Comprehensive EPR in Rhode Island

January 13, 2025

The Recycling Partnership
Solving for Circularity

We mobilize people, data, and solutions across the value chain to reduce waste and our impact on the environment while also unlocking economic benefits.

Who We Are

Each day we work together with communities and companies to help families in America recycle and recycle well.

How?

- Increase access to recycling
- Increase capture of recyclables
- Improve quality of recyclables

Why?

- 33 million homes in the U.S. cannot recycle at home as easily as they can throw something away.
- Those that can recycle easily are still putting 40% of their recyclables in the trash.**

*2024 State of Recycling Report;
** 2020 State of Curbside Report

Five Requirements of an Effective Recycling System

For the U.S. Residential Recycling System to Function Effectively, Five Requirements Must Be Met:

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Comprehensive EPR = EPR + DRS

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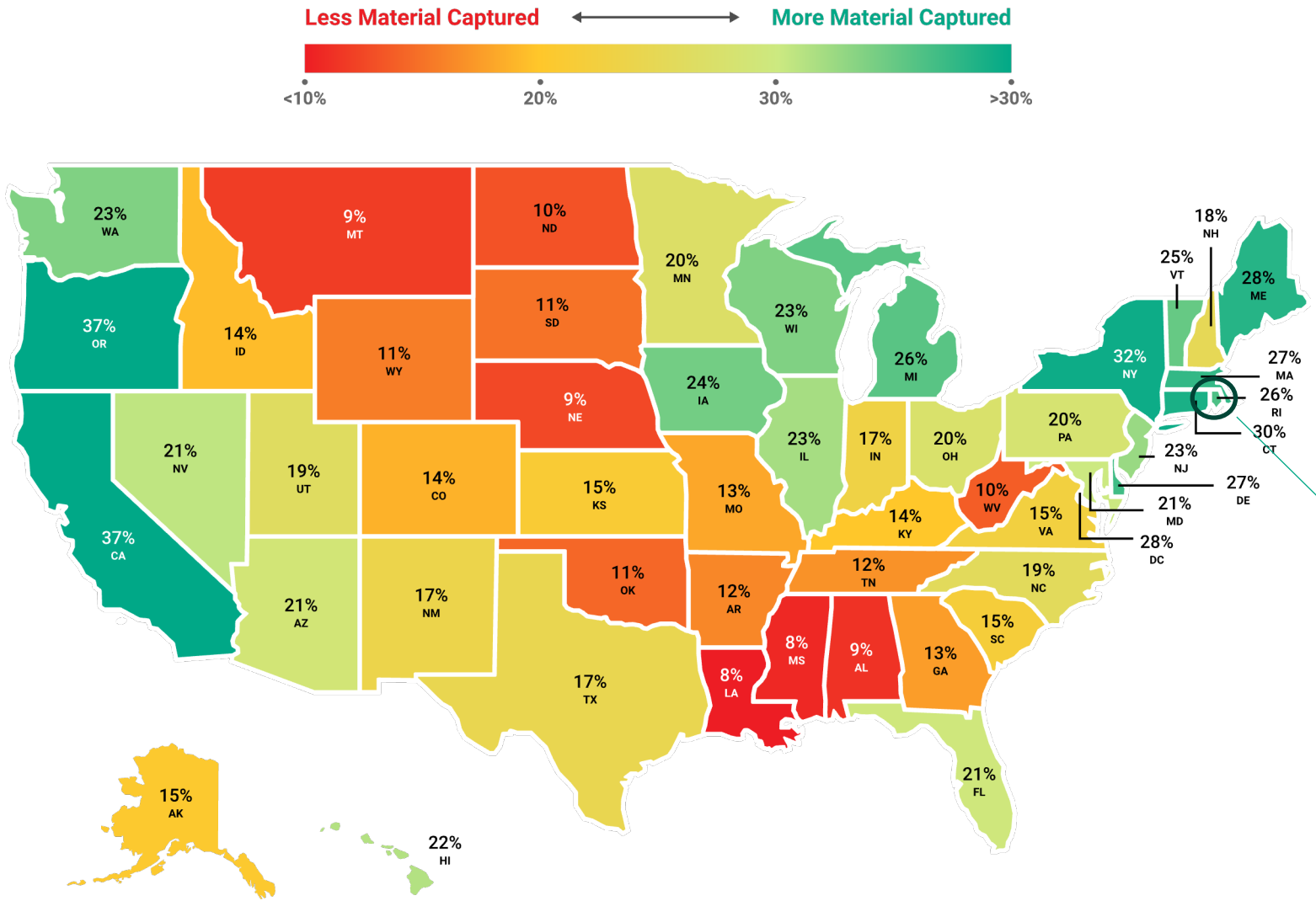
State-by-State Residential Recycling Rates



