



# Waste Reduction, Recycling & Compost Funding Policy Wins

Rachel Setzke,  
Senior Policy and Research Associate  
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## OUR MISSION

Eco-Cycle's mission is to innovate, implement, and advocate for local and global Zero Waste solutions to foster a more regenerative, equitable, and climate-resilient future.



# Today's Presentation

- **State Funds for Recycling, Compost and Waste Reduction**
- **Producer Responsibility for Recycling Packaging & Printed Paper**
- **Labeling Standards on Compostable Products**
- **Plastic Pollution Reduction Act**



# State Funds for Recycling, Composting & Waste Reduction

- Funded a small charge for “tipping” material at landfills
- Grants for local governments, schools and businesses

## RREO

Resource Recycling Economic Opportunity fund

- Created in 2007 funds all CO
- **Funds NextCycle business accelerator**
- Set to end under current legislation → there are NO MORE grant cycles for RREO

## FRWD

Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise fund

- Created in 2019 to serve the 13 Front Range Counties

➤ 2024 bill will combine these funds



# FRWD

## Front Range Waste Diversion



Adams  
Arapahoe  
Boulder  
Broomfield  
Denver  
Douglas  
Elbert  
El Paso  
Jefferson  
Larimer  
Pueblo  
Teller  
Weld

## Grants to businesses, schools and local governments

- Colorado Springs [\\$350,000 award for a waste characterization study](#) in 2022
- FRWD Ambassador Program helps businesses interested in applying for grants [www.coloradofrwd.org/contact-grants](http://www.coloradofrwd.org/contact-grants)

## TASP - Technical Assistance Service Provider Program

- Provides 'no cost' consulting services to support Front Range local governments to:
  - increase waste diversion
  - implement sustainable, long-term solutions
  - meet the unique needs of each community



# HB22-1355

## Producer Responsibility Act

Through a Producer Responsibility policy for containers, packaging, and printed paper, Colorado can:



**INCREASE RECYCLING, REDUCE  
UNNECESSARY PACKAGING, &  
STRENGTHEN SUPPLY CHAINS**

[www.recyclingforallcoloradans.org](http://www.recyclingforallcoloradans.org)



# A PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY SYSTEM FOR CONTAINERS, PACKAGING, AND PAPER WILL:



**Increase our recycling rate and reduce climate pollution.**



**Provide free recycling for all Coloradans, including those living in apartments and in rural areas.**



**Develop a clear common list of what can be recycled statewide.**

WHY THIS POLICY MATTERS



**Save local governments money by reimbursing their costs to run recycling programs.**



**Support Colorado businesses by creating a more resilient domestic supply of raw materials to make new products.**



**Create financial incentives for companies to reduce unnecessary packaging and use greener, more recyclable materials.**



## Producer Responsibility for Recycling will:



Fund all aspects of a convenient, cost-effective statewide recycling system with no-cost recycling for all residents – and eventually nonresidential entities



Be funded and managed by producers who sell packaging and paper in and into the state



Set up an industry-run program with appropriate government oversight and advisory board of key stakeholders



# Who Pays into the System?

- ✓ **Manufacturers** that sell or distribute a product under their own name or a brand name;
- ✓ **Owners/licensees of trademarks/brand names** of a product for sale or distribution;
- ✓ **Importers** of products for sale or distribution.
  - ✓ Brands like Coca-Cola, Unilever, Pepsi, Amazon, etc.

## Who Does NOT pay into the System?

- X **Small business** – less than \$5m in revenue (not including on- premises alcohol sales) or generating less than 1 ton of packaging annually
- X State or local **government or nonprofit** organizations
- X **Agricultural** businesses
- X **Retailers** (unless they sell products under their own brand, ex. Great Value at Walmart)





# Will this increase costs to consumers? No.

20+ years of similar policies have shown no price increases due to Producer Responsibility

