



**Is it time
to introduce
extended
producer
responsibility
in the USA?**

PAC Next Webinar

Financing Packaging Recycling and Recovery in the U.S

AMERIPEN Executive Director, Dan Felton discusses the latest developments in several US states actively considering packaging producer responsibility legislation.

Presented on April 7, 2021

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Key Takeaways

- 1. Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is coming to the USA and soon.** There are multiple states with packaging financing/EPR bills in 2021 including California, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington (to note that all can carry over to 2022 for further consideration).
- 2. Pressure for industry financing in the USA has been growing.** This is due to multiple factors that include increased perception of packaging as waste (notably Ocean Debris), collapsed material and recovery markets and the impact of China Sword, state and local budget constraints exacerbated by covid, and an increasing list of states considering a broad array of packaging policies (bans, recycled content EPR).
- 3. Federal packaging producer responsibility activity has arrived.** The Break Free from Plastics Pollution Act (S.3263/H.R.5845) is a comprehensive plastics action bill that includes EPR provisions, and the Clean Future Act is a comprehensive climate action bill that includes many elements of BFFPA, but not full EPR but requires a stakeholder process.
- 4. US Packaging financial mechanisms should be reliable, efficient & effective, equitable & fair.** For example, mechanisms should be able to withstand market volatility, be able to fund desired elements and allocation of costs should be perceived as fair among all contributors (note - adapted from carton Council "Moving the Needle").
- 5. AMERIPEN invested in a year long process to develop its packaging recycling and recovery financing principles, objectives, and policy.** Several key principles were highlighted e.g., funding should be directed towards initiatives that increase packaging recovery (and not redirected), managed by industry, work at state level but be managed at national level, cover all packaging materials, and support the future of packaging. This task force also looked at funding mechanisms, a hierarchy of investment and SRO/ PRO responsibilities. A compare and contrast analysis vs Canadian EPR highlighted a desire to see US EPR programs assess investment needs supported by a 5-year strategic plan.
- 6. Ultimately, as expected, US Packaging EPR is going to be complex.** As in Canada, the challenges are familiar, trying to meet the needs of many different stakeholders, all of whom desire to improve packaging recycling and recovery systems. The \$64,000 question is can this be done in a standardized and harmonized way - well, only time will tell.

Resources:

- [AMERIPEN EPR Comparison Chart](#)
- [AMERIPEN Financing Principles and Objectives for Advancing Packaging Recycling in the U.S. \(May 2020\)](#)

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