RI Residential Recycling Rate = 26%

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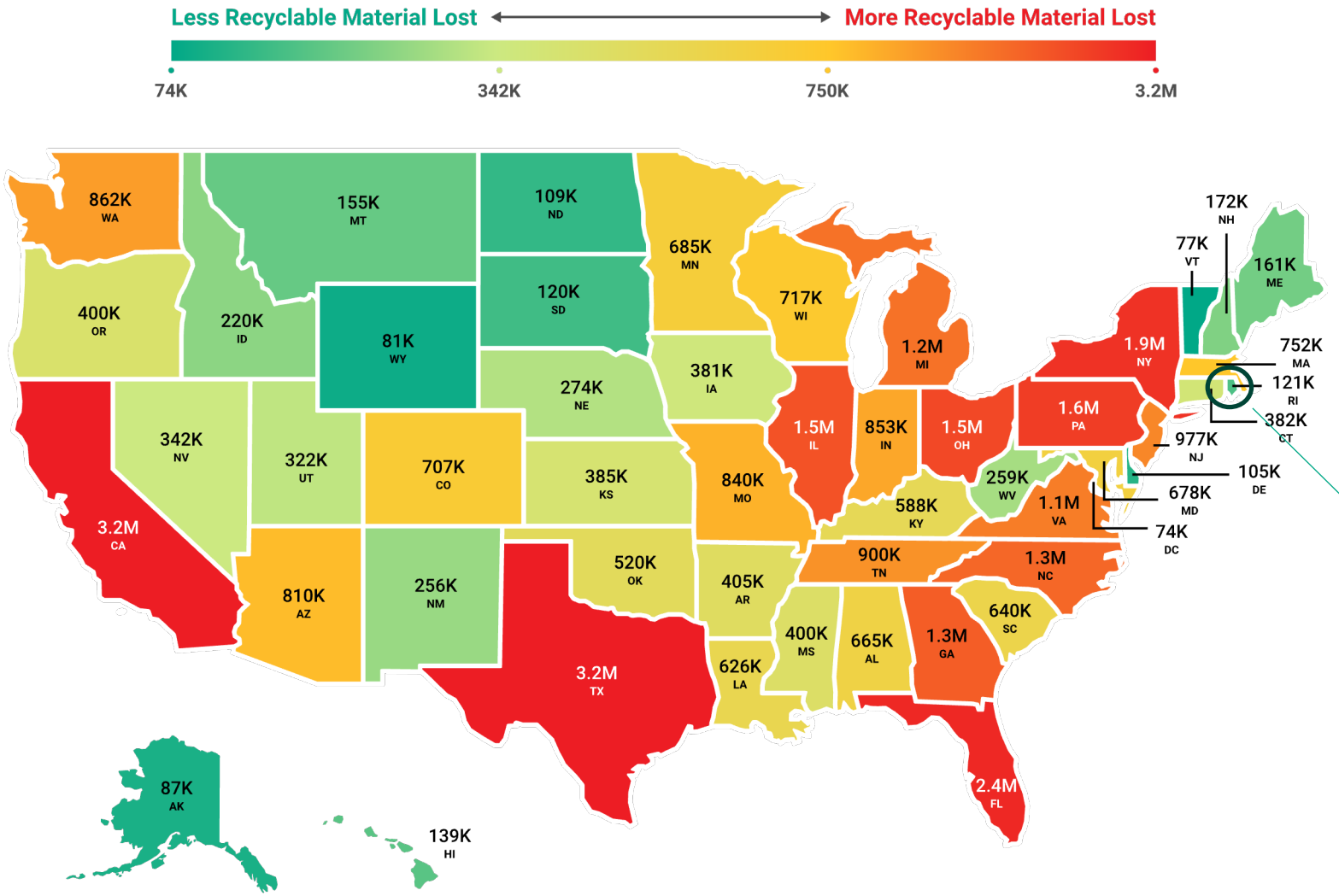
Includes material captured through state deposit return systems