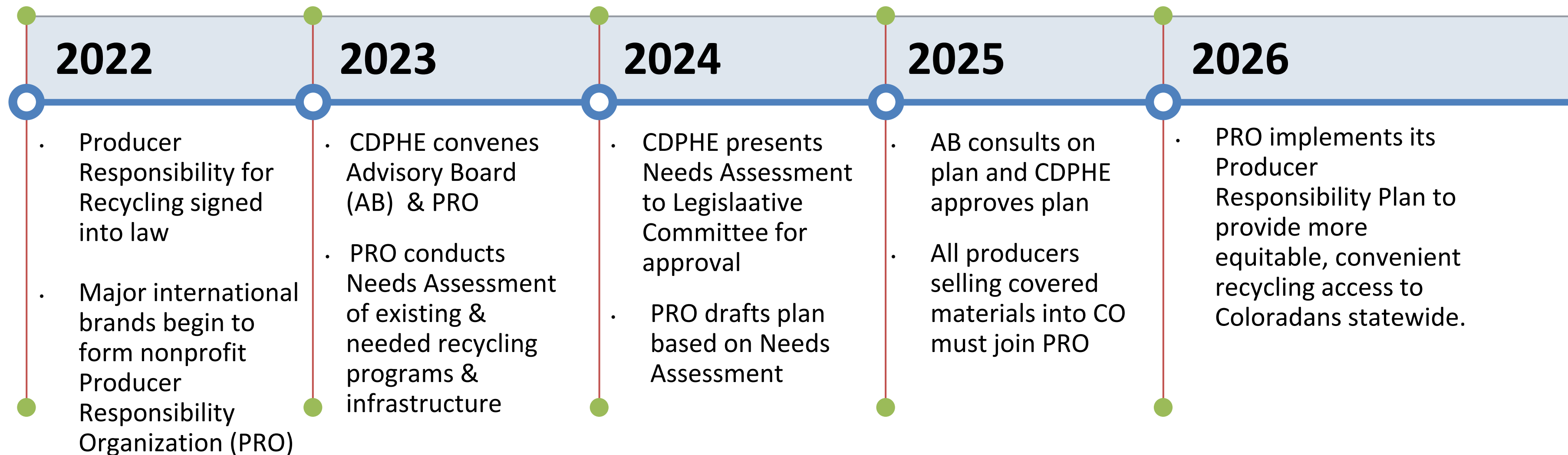
Dues are fractions of a penny per product

Current inflation is driven by supply chain shortages, increase in labor costs, transportation challenges → Producer Responsibility may lower material costs by strengthening supply chains

Households currently paying for recycling will save money on services



# Producer Responsibility Implementation Timeline





# SB23-253 Sets Labeling Standards on Compostable Products

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## **Examples of fictional look-alike products.**

*Credit: Consumer Insights Digital Study on Compostable Packaging Labeling by Composting Consortium and BPI*

Colorado SB23-253 will:

- ✓ Set standards for clearly labeling certified compostable products (plates, cups, bags, etc.)
- ✓ Prohibit the use of misleading marketing on lookalike “compostable products”

In an Eco-Cycle survey of Colorado Composters:

- 68% report misleadingly labeled look-alike “compostable” products contaminating incoming materials.
- 74% reported SB23-253 would likely reduce contamination and may allow them to accept more compostable products



An underwater photograph of a clear plastic shopping bag lying on a sandy ocean floor. The bag is partially inflated and has a small hole. Sunlight filters down from the surface, creating a blue and white pattern on the sand. The image is used as a background for a poster about plastic pollution.

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# **PLASTIC POLLUTION REDUCTION ACT**



An underwater photograph showing various pieces of plastic waste floating in clear blue water. Visible items include a clear plastic bottle, a red plastic cap, a green plastic container, and several pieces of clear plastic bags and fragments. The scene illustrates the problem of plastic pollution in the ocean.

