



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Acronyms & Abbreviations Reference Sheet



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POLICY



GreenBlue is an environmental nonprofit dedicated to the sustainable use of materials in society. We bring together a diversity of stakeholders to encourage innovation and best practices to promote the creation of a more sustainable materials economy.

The Sustainable Packaging Coalition (SPC) is a membership-based collaborative that believes in the power of industry to make packaging more sustainable. We are the leading voice on sustainable packaging and we are passionate about the creation of packaging that is good for people and the environment. Our mission is to bring packaging sustainability stakeholders together to catalyze actionable improvements to packaging systems and lend an authoritative voice on issues related to packaging sustainability.

The Sustainable Packaging Coalition is a trademark project of GreenBlue Org.

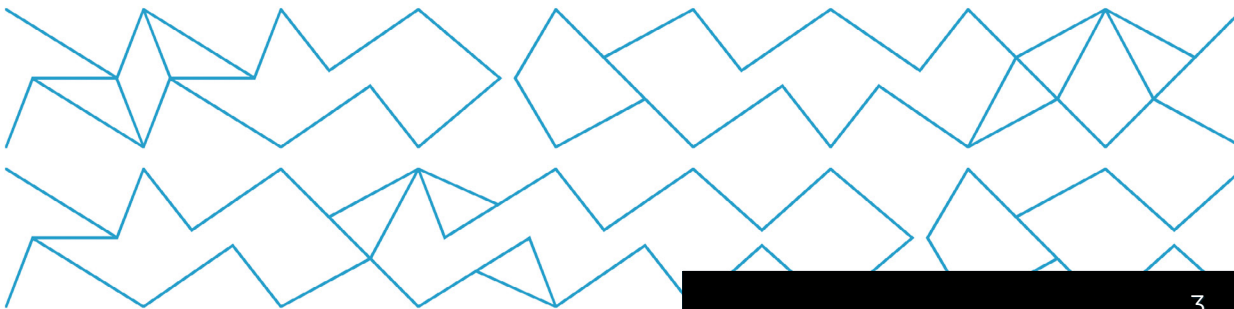


Introduction

Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging and paper products is a policy approach that assigns producers (brands, manufacturers, etc.) responsibility for the end-of-life of their products, whether that be through recycling, composting, or landfilling. The responsibility part can be financial, operational, or a combination of both. Essentially, producers are required to provide funding and/or services that assist in managing covered products after the use phase of a product's life.

Within the last few years, EPR laws have passed in California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, and Oregon. While each of these laws enacts producer responsibility in their states, the laws' implementation processes — and the language around these laws — can vary state-to-state.

The Sustainable Packaging Coalition (SPC) has developed this quick reference sheet to help provide an overview of some common acronyms and abbreviations that are frequently used at the federal- and state-level when discussing extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging and paper products across the country.





Common Abbreviations

ABBREVIATION	MEANING	DEFINITION
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility	EPR is a policy approach that assigns producers responsibility for the end-of-life of their products. This can include both financial responsibility and operational responsibility, though each program can differ. The policy approach aims to integrate producers into the life cycle of products, not just the upstream, but also the downstream, like collection, recycling, and processing. This policy approach can also include incentives for producers to lessen environmental impacts of their products. In this example, "products" refers to packaging and paper products. Definitions of producers can vary, but we are referring to the entity that puts packaging or paper products into the market. Typically that looks like brands, manufacturers, and then importers/distributors.
PPP	Packaging and Paper Products	EPR principles can apply to a variety of products. Programs in the US exist for paint, electronics, tires, carpet, mattresses and more. EPR for PPP is referring to extended producer responsibility programs where packaging and paper products are the covered products.
PRO	Producer Responsibility Organization	A PRO is an organization composed of producers who are obligated under an EPR program. The PRO acts as an intermediary between the producer and the government entity overseeing the EPR program. The PRO can be a non-profit organization and supports producers by developing and executing the EPR program plan, including the collection and management of producer fees.
IPR	Individual Producer Responsibility	Producers are responsible for their own products and must offer collection and recycling individually. The existing packaging and paper products EPR in the US generally favors CPR over IPR, but some laws allow for IPR compliance.

ABBREVIATION	MEANING	DEFINITION
PS	Product Stewardship	Product Stewardship is an approach to managing products that necessitates producers to steward (be responsible for) their products throughout the product's lifecycle, while reducing environmental impacts from said products. In some instances, PS and EPR are used interchangeably, as both aim to minimize a product's impact across its life cycle. However, EPR is generally mandated or legislated, where PS can be voluntary.
CPR	Collective Producer Responsibility	Producers must collectively work together to organize and operate the EPR program. Generally producers utilize a PRO to assist in coordinating their responsibilities mandated in the EPR program like program plan writing, implementation, and fee collection.
SAB	Stakeholder Advisory Board	Many EPR programs require a stakeholder advisory committee or board to assist with the development of the program plan and provide feedback on the program. The board or committee is composed of various stakeholders including producers, industry experts, ENGO's, government officials, elected officials, and others.

