
 - Reduce the time it takes to implement a program
 - Increase the impact of laws and regulations
 - Reduce unnecessary producer burden
 - Provide a clear template for states considering enacting EPR laws.

Policy Playbook Recommendations

- Implementation timing and sequencing
- Needs assessments
- Advisory boards
- Fee-setting
- Eco-modulation
- Reimbursement
- Responsible end markets & other standards
- Definition of recycling and measurement of recycling rates
- Producer definition and de minimis producers
- Covered materials
- Scope of obligation
- Compostable packaging & food service ware
- Reuse & refill

The Value of Harmonization

CAA established Strategic Operating Principles to advance harmonization and guide the organization's work in developing and implementing program plans.



Strategic Operating Principle:

Deliver cost-efficient extended producer responsibility services through scale of operations, **harmonization of service delivery**, and program planning consistency across states wherever possible.

Therefore:

- Scale and program planning consistency create harmonization.
- Harmonization generally leads to cost-effectiveness.

Harmonization = Reduction of Administrative Burden (i.e., cost/effort)

Ideal EPR

Item	Ideal EPR
Producer Definition	Harmonized across states, enshrined early (preferably in the law) and crystal clear
Covered materials	- Established before needs assessment and program plan - Harmonized across states - Scope: start with residential, then move to commercial material
Timing	4-5 years to implement program
	Sequenced obligations: - PRO appointment – within 3 months of law passing - Producer registration – within 3 months of state approving PRO - Producer Reporting – standardized May 31 deadline for annual producer reporting
	Need Assessment – Conducted by the PRO / must occur ahead of (not during) program plan development (informs the plan)
	Eco-modulation – after the program is in operation and producers are prepared for eco-modulation reporting
Financing	Early fee collection: - Fee collection (start-up) – within 6 months of state approving PRO - Fee collection (long-term) – annually after launch
PRO independence	PRO should establish: - Reporting categories - Fee-setting approach and fee schedule

The Case for Harmonization: Eco-Modulation

The Mechanics of Eco-Modulation

- Producers report, by covered material category, the amount and type of covered materials they supply into a state.
- Producers pay fees by covered material category.



- Bonuses and maluses can be applied to a covered material category or to the producer.
- Targeted maluses are challenging as it requires making a decision based upon design factors, which may have varying levels of agreement. As a result, maluses can be more easily applied to categories.

Key Requirement: Harmonization

Issue	Rationale
Timing: Implement eco-modulation following the launch of the program and the stabilization of producer reporting.	• Eco-modulation criteria should evolve over time as producers establish reporting systems and processes (ideally over several years). • To avoid unintended consequences, PROs need producer reporting and fees to stabilize after the first few years of operation (i.e., onboarding late-comers, adjusting producer reports, etc.). • Laws should provide producers time to change their packaging in response to eco-modulation. • Likewise, PROs require time to contemplate investments in collection and processing to reduce environmental impacts.

Requirements are inconsistent across states, forcing producers to choose between conflicting approaches.

The PRO should have the ability to design harmonized eco-modulation criteria that apply across states.

Potential Harmonized Eco-Modulation Criteria

Potential Harmonized Criteria

- **Collection and Recycling Rates**
- **Recyclability and Eco-Design**
- **PCR Content**
- **Source Reduction**



Considerations for Selections

- Align with EPR principles and objectives
- Promote material circularity and drive environmental outcomes
- Are practical to measure and/or supported by design and verification standards
- Are commonly found in most, if not all state EPR programs to promote scalability for producers

Impact Dilution

- There are numerous potential ways a PRO could modulate fees on packaging.
- For eco-modulation to have impact, PROs must target a small number of factors that are consistent across jurisdictions to allow producers to adapt their packaging at scale.
- The more factors states introduce, the greater the inconsistency and the less likely producers are to change packaging to support reduced environmental impact.



standardization returnable water-use refill-systems
design-efficiency simplicity hazardous-free pollution-risk
secondary-use carbon-footprint biodegradability
additives compatibility modularity energy-use
shelf-life sortability toxicity mono-material
collection-cost lightweighting transparency
labeling durability recycled-content circularity
compostability
life-cycle innovation reuse recyclability overpackaging
disassembly refillable traceability renewable residues
material-value market-compatibility pcr-content
product-ratio

Questions?