# THE PROBLEM WITH PLASTICS

**23%**

**23% of material  
we landfill is  
containers &  
packaging**

EPA, "Reducing Wasted Food & Packaging:  
A Guide for Food Services and Restaurants"  
(2014)

**32%**

**18% of ocean trash is  
plastic food containers,  
cutlery & wrappers;  
plus 14% is bags**

*Nature Sustainability*, "An inshore–offshore sorting  
system revealed from global classification of ocean  
litter" (2021)

**2x**

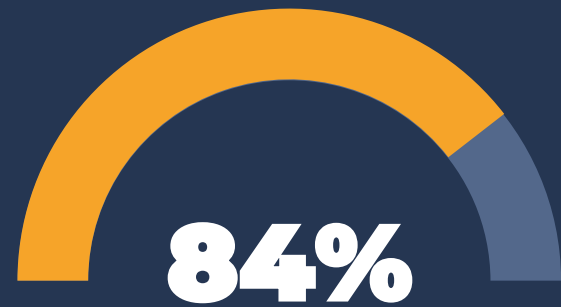
**Plastic production  
is expected to  
DOUBLE by 2030**

UN Environment Programme, "From  
Pollution to Solution: A global assessment  
of marine litter and plastic pollution"

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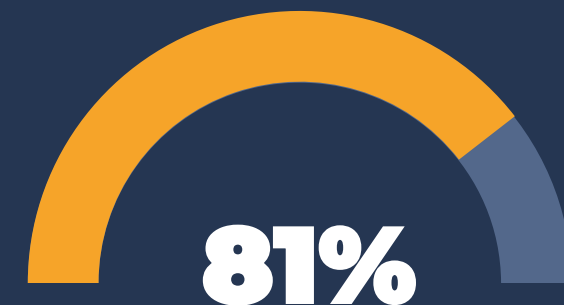
# Reducing plastic is a win for businesses



of American voters support  
increasing the use of reusable  
packaging and food  
serviceware



support requiring companies to  
reduce their single-use plastic  
packaging and food serviceware.



support shifting the cost of  
cleaning up plastic pollution from  
taxpayers to businesses that  
make or use them.

Source: Oceana <https://usa.oceana.org/press-releases/americans-are-sick-of-single-use-plastic-pollution-poll-finds/>

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# PLASTIC POLLUTION REDUCTION ACT

## PLASTIC AND PAPER

SINGLE-USE  
CHECK-OUT  
BAGS



2

## POLYSTYRENE FOOD CONTAINERS AND CUPS



3

## MUNICIPALITY-PASSED PLASTIC LAWS



# PLASTIC POLLUTION REDUCTION ACT

## TIMELINE



*\* The April 1, 2024, deadline for remittance set in HB21-1162 was recently removed through a new bill signed into law June 2, 2023—HB23-1285. Therefore, effective June 2023, all businesses must now remit to local governments on a quarterly basis the \$0.06 per bag collected.*

# **1.5 BILLION FEWER PLASTIC & PAPER BAGS**

and thousands of  
dollars for  
sustainability  
projects





# PPRA BAG FEES AND BANS\* APPLY ONLY TO

- Large Colorado retailers (has more than 3 locations OR has 1+ locations outside of Colorado)
- Plastic & paper CHECKOUT BAGS only

## EXEMPTIONS\*

- “Small” businesses (those with 3 or fewer locations operating solely in CO)
- Farmers markets and roadside stand vendors
- Restaurants
- Customer provided reusable or single use bags
- Bags for customers who participate in state or federal food assistance programs
- Non-checkout bags



**\*Local ordinances may vary**



### 2024 PLASTIC BAG BAN (AND \$0.10 FEE ON PAPER BAGS)

Required by Colorado Law (House Bill 21-1162) • Effective January 1, 2024

#### ASK CUSTOMERS

"Do you need a bag today?  
They are \$0.10 each."



#### CHARGE

**\$0.10 per bag provided at checkout.**

Although plastic bags are now **banned**, the store can use up its supply until June.

#### SAY THANK YOU

to customers who bring their own reusable bags!



#### DO NOT CHARGE THE \$0.10 BAG FEE FOR:

- Customers participating in a **federal or state food assistance program**
- **Produce bags**
- Bags used inside the store to **package bulk items**
- Bags used on unwrapped food items like **bakery or deli items**
- Bags used to **wrap food that could contaminate** other items, such as meat or seafood
- Bags for **prescription drugs**
- **Previously used** paper or plastic bags brought by the customer
- **Torn or ripped bags**
- **Double-bagging** heavy items (charge for only 1 bag)

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# FREE

# BAG FEE/BAN MATERIALS & RESOURCES

## [WWW.ECOCYCLE.ORG](http://WWW.ECOCYCLE.ORG)

## [/PPRA](http://PPRA)

Effective January 1, 2024

AS OF JAN. 1, 2024, ACCORDING TO COLORADO LAW:



**PLASTIC BAGS**  
ARE BEING PHASED  
OUT BY JUNE 2024



**PAPER BAGS**  
ARE CHARGED  
A \$0.10 FEE



BRING YOUR

# BAG



AND SKIP THE BAG FEE



RECIPIENTS OF FEDERAL OR STATE FOOD  
ASSISTANCE ARE EXEMPT FROM BAG FEES.