State-by-State Residential Recyclable Material Lost

(in Tons Per Year)



RI Recyclable Material Lost (Annually) = 121K Tons

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State-by-State Residential Recycling Rates by Commodity

	Cardboard	Mixed Paper	Aseptic & Gabletop	Glass Containers	Steel Cans	Aluminum Cans	PET Bottles	Non-bottle PET	HDPE Natural Bottles & Jars	HDPE Colored Bottles & Jars	PP	Plastics #3,4,6,7	Bulky Rigid Plastics	Film
Missouri	21%	15%	5%	11%	13%	14%	13%	6%	17%	15%	6%	0.5%	0.1%	0.03%
Montana	18%	12%	1%	3%	11%	12%	10%	3%	12%	11%	2%	0.03%	0%	0.2%
Nebraska	18%	11%	6%	1%	11%	12%	11%	6%	14%	13%	5%	1%	0%	0.02%
Nevada	35%	25%	11%	22%	21%	23%	22%	10%	28%	25%	10%	1%	0.1%	0%
New Hampshire	29%	21%	4%	20%	17%	19%	18%	9%	22%	20%	7%	2%	0.4%	0.03%
New Jersey	37%	27%	7%	28%	23%	25%	24%	10%	30%	27%	7%	0.4%	0.2%	0.01%
New Mexico	32%	23%	10%	2%	19%	22%	20%	10%	25%	22%	9%	6%	6%	0.02%
New York	35%	26%	11%	57%	22%	61%	59%	10%	29%	25%	10%	1%	7%	0.02%
North Carolina	31%	22%	9%	21%	19%	21%	20%	6%	25%	22%	7%	1%	0.3%	0.001%
North Dakota	17%	12%	5%	10%	10%	11%	10%	5%	13%	11%	5%	1%	0%	0.02%
Ohio	31%	24%	12%	22%	20%	22%	21%	5%	26%	23%	8%	0.5%	0.03%	0.02%
Oklahoma	19%	14%	2%	10%	11%	13%	12%	5%	15%	13%	4%	0.4%	0%	0.1%
Oregon	42%	31%	10%	65%	26%	79%	75%	2%	34%	30%	9%	0.03%	0.4%	0%
Pennsylvania	33%	23%	6%	21%	21%	23%	21%	7%	27%	24%	6%	1%	0.1%	0.03%
Rhode Island	41%	30%	16%	31%	25%	27%	26%	14%	33%	29%	13%	0.1%	0%	0%
South Carolina	26%	19%	5%	12%	15%	17%	16%	5%	21%	18%	5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.03%
South Dakota	19%	11%	2%	11%	12%	13%	13%	5%	16%	14%	5%	0.3%	0%	0%
Tennessee	22%	16%	5%	8%	13%	15%	14%	5%	17%	15%	4%	2%	2%	0.01%
Texas	27%	20%	7%	16%	16%	18%	17%	7%	22%	19%	7%	2%	2%	0.04%
Utah	37%	26%	2%	2%	22%	25%	24%	8%	30%	26%	6%	0.4%	0%	0.01%
Vermont	27%	18%	0.3%	58%	16%	42%	40%	7%	22%	19%	6%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%
Virginia	26%	19%	8%	12%	16%	17%	16%	3%	21%	18%	3%	0.2%	1%	0.1%
Washington	38%	28%	8%	21%	23%	25%	24%	7%	30%	27%	10%	0.1%	2%	0.1%
West Virginia	18%	14%	2%	5%	10%	13%	10%	3%	12%	11%	2%	0%	0%	0.2%
Wisconsin	36%	27%	11%	26%	22%	25%	23%	9%	29%	26%	10%	2%	0.2%	0.01%
Wyoming	22%	16%	1%	3%	12%	15%	14%	5%	17%	15%	2%	2%	0%	0.1%
National	32%	23%	8%	27%	19%	30%	28%	8%	26%	22%	8%	1%	1%	0.1%

