



A Public Agency

PUBLIC EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND LEGISLATION

Agenda Item 8A

**SB 54: Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer
Responsibility Act Update Presentation by
Michelle Martin, CalRecycle Deputy Director, Division of Circular
Economy**

No Staff Report Presentation and Discussion Item Only

Attachments:

Attachment A – Presentation: CA Packaging and Plastic Food Ware Extended Producer Responsibility Act

CA Packaging and Plastic Food Ware Extended Producer Responsibility

Senate Bill 54

(Allen, Chapter 75, Statutes of 2022)

Michelle Martin

Deputy Director, Division of Circular Economy



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

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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

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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 full launch in 2027

- **August 2022 - Present:** Formal rulemaking
- **September 2025:** Updated Covered Material Categories released
- **October 2025:** CEQA review and public hearing completed
- **January 2026:** Statewide Needs Assessment and recyclability updates due
- **June 15, 2026:** Circular Action Alliance (PRO) plan due
- **January 1, 2027:** Producer funding takes effect



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



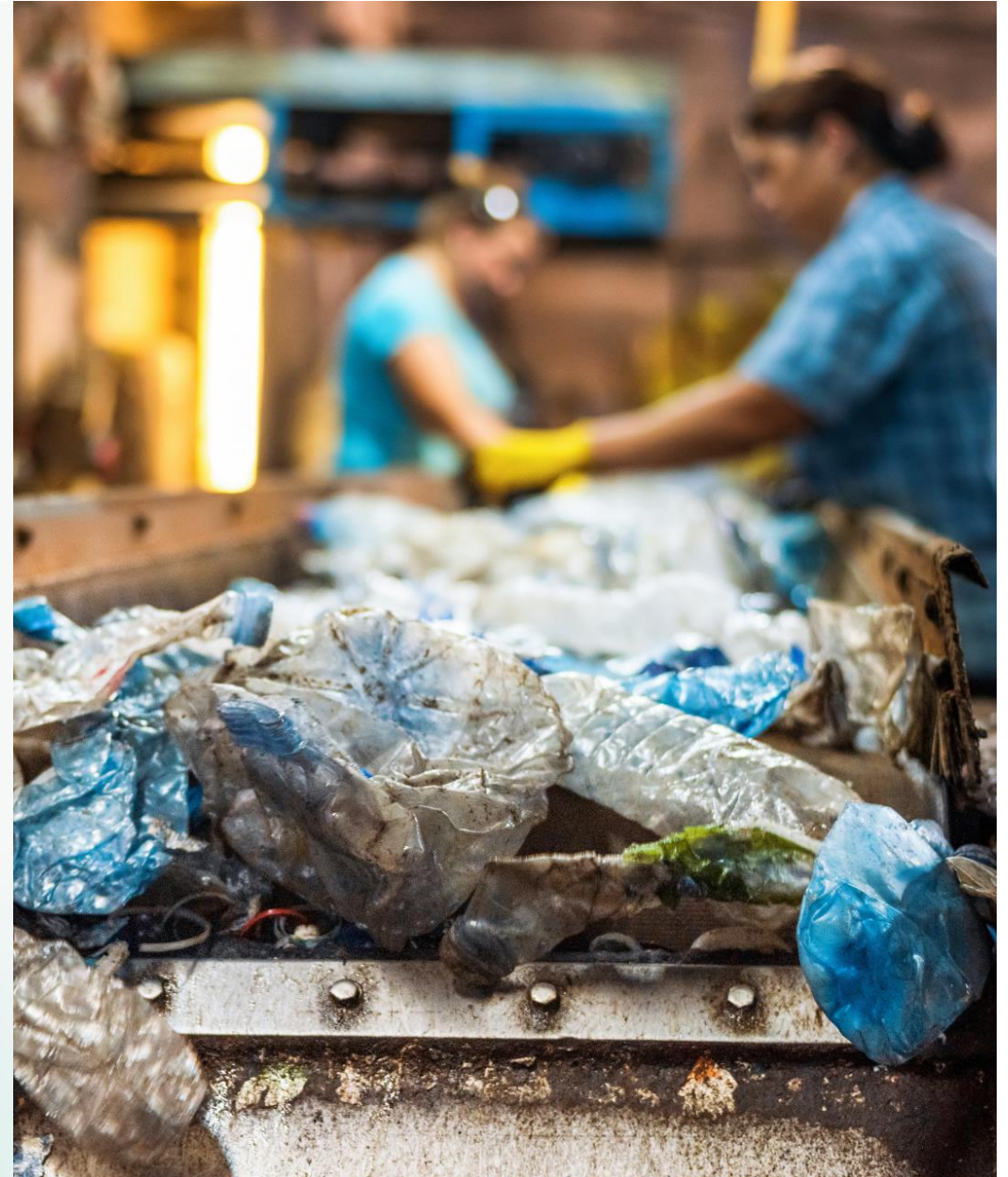


How to Prepare: Jurisdictions

- 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:
First producer reports due

June 2026:
PRO plan submitted to CalRecycle

- 2032: Targets in effect**
- 25% plastic reduction
 - 65% recycled
 - 100% recyclable or compostable



January 2026:
Rulemaking and CEQA completed. Recyclability updates released.

January 2027:
Producer funding and approved plan take effect



Stay Informed



**For producer resources,
webinars, & guidance docs**



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