



Circular Economy Development Center

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Circular
Action
Alliance®

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): Benefits and Participation

September 22, 2025: Colorado Springs City Council Work Session

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What is Producer Responsibility?

- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** is a policy approach that shifts financial and operational responsibility for the end-of-life management of a product from local governments and taxpayers to the producer.
- EPR laws for paper and packaging **require producers (i.e., brand owners, retailers, restaurants, first importers) to either partially or fully fund** the collection, sortation, and processing of the items that they supply into these states.
- EPR dues structures can **incentivize design choices** that minimize waste and environmental impacts.



Role of the Producer Responsibility Organization

- A **Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO)** is a producer-led, nonprofit organization that provides producers with compliance services to help them meet their obligations under EPR laws.
- A PRO is **responsible for developing and implementing a Program Plan** for managing covered products.
- The plan is reviewed by a state-appointed advisory board and approved by the state regulatory agency.

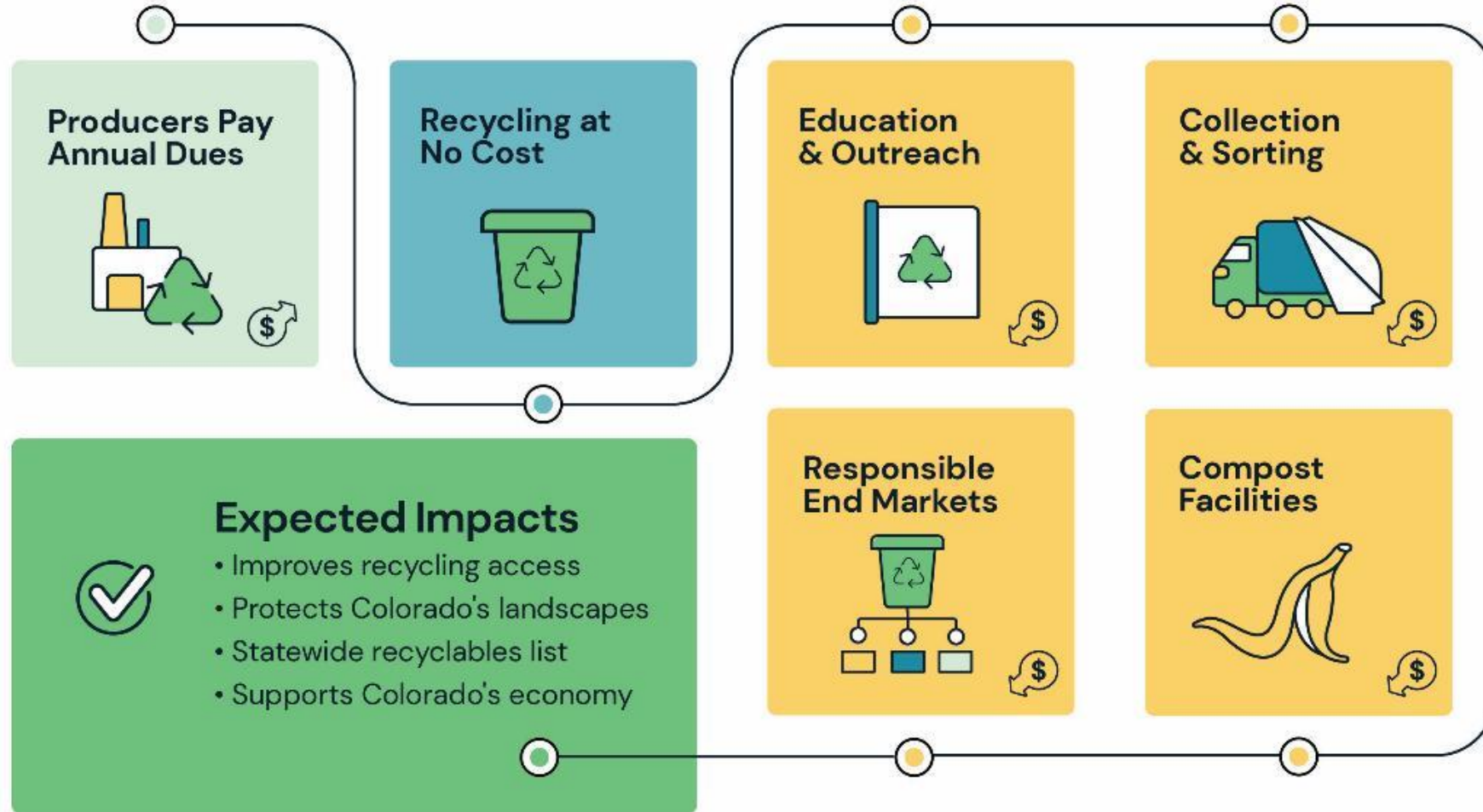


The U.S. PRO – Circular Action Alliance

- CAA's mission is to help producers comply with EPR laws, deliver harmonized, best-in-class services and work with governments, businesses and communities to reduce waste and recycle more.
- CAA was founded by companies from the food, beverage, consumer goods, and retail industries.
- CAA has been approved to be the single PRO in California, Colorado, Minnesota, Oregon, and Maryland.



How Producer Responsibility Works in Colorado



Benefits for Colorado Springs Residents

In Colorado Springs, residents subscribe directly with private businesses to acquire curbside recycling services. This model is called an open market.



Residents currently pay to dispose of packaging and paper, whether they trash or recycle the items.



Under producer responsibility, eligible haulers that choose to participate in the program will receive reimbursements for recycling collection costs from CAA. Residents can sign up with any participating hauler to receive recycling services at no cost.



By 2028, CAA will begin expanding no-cost recycling services to schools, government buildings, public places and other non-residential covered entities.

How the City of Colorado Springs Can Participate

As an open market that does not collect (or contract with a hauler to collect) residential recycling, **the City of Colorado Springs is eligible for education and outreach payments.** E&O payments support community-level education such as direct mailers, presentations at community and school events, working with community orgs to share recycling info, etc.



1. A webinar about local government education and outreach payments was conducted on Sept. 9 – locate the recording



2. Consider how your community wants to participate (contract/receive payment from CAA and conduct E&O – OR – opt for CAA to conduct E&O on your behalf).



3. Sign up for the CAA newsletter to receive future communications regarding Colorado's EPR program and the E&O payment process.

Stay Connected



Sign up for the
newsletter



Register for the
E&O webinar

Email ColoradoInfo@circularaction.org
with questions or to schedule a one-on-
one meeting with CAA Colorado.



Resources Available

CEDC

Circular Economy Development Center

- Advancing business development in Colorado through supporting solutions for a circular economy

CAA

Circular Action Alliance

- The Producer Responsibility Organization that coordinates, funds, and manages The Producer Responsibility Program's statewide recycling system

C3

Colorado Circular Communities (C3) Enterprise

- Focused on advancing a circular economy in the State of Colorado through funding and technical assistance



Colorado Circular Communities (C3) Program:

To empower and support Colorado's communities, businesses, and organizations by providing technical assistance, grants, and funding opportunities for projects that advance circularity throughout the state.

**Funding
& Rebates**



**Technical
Assistance &
Consultations**



**Funded Through
Landfill Fees**



**Guided by Board
of Directors**

Next Steps

- City of Colorado Springs has a current grant with C3 to conduct a Waste Characterization Study
 - Finishing soon - next steps to consider
- Submit an inquiry on ColoradoCircularCommunities.org to talk to a member of our team





Thank
You!