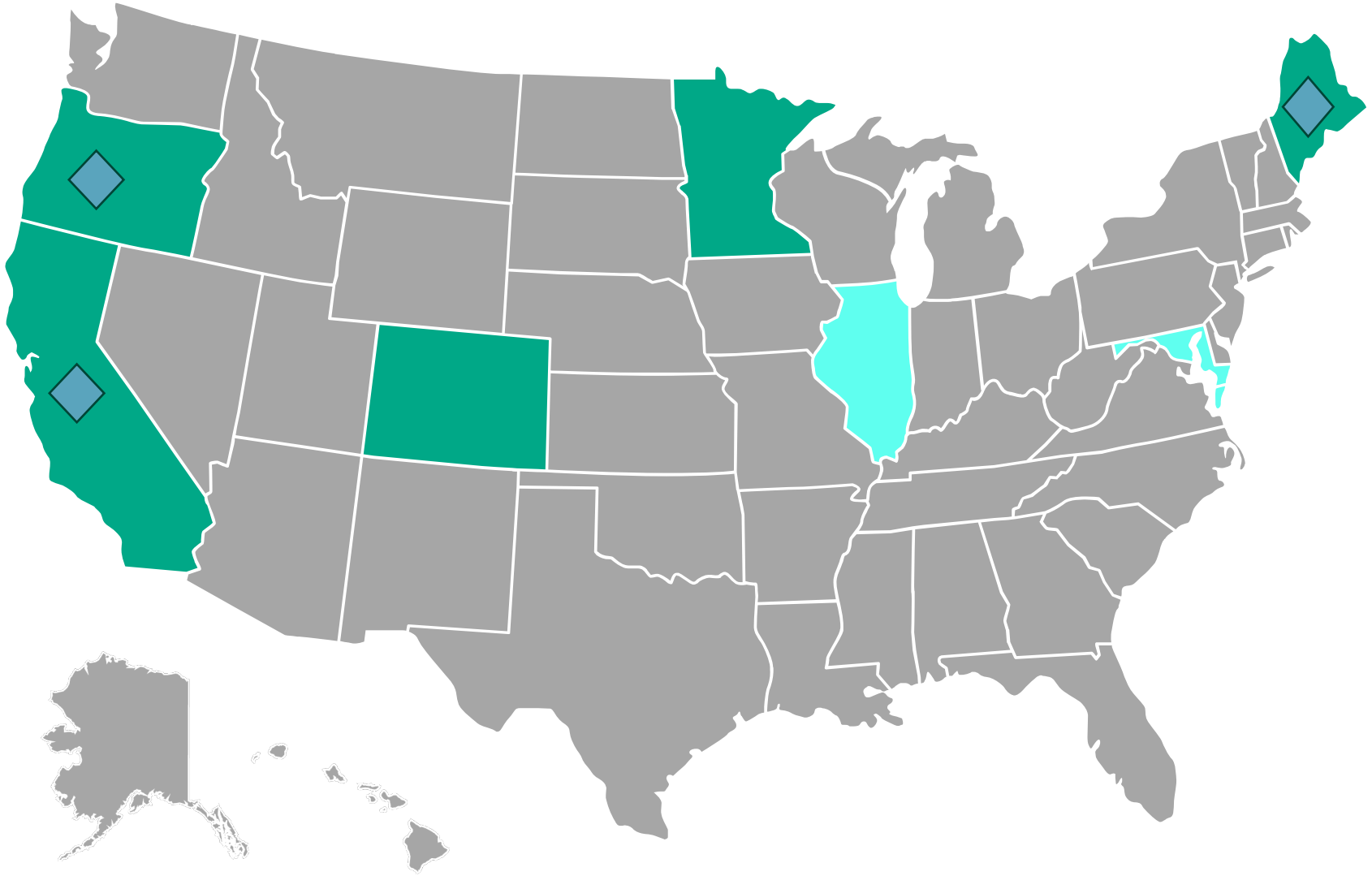
Includes material captured through state deposit return systems

