

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR): FINAL PLAN OVERVIEW



Circular
Action
Alliance®

Circular Action Alliance (CAA) Colorado developed a five-year roadmap (2026–2030) to transform recycling across the state. The **final plan** was created in response to House Bill 22-1355, which requires companies that sell packaging and paper products in Colorado to take responsibility for what happens to those materials after use. The goal is to make recycling easier, more effective and more widely available, benefiting Colorado's communities, natural beauty and economy.

RECYCLING GOALS UNDER EPR

CAA Colorado aims to improve Colorado's low recycling rates and limited recycling access. With producers taking responsibility for their packaging, the program also encourages less waste and more sustainable product design.

Increase recycling rates from **25% to 55% by 2035.**

25%
2022

41%
2030

55%
2035

BENEFITS FOR COLORADO



Less Landfill Waste

By prioritizing recycling, composting and reuse/refill, the program reduces landfill waste while creating cleaner air, water and landscapes.



Equitable, No-Cost Recycling

Producer-funded recycling gives all Coloradans free, convenient access, no matter where they live.



Local Business Growth

Infrastructure and end market investments support local businesses, create jobs and build a reliable recycling system.



Clear Education and Outreach

Residents learn what to recycle or compost and how items are reused, supporting participation statewide.



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HOW EPR WORKS IN COLORADO



PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

Companies selling packaging and paper in Colorado pay dues based on the type and amount of materials they provide. These dues fund the full recycling system, including collection, processing, education and infrastructure.



CENTRALIZED, STATEWIDE SYSTEM

CAA Colorado will coordinate statewide recycling by partnering with local governments, private providers and community groups. The plan standardizes what materials are recyclable and makes recycling convenient as trash collection.



EXPANDING ACCESS AND SERVICES

Residential & Non-Residential: The program begins with residential recycling and adds schools, government buildings, public areas, hospitality venues and small businesses by 2030.

Rural Investments: Funds will expand or upgrade recycling infrastructure in rural and underserved regions.

Compostable Packaging: The plan supports composting for certified compostable packaging and provides education to reduce contamination and boost recovery.

Reuse and Refill: Incentives for producers to offer at-home refill packaging and innovative designs mean more sustainable choices for consumers.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

A key focus is public education, showing people what to recycle, why it matters and how to avoid contamination. Outreach will build on Colorado's successes and be tailored to diverse communities through targeted campaigns, events and partnerships.



INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

CAA Colorado will regularly review and update the program, using data and public feedback to improve recycling rates, add new materials and support innovative solutions like reusable packaging and increased use of recycled content in new products.

HOW IMPLEMENTATION BEGINS

Initiatives will roll out gradually, giving communities and businesses time to adjust to the new system.



Reimburse for existing curbside service



Boost participation where access exists



Enhance systems and recycle more items



Build capacity in underserved areas

Scan or Click to
Read the Final Plan



By **2030**, recycling in Colorado should be just as **convenient as trash pickup**.