State Abbreviations

Below are common acronyms and abbreviations used in the U.S. states that have passed EPR laws for packaging. After an EPR bill passes and is signed into law, every state develops rules and clarifications beyond the legislative statute — this is referred to as rulemaking. This process leads to diverse terminology based on the individual state's needs and the language that is cemented into law.

This is a living document and the list will evolve to include more states and acronyms as they develop.

OREGON

ABBREVIATION	MEANING	DEFINITION
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	Oregon's environmental regulatory agency overseeing the implementation of EPR.
ORSAC	Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council	Independent group appointed by governor to be another resource for the implementation of the EPR program in OR. The group is facilitated by DEQ and provides feedback to the PRO on the program plan as well as other decisions necessitating stakeholder opinions.
RMA	The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act	Oregon's EPR for packaging and paper products law, passed in 2021 The goal of this act is to update the recycling system in the state.
CRPFs	Commingled Recycling Processing Facilities	One type of Material Recovery Facility, a facility where materials are processed and contaminants are removed and subsequently disposed of. Facilities require a disposal site permit.
USCL	Uniform Statewide Collection List	The uniform statewide collection list will establish which materials will be collected in on-route commingled recycling programs (curbside) and which materials will be collected at recycling depots. Oregon's rural areas and densely populated cities historically had different collection lists based on a variety of factors like end markets and transportation costs. This list will be harmonized across the entire state's recycling programs and is expected to lead to more cohesive collection of materials.
IMD	Internal Management Directive	Clarification or interpretation of rulemaking provided by DEQ to assist producers and PROs in preparation of implementation. DEQ published an IMD on the PRO program plan going into details on the requirements, reporting procedures, and approval process. The IMD helped the PRO draft the program plan, currently under review by DEQ.

REM	Responsible End Markets	Oregon defines REM as “a materials market in which the recycling or recovery of materials or the disposal of contaminants is conducted in a way that benefits the environment and minimizes risks to public health and worker health and safety.” Essentially, an end market must not cause environmental or social harm and specific parameters are required to be met. Historically, little requirements have existed for materials downstream after use and this requirement seeks to change that.
SIMS	Specifically Identified Materials	DEQ, the Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council, and the PRO will develop a list of specifically identified materials, a separate list from the USCL. These materials, such as shredded paper, glass jars, and thermoformed PET, have the ability to be recycled, but are challenged in traditional curbside collection. The criteria for determining what these materials should be, includes current or future recycling processing equipment to sort, viable end markets, economic factors, and if collecting the materials in existing recycling programs would add additional costs. The PRO is responsible for supporting collection, processing, and responsible recycling of SIMs.

CALIFORNIA

ABBREVIATION	MEANING	DEFINITION
CALRECYCLE	California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery	The government regulatory agency overseeing EPR implementation in the state.
CB	Certification Body	Independent company approved for auditing components of EPR laws, typically the Minimum Recycled Content and Responsible End Markets. It is accredited to ISO 17065 standards for independence and impartiality, and usually approved to audit specific Voluntary Consensus Standards. Draft rulemaking has outlined that these organizations need to be approved by CalRecycle.
CMC	Covered Material Categories	A category that includes covered material of a similar type and form, as determined by CalRecycle. The CMCs have different requirements in the law like source reduction, eco-modulation stipulations, responsible end markets qualifications, recycling rates, and others.

COLORADO

ABBREVIATION	MEANING	DEFINITION
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	The government regulatory agency overseeing EPR implementation in the state.
MRL	Minimum Recyclable List	The list of covered materials that are required to be collected and processed by service providers in the state of Colorado. All of the state’s recycling programs will be required to collect the items on this list and will help provide a cohesive state-wide program.

MAINE

ABBREVIATION	MEANING	DEFINITION
MDEP	Maine Department of Environmental Protection	The government regulatory agency overseeing EPR implementation in the state.
SO	Stewardship Organization	Similar, if not functionally the same as a PRO, SOs are an organized group of producers who work collaboratively to manage the products they put into the market. Maine’s EPR program will put out a request for proposals (RFP) for the SO in the fall of 2025.

MINNESOTA

ABBREVIATION	MEANING	DEFINITION
MPCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	The government regulatory agency overseeing EPR implementation in the state.

Sources:

OECD: [Extended Producer Responsibility: Basic Facts and Key Principles](#)
NW Product Stewardship Council: [Definition of Key Terms](#)
The Recycling Partnership: [Extended Producer 101](#)
New York Department of Environmental Conservation: [Product Stewardship & Extended Producer Responsibility](#)
Circular Action Alliance: [FAQ](#)

Disclaimer:

This document is not legal advice. We advise you consult with legal counsel to determine whether or not your organization is exempt from EPR laws.