U.S. EPR for Packaging Landscape

EPR for Packaging Laws Passed & Currently in Implementation
(CA, CO, ME, MN, OR)

EPR Needs Assessments
passed (IL & MD)

EPR + Bottle Bill
(CA, ME, OR)



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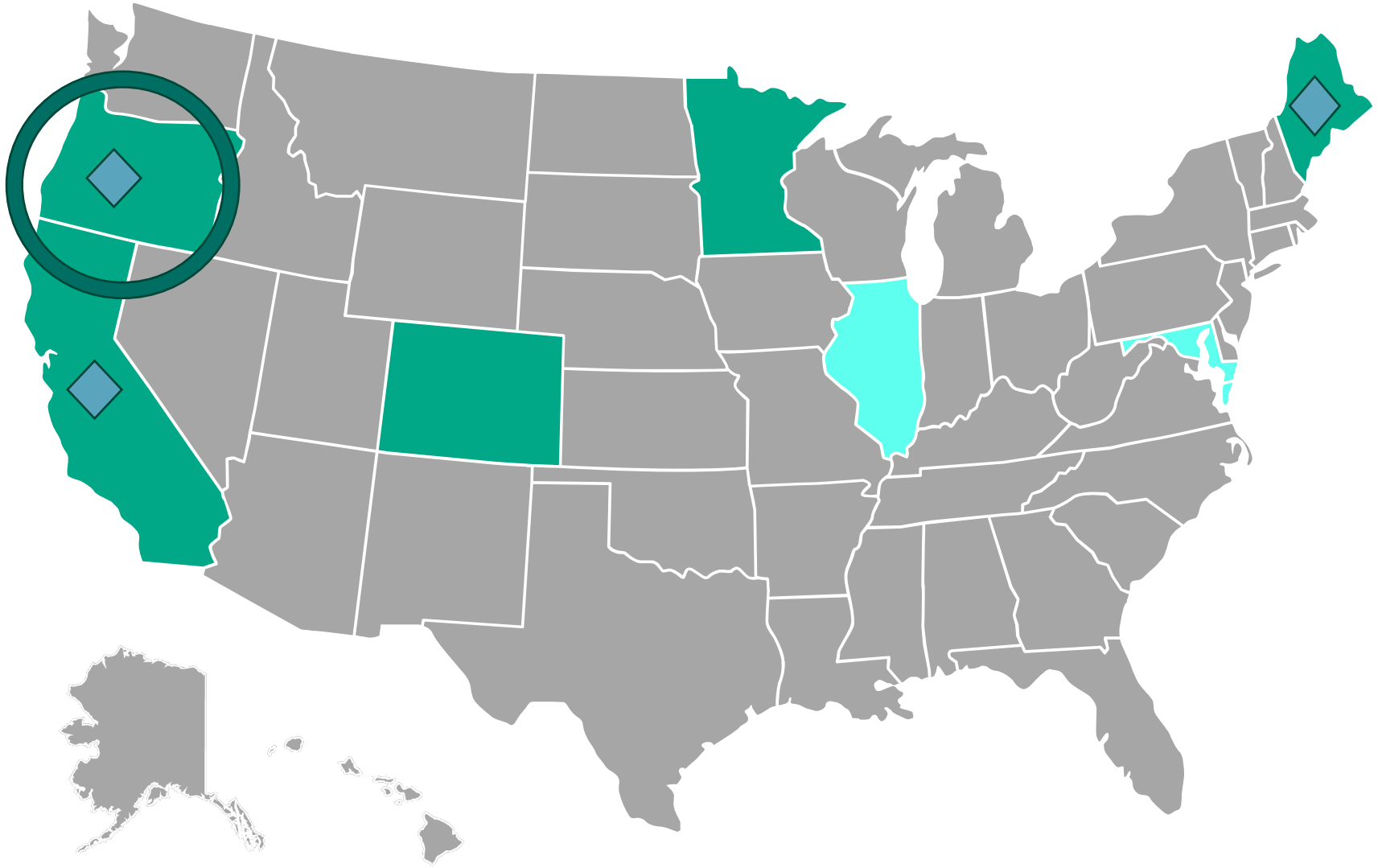
EPR Implementation in Oregon

