

CA Packaging and Plastic Food Ware Extended Producer Responsibility

Senate Bill 54

(Allen, Chapter 75, Statutes of 2022)

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Cal Recycle 



**One garbage truck
of plastics gets
dumped in our
oceans every
minute.**



Plastic Pollution: It's a Problem

- Packaging is half of what we throw away (by volume)
- Coastal communities spend \$428 million/year to clean up trash
- Microplastics found in our:
 - Air
 - Water
 - Food

The Law's Requirements by 2032

All Types of Packaging and Single-Use Plastic Food Ware



**100%
Recyclable or
Compostable**

Single-Use Plastic Packaging and Food Service Ware



25% Less Overall

65% Recycled



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Packaging EPR

- Producer-funded packaging stewardship program
- Incentivizes source reduction, reuse and recycling
- Shifts costs from local government to industry
- Proven model for paint, mattresses, carpet, sharps and pharmaceuticals
 - Coming: Loose batteries and textiles

Covered Materials

Single-Use Packaging

- All material types: plastic, paper, glass, metal, fiber, etc.
- Specific targets for plastic

Single-Use Plastic Food Service Ware

- Cutlery, clamshells, lids, straws, etc.
- Plastic-coated paper or paperboard
- Wraps, wrappers, or bags used at food service establishments



Where Implementation Stands

On schedule for regulations to be finalized in 2026

- **August 22, 2025:** New rulemaking initiated
- **Early 2026:** Regulations expected to be finalized
- **September 2025:** Updated Covered Material Categories released
- **January 1, 2026:**
 - Statewide Needs Assessment
 - Recyclability updates
- **Following approval of proposed regulations:**
 - CalRecycle updates producer guidance
 - PRO submits producer responsibility plan



Roles & Responsibilities

CalRecycle:

- Sets criteria and adopts regulations
- Reviews and approves PRO plan
- Oversees performance

Producers and their organizations:

- Develop and implement the plan
- Invest in infrastructure and market development
- Fund education and coordinate with jurisdictions and recycling services to:
 - Reduce contamination
 - Increase participation





How to Prepare: Jurisdictions

- Work with PRO on public education to reduce contamination
- Identify infrastructure and market needs for 2026 Statewide Needs Assessment
- Evaluate data and reporting systems for producer-funded tracking
- Update ordinances, franchise agreements, and procurement policies

How to Prepare: Haulers & Recycling Facilities

- Statewide criteria and labeling standards
- Education campaigns to reduce confusion and improve recovery
- Producer-funded sorting technology and investments to modernize operations



How to Prepare: Ratepayers & Businesses

- Statewide rules, less wish-cycling
- More recyclable or compostable packaging
- Stabilized rates
- Transparent reporting



Key Milestones

November 2025:
Work continues on
statutory obligations

June 2026:
PRO plan
submitted to
CalRecycle

2032: Targets in effect

- 25% plastic reduction
- 65% recycled
- 100% recyclable or compostable

January 2026:
Formal rulemaking
completed. Recyclability
updates released.

January 2027:
PRO to implement law
through approved plan

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