



Save Taxpayers Money and Make Recycling More Effective

Support: LD 2104

An Act To Support and Increase the Recycling of Packaging

A bill of the Maine Legislature Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

We need to act with urgency to get our municipalities the support they need to manage a growing amount of packaging waste.

This law would provide a fair, effective, and sustainable solution.

For more information, please contact Sarah Nichols, (207) 430-0170 or snichols@nrcm.org



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This legislation is urgently needed to help Maine communities that are struggling with the costs of managing recycling programs. It applies a proven systems-based solution called Extended-Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging that is used across the world to save money for cities and towns, increase recycling rates, and spark innovation in packaging design to reduce waste.

Maine's recycling programs are weak. This bill, LD 2104, addresses the reasons why.

- **It could help save Maine taxpayers millions of dollars annually.** Right now, municipalities are spending more than \$16 million each year to dispose of a waste problem they didn't create and have no control over. Under an EPR program, manufacturers share in the responsibility of helping pay the costs of recycling and disposal of an ever-growing volume of packaging waste.
- **It is our best chance to reach Maine's 30-year-old goal of recycling 50% of our waste.** Maine people are frustrated by and concerned about their limited access to recycling programs, and many are rightfully confused about what is and is not recyclable. EPR would effectively streamline recycling and expand recycling access throughout Maine because it would establish a sustainable funding source.
- **It directly addresses the problems with our recycling programs through systemic change.** EPR is successfully used in more than 47 jurisdictions around the world, on every continent—some for as long as 30 years. These programs reduce waste and substantially increase recycling rates—for about the same cost as Mainers are paying now through tax dollars for a less effective system.

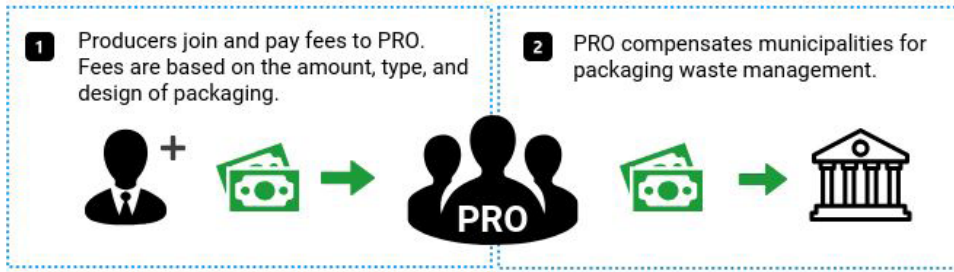
How the Municipal Compensation Plan Would Work:

Producers that choose to let municipalities manage their packaging waste for them would join a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO). The PRO collects fees from producers and distributes reimbursement payments to municipalities.

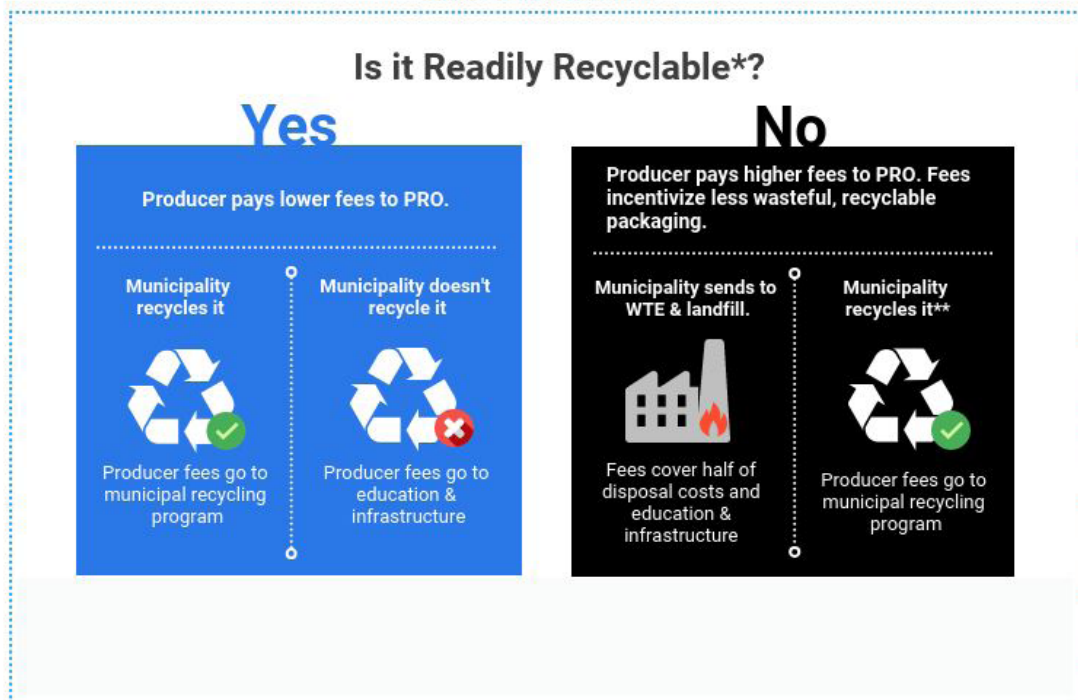
Hundreds of popular brands sold in Maine already participate in EPR programs in Canada and elsewhere. They should help us in Maine, too. Brands include Amazon, Best Buy, Costco, Kimberly Clark, Hasbro, Home Depot, McDonald's, Mattel, Mondelez, Nabisco, Pillsbury, Samsung, Toshiba, Tyson, Unilever, and Wal-Mart. For a full list of the brands you know that already pay for recycling in Canada, visit www.recyclingreform.org.

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Basic Municipal Compensation Plan



Basic Fee Structure



* **Readily recyclable** is defined as packaging that can be processed and has had a consistent market (material recyclers were willing to pay for fully sorted material for quantities equal to or in excess of material supply). This list will be updated annually.

**Examples of not readily recyclable items include bales of mixed plastics #3-7. Market fluctuations cause these technically recyclable materials to be impracticably recyclable locally. Some jurisdictions may find markets and recycle.

Countries with EPR for Packaging Laws:

Albania	Canada (5 Provinces)	Germany	Kosovo	Norway	South Africa
Australia	Croatia	Greece	Latvia	Poland	Spain
Austria	Cyprus	Hungary	Liechtenstein	Portugal	Sweden
Belarus	Czech Republic	Iceland	Lithuania	Romania	Tunisia
Belgium	Denmark	Ireland	Macedonia	Russia	Turkey
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Estonia	Italy	Moldova	Republic of Serbia	Ukraine
Brazil	Finland	Japan	Montenegro	Slovakia	United Kingdom
Bulgaria	France	South Korea	Netherlands	Slovenia	Vatican
Cameroon					



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