EPR Implementation date – July 1, 2025



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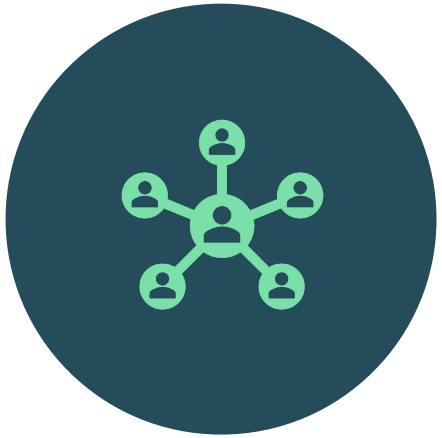
State EPR Comparisons

	California	Colorado	Maine	Oregon	Minnesota
Scope of Materials	All packaging & plastic foodware	Printed paper & packaging	All packaging	Printed paper, packaging, & plastic foodware	Packaging and paper products
Cost Coverage Scope	Improvements	100%	Full	Improvements (est. 28%)	Reimbursement for covered services – up to 90% by 2031
Producer Authority	None	High	None	Low	Low
Commercial	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Partial
Multiple PROs	Yes (after 8 years)	No	No	Yes (10% market share requirement)	Yes (after first stewardship plan ends, 5 years)
Recycling Rate Targets	65% for plastics	Set w/ PRO Plan	Set by DEP	25% by 2028, 50% by 2040, 70% by 2050 for plastics	Set w/ PRO Plan – Informed by NA, approved by commissioner
Recycled Content Mandates	No (set in other statute)	Set w/ PRO Plan	Set by DEP	No (eco-modulation factor)	Set w/ PRO Plan – Informed by NA, approved by commissioner
Education & Outreach	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Responsible End Market Requirement in Statute	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Common Features of EPR for PPP Programs

Created by legislation establishing rules and targets



Managed by one or more Producer Responsibility Organizations (PRO)

Guided by a Program Plan

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DRS in Oregon

- BottleDrop Express/Green Bag Program
- Self-serve account program 825k users
- 40,000+ bags processed per day
- Customers enroll, get card and tags at kiosk, and buy bags at store
- Place coded BottleDrop tag on bags and fill with redeemable containers

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BottleDrop
EXPRESS
IF BLUE LIGHT IS ON USE OTHER DOOR
Limit - 2 Bags Per Day
5AM - 11PM
Bottle Returns Made
Sign Up
Fill Up
Drop Off
Cash Out
STOP
PLEASE CHECK YOUR BAG(S)!
Is your bag securely tied?
Is your bag under 20 lbs?
Is there a barcode sticker on your bag?

Potential Benefits of Well-Designed and EPR and DRS Co-Implementation

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Recycling rates – Support extremely high beverage container recycling rates and high overall packaging recycling rates

Driving efficiency – Infrastructure could be developed in tandem to maximize efficiencies and cost savings. (e.g., DRS sites could serve as drop-offs for some EPR materials; MRFs could process DRS materials)

Access and convenience – supports away-from-home recovery (public and business/institutional) and will serve to complement recovery rates from curbside EPR programs.

Material circularity – supporting domestic closed-loop markets, particularly for glass, aluminum and PET

More tons recovered – Well-designed EPR can support and financially offset the loss of beverage packaging for MRFs, supporting all materials to pay they share, via eco-modulated producer fees. EPR will increase the total tons processed by MRFs, bolstering curbside recycling programs

Other environmental benefits – Reduce litter; Support nascent reuse and refill infrastructure (e.g., OBRC refill)

Drivers for Comprehensive EPR Moving Forward

- Government budget challenges continue
- Recycling rates flat
- Landfill capacity issues
- Plastics/Environmental concerns
- Consumer expectation of recyclability and recycled content
- Circular economy is business priority
- Need for more closed-loop recycling

Thank you

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