# POLYSTYRENE BAN APPLIES TO:

- All retail food establishments including restaurants, fast food establishments and cafeterias
- All expanded polystyrene service ware (plates, bowls, clamshells, and cups)



# POLYSTYRENE CONTAINERS

- Over 50 chemical byproducts released during manufacturing, some are **known carcinogens and can leach into food**
- Not recyclable
- Breaks down into microplastics that can kill wildlife if ingested



Learn more at [www.ecocycle.org/harmful-plastics](http://www.ecocycle.org/harmful-plastics)



# Containers for Dry/Solid Foods

Best choices

Worst choices

## REUSABLES

Durable/Washable



Subscription  
reuse services



Encourage customers to  
bring their own containers  
for leftovers



## RECYCLABLES

Aluminum



Recyclable plastics



Recycling guidelines vary  
across the state. Check your  
local recycling guidelines to  
determine which plastics  
are recyclable.

## COMPOSTABLES

Many compost facilities do  
not accept compostable  
products. Check your local  
composting guidelines to  
see if these items can be  
composted or must be  
landfilled.



In communities that do  
accept compostables,  
they must be certified  
compostable. For example:



## LANDFILL

Plastic-coated papers



## AVOID

#6 Polystyrene



Black plastics and  
#3 PVC & #7 PC  
plastics



## GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE SERVICeware

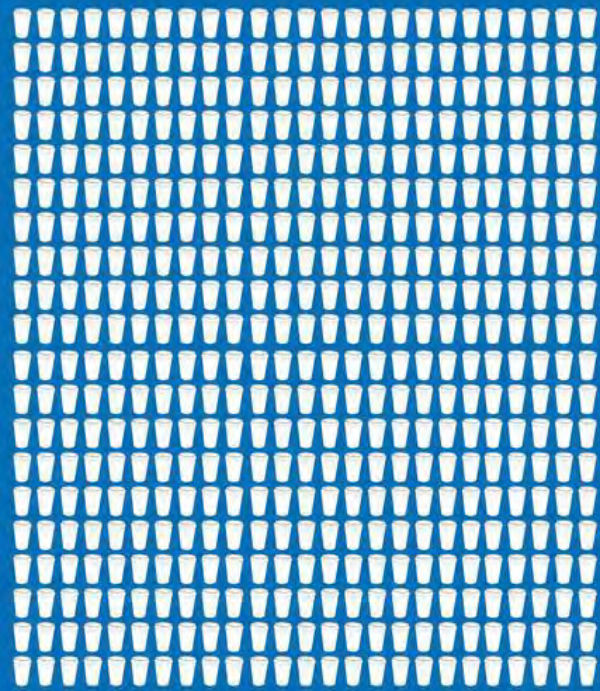
Available in English and Spanish,  
and soon in Mandarin

[www.ecocycle.org/ppra](http://www.ecocycle.org/ppra)

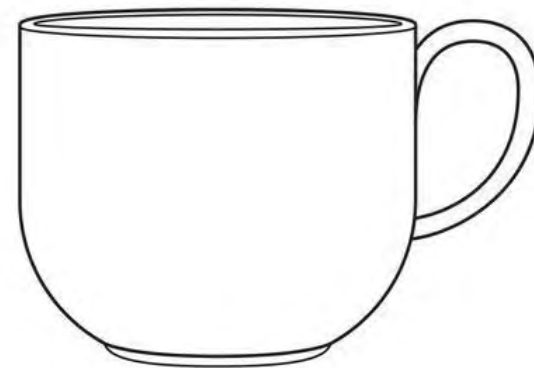
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Using 500 paper cups consumes nearly 370 gallons water



