

MASS DEP | EPR COMMISSION
PACKAGING ADVISORY GROUP MEETING 2
Thursday, August 28, 2025 | 10 a.m.–noon
via Zoom

Attendees

- Andrea Albersheim, plastics sustainability policy, American Chemistry Council
- Raza Ali, American Chemistry Council
- Christopher Antonacci, General Counsel, USA Waste and Recycling, Inc.
- Tricia Arrington, public, and member, League of Women Voters
- Alex Baker, National Electrical Manufacturers Association
- Ari Berman, Shawmut Strategies Group
- Peter Bierbaum, One World Resource
- Sara Bixby, National Waste and Recycling Association
- Michelle Blanchard, Casella, Vice Chair, National Waste and Recycling Association, Massachusetts Chapter
- Stephen Boksanski, Massachusetts Beverage Association
- Sharon Byrne Kishida, MassPSC*
- Scott Cassell, Product Stewardship Institute
- Christine Cassidy, Novolex
- Greg Cooper, MassDEP
- Dylan de Thomas, The Recycling Partnership
- Jose Delgado, ARISE for Social Justice*
- William Diamond
- Bree Dietly, Breezeway Consulting, representing the American Beverage Association
- Lew Dubuque, National Waste & Recycling Association
- John Fischer, Deputy Division Director, Solid Waste, MassDEP
- Kyla Fisher, Flexible Packaging Association
- Claire Galkowski, South Shore Recycling Cooperative, MassPSC
- Andrew Hackman, AMERIPEN
- Jennifer Haugh, GreenerU
- Michael Hoffman, CEO, National Waste & Recycling Association
- Jeremy Jones
- Calvin Lakhan, Professor, York University
- Jamie Logan, American Cleaning Institute
- Gregory Melkonian, AMERIPEN
- Sherrie MacWilliams, Amrize Building Envelope
- Tricia McCarthy, William F. Coyne., Jr., Esq. P.C.
- David Melly, Environmental League of Massachusetts*
- Shoshana Micon, American Forest & Paper Association
- Mike Noel
- Jessica Paschal, Eastman
- Carol Patterson, Foodservice Packaging Institute (FPI)
- Ally Peck, Consumer Technology Association
- Kit Sang Boos, UU Climate Action Group
- Chris Sidwa, Urban Mining Industries
- Alex Stockler, The Recycling Partnership
- Waneta Trabert, City of Newton, Sustainable Materials Management Division, and MassRecycle*
- Tracy Triplett, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office*
- Garrett Trierweiler, WasteManagement
- Kierstin Turnock, Eastman

- Abbie Webb, Casella Waste Management*
- Hannah Wise, Issues Management Group

* EPR Commission members

Meeting goals

- Review content supplied since Meeting 1
- Assess missing data
- Discuss preliminary pros and cons of a plastics and packaging EPR approach that the Commission should weigh

Meeting summary: clarification questions

- a. How to define recycling rates of households vs. residential vs. population as a whole?
- b. What is the difference between recovery rate vs. recycling?
- c. Does residential include congregated housing (nursing homes, assisted living, etc.)?
- d. What data do states need to understand the effectiveness of EPR programs and how can they access that data?
- e. How does Circular Action Alliance work? Who's on their board?
- f. Which data is protected and for whom? What promises do CAA make for data security for producers, industry, etc.?
- g. Is the Illinois bill a good model? What is a summary of Oregon's EPR law, which includes wider reforms than just EPR?
- h. What are the differences in how the details of programs compare and contrast between seven states, BC, QB, ON, European countries and which have emerged as best practice?
- i. What are the impacts to consumers in terms of costs? Are there other changes consumers will experience?
- j. Why did Ontario's program costs skyrocket?
- k. Does EPR/PRO system reduce recycling access (Canada)?
- l. What are the municipal administrative costs associated with compliance with EPR law in Canada?
- m. What was Ontario's model that some family businesses went out of business because they were not selected by the PRO? What safeguards do the current Senate bill provide to prevent negative impacts on haulers?
- n. Are there minority groups (Black, Latino) and/or EJ populations that have expressed opposition in other states? Have any states pushed back as a result?
- o. What is the California Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment (CERIA), published June 30, 2025, and how might this influence packaging EPR?
- p. Can the costs of the inefficiency/ineffectiveness of 351 individual waste and recycling contracting across Massachusetts be analyzed and attributed?
- q. Can costs associated with externalities such as the amount of waste entering the environment and carbon emissions be quantified?
- r. What is a summary of the current needs assessment bill and EPR bill in Massachusetts?
- s. What is the disposal capacity crisis in Massachusetts? Where are items being shipped? What are costs of disposal in Massachusetts?