Thank You



Info@CircularAction.org



CircularActionAlliance.org



Circular Action Alliance



[@CircActAlliance](#)



[@CircularActionAlliance](#)



Packaging EPR advisory group takeaways

- Two meetings:
 - July 24, 2025—60 attendees
 - August 28, 2025—46 attendees
- In Meeting 1, the group was directed to a Mural board to respond to the following questions:
 - What has worked well so far in Massachusetts re: packaging recycling?
 - What doesn't work?
 - What should a packaging EPR program avoid or include?
 - What additional data would help clarify and inform a Commission recommendation?
 - What questions remain that would help clarify how a packaging EPR program would work in Massachusetts?
- From these were derived a list of next steps and assignments to do further research and develop a basis for a background document with fact-based data.



Packaging EPR advisory group takeaways

- The second meeting involved a discussion that led to additional points in search of clarification:
 - How to define and accurately measure recycling and recovery rates
 - How EPR programs compare in Europe and Canada
 - What impacts packaging EPR programs have on costs
 - Whether opposition for packaging EPR exists among minority/EJ populations
 - How Massachusetts might benefit from a more unified waste and recycling contracting across all 351 municipalities
 - What is contained within the needs assessment bill before the Massachusetts Legislature

Clarifying questions



- What questions do you have for the presenters?

Bio break: 10 minutes

Discussion



- Do you think a plastics and packaging EPR program would work in Massachusetts?
- What are your concerns?
- Does the Commission have other policy recommendations?
- Is there any information missing that requires further research?



Public comment

Thank you for your interest in participating in today's EPR Commission meeting.

Please state your name and affiliation clearly for the record and keep your comments succinct (under three minutes).

Written comments may be submitted through the EPR Commission website:
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/extended-producer-responsibility-commission>

Action



Draft EPR Commission recommendation on packaging EPR

The Commission endorses the concept of EPR for plastics and packaging but recognizes that the process for understanding and translating this into a meaningful recommendation to the legislature is beyond the capacity of this Commission within the timeframe allocated.

Therefore, the Commission recommends that MassDEP be instructed to advance further discussions on EPR plastics and packaging through the establishment of a subcommittee of its Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

The Commission recommends that this include identifying how to proceed with a needs assessment, which would:

- Thoroughly examine the process and program structure pursued by other states working on EPR for plastics and packaging
- Produce a roadmap for concluding what impact plastics and packaging EPR would have a meaningful impact on advancing material recovery on the Commonwealth



Temperature check on packaging EPR recommendation

SCALE OF AGREEMENT				
ADAPTED FROM KANER ET AL.				
1	2	3	4	5
WHOLE-HEARTEDLY AGREE	AGREEMENT WITH A MINOR POINT OF CONTENTION	SUPPORT WITH RESERVATION	MORE DISCUSSION NEEDED	SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT
"I really like it"	"Not perfect but it's pretty good"	"I could live with it"	"There are small concerns to discuss before I could support"	"I am not on board with this"
VOTE BELOW				



Temperature check on packaging EPR recommendation

Member	Agency / organization
CHAIR: John Beling	Deputy Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Rep. Christine Barber	House Chair, Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Appointee, Massachusetts House of Representatives
Sen. Mike Barrett	Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Energy, and Utilities
Sharon Byrne Kishida	Nominee, Senate Minority Leader
Leigh-Anne Cole	Executive Director, Community Action Works
Jose Delgado	Arise for Social Justice
Janet Domenitz	Executive Director, MassPIRG
Lew Dubuque	Vice President, Northeast Chapter, National Waste and Recycling Association
Magda Garncarz	Vice President of Government Affairs, Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Sarah Kalish	Executive Office of Economic Development
Kris Callahan	Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
David Melly	Legislative Director, Environmental League of Massachusetts
Conor O'Shaughnessy	Budget Director and Environmental Policy Analyst, Office of Representative Bradley Jones, House Minority Leader
Andrew Potter	Chair, Select Board, Town of West Stockbridge
Catherine Ratte	Director, Land Use and Environment Department, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Bill Rennie	Senior Vice President, Retailers Association of Massachusetts
Neil Rhein	Executive Director, Keep Massachusetts Beautiful
Waneta Trabert	Vice President, MassRecycle
Tracy Triplett	Senior Enforcement Counsel, Office of Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell
Abbie Webb	Vice President of Sustainability, Casella Waste Management



Next steps

- DEP/GreenerU to finalize and distribute document containing the full suite of product categories and recommendations prior to the December 9, 2025, Commission meeting
- Commission to discuss, revise, and finalize vote on **electronics EPR** and **packaging EPR** and vote on a **final compilation of EPR recommendations** for the Legislature at the December meeting



Next meeting and adjourn

Next meeting:

VOTE ON FINAL EPR RECOMMENDATIONS

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

1–3 p.m.

Agenda, Zoom link, and reading materials will be available at least one week prior to the meeting.