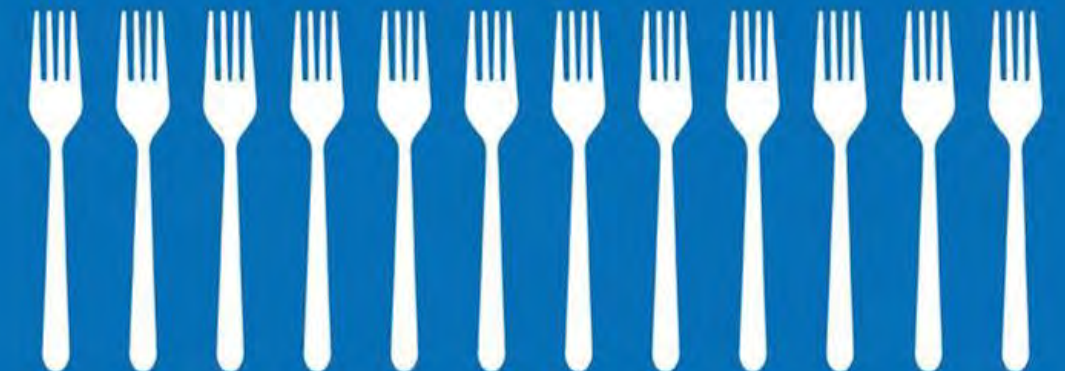
Using and washing one ceramic cup 500 times consumes only 53 gallons of water.



After only two washes stainless steel cutlery breaks even with disposable cutlery for environmental impacts.



After that, every use increases the environmental benefits.



## Reuse Saves:

- Water
- Natural resources
- Energy
- Greenhouse gas emissions

Learn more about how Reuse Wins! at:

<https://upstreamolutions.org/reuse-wins-report>



## Average savings for a small business:



**\$3000 - \$22,000 cost savings**



**1,300-2,200 lbs. of waste eliminated**



**110,000 to 225,000 packaging items eliminated**



**Reuse saves businesses money for on-site dining 100% of the time.**

Learn more:

[upstreamolutions.org/reuse-wins-report](https://upstreamolutions.org/reuse-wins-report) or calculate the savings for your business by emailing [chart-reuse@upstreamolutions.org](mailto:chart-reuse@upstreamolutions.org)



## EXAMPLE: KETCHUP PACKETS

PRICE per packet: \$0.05    # customers/day: 150    # of packets/customer: 3

**ANNUALLY: # OF PACKETS: 164,250    COST: \$8,213**

### REDUCE BY 50%

# of packets: 82,125

Cost: \$4,106

### REDUCE BY 75%

# of packets: 41,063

Cost: \$2,053

### REDUCE BY 90%

# of packets: 16,425

Cost: \$821



# REUSE WINS IN SCHOOLS, TOO



Learn more:

[www.ecocycle.org/SORC](http://www.ecocycle.org/SORC)

Switching to reuse, individual schools annually:

- ✓ Avoid thousands of pounds of waste
- ✓ Save thousands of dollars after factoring in the costs of labor, equipment, water, and electricity.

Bulk milk dispensers:

- ✓ Dramatically cuts carton waste
- ✓ Save ~2 gallons of milk per student annually!
- ✓ Each gallon of milk saved equals 124 gallons of water and 15 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>



# TAKE ACTION



**USE THE PPRA TOOLKIT [ecocycle.org/PPRA](https://ecocycle.org/PPRA)**  
**TO REDUCE:**

- SINGLE USE BAGS
- POLYSTYRENE
- SINGLE USE UTENSILS, STRAWS, CONDIMENTS, ETC.)

**Other resources: [plasticfreerestaurants.org](https://plasticfreerestaurants.org),  
[chefannfoundation.org](https://chefannfoundation.org), [upstreamolutions.org](https://upstreamolutions.org)**





# QUESTIONS?

**RACHEL SETZKE - [RACHEL@ECOCYCLE.ORG](mailto:RACHEL@ECOCYCLE.ORG)**

**[WWW.ECOCYCLE.ORG/PPRA](http://WWW.ECOCYCLE.ORG/PPRA)**