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ACI's 3rd Annual

EPR Think Tank

Your Guide to State Extended Producer Responsibility Packaging Laws

January 26–27, 2027
Pre-conference Virtual Workshop: January 20
Well& By Durst, New York City

LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE

Key Insights From:

- AMERIPEN
- The Recycling Partnership
- The Can Manufacturers Institute
- Keurig Dr. Pepper
- American Forest & Paper Association
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- HP Hood LLC
- National Center for Electronics Recycling
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Two Dedicated Afternoon Tracks:

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- **Packaging & Circularity**

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Business Information in a Global Context

Packaging EPR in 2027—Managing the Costs, Compexities, and Compliance Challenges Ahead



As we enter 2027, we are faced with a new business reality and producers are working through the practical challenges of **reporting packaging data, managing fees, meeting state-specific requirements, and making packaging changes** that deliver on both compliance and performance.

Across states, implementation has advanced at different speeds, and although there is a better understanding of **definitions, covered materials, exemptions, and financial obligations,** early reporting and fee cycles have exposed gaps in data and supplier information, raising difficult questions about what effective, scalable compliance really looks like.

At the same time, **legal challenges to state EPR frameworks** are adding uncertainty around program governance and the role of PROs. Companies must assess what these developments mean for their obligations while continuing to make decisions about budgets and long-term compliance.

This conference will help you meet your greatest EPR packaging challenges head-on as our esteemed speakers address:

- Applying lessons from **early reporting and fee cycles** to strengthen your compliance program
- How to build **reliable packaging data systems** and resolve information gaps across suppliers and business units
- Forecasting **EPR fees and eco-modulation impacts**, and factoring them into packaging and budget decisions
- What **lawsuits challenging state EPR programs** mean for producers, and how to plan amid legal uncertainty
- How to navigate **covered materials, exemptions, enforcement risks, and recyclability claims**







At ACI's **EPR Think Tank, January 26–27, 2027,** in **New York City,** you'll hear directly from **state regulators, producers, legal counsel, PRO representatives,** and **recycling and packaging professionals,** about the issues shaping implementation, and the lessons emerging from experience.

NEW for 2027 **Two dedicated afternoon tracks:**

Compliance, Data & Finance **Packaging & Circularity**

Dive deeper into the challenges most relevant to your role.

Join us in NYC this January to strengthen your compliance strategy, make more informed packaging decisions, and prepare your organization for the next phase of EPR.



2027 Program Highlights Include:

» Comparing **Existing** and **Emerging State EPR Packaging Programs**

» Building Better **EPR Data Systems** and **Scalable Compliance Programs**

» **Eco-Modulation and Fee Forecasting:** Turning Packaging Decisions into Financial Strategy

» **California Source Reduction:** Finding a Workable Path to 2032

» **Packaging Innovation in Practice:** Balancing Manufacturing, Performance and Recyclability

» **Recyclability Claims Under SB 343:** Navigating the Injunction and What Comes Next

» **Enforcement Gets Real:** Registration, Penalties, Audits and Non-Compliance

» ..... alongisde **CAA, State Regulators Updates** and **Producer Roundtable Discussions**!

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Mallory Anderson
Packaging and Paper Products Extended Producer Responsibility
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



Jason Bergquist
CEO
RecycleMe



Jeff Bezzo
Executive Director – Plastic & Packaging Sustainability
SC Johnson



Rachael Dettmann Spiegel
Partner
Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP



Todd Ellis
Vice President, Stewardship, Services & Solutions
The Battery Network



Justine Fallon
VP Operations
Mattress Recycling Council



Robert Flores
Vice President, Sustainability Operations & Advocacy
Amcor



Paul Gill
Business Intelligence Director
Evnia by UL Solutions



Paul E. Hagen
Principal
Beveridge & Diamond PC



Rachel Hain
Manager, Packaging Stewardship Compliance
Keurig Dr. Pepper



Miriam Holsinger
Co-President, COO
Eureka Recycling



Olivier Jamin
Counsel
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP



Treijon Johnson
Director of Sustainability
Accredo Packaging



Jason Linnell
Executive Director
National Center for Electronics Recycling



Robbie Lock
Senior Manager, Sustainability
HP Food



Paula Luu
Managing Director
Biocycle



Shannon McDonald
Director, Waste Diversion Division
Maryland Department of the Environment



Shoshana Micon
Manager, Recycling and Packaging Sustainability
American Forest & Paper Association



Sheila Millar
Partner
Keller and Heckman LLP



Alexandra (Ally) Peck
Director
Consumer Technology Association



Anders Persson
Regulatory Affairs Leader
IKEA



Nicole Portley
Program Plan Lead
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality



Roxanne Sharif
Director of Sustainability
Can Manufacturers Institute



Anthony Tusino
Senior Director, Public Policy & Government Affairs
The Recycling Partnership



Danielle Waterfield
Policy Director and General Counsel
AMERIPEN



Emily Williams
Director
How2Recycle

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PRE-CONFERENCE *VIRTUAL* WORKSHOP January 20, 2027

9:00 am–12:30 pm *(30 mins break included)* ET

PPWR in Practice:
Working Group on What U.S. and Global Companies Need to Do Next

The **EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)** is beginning to take effect, with key requirements. being phased in over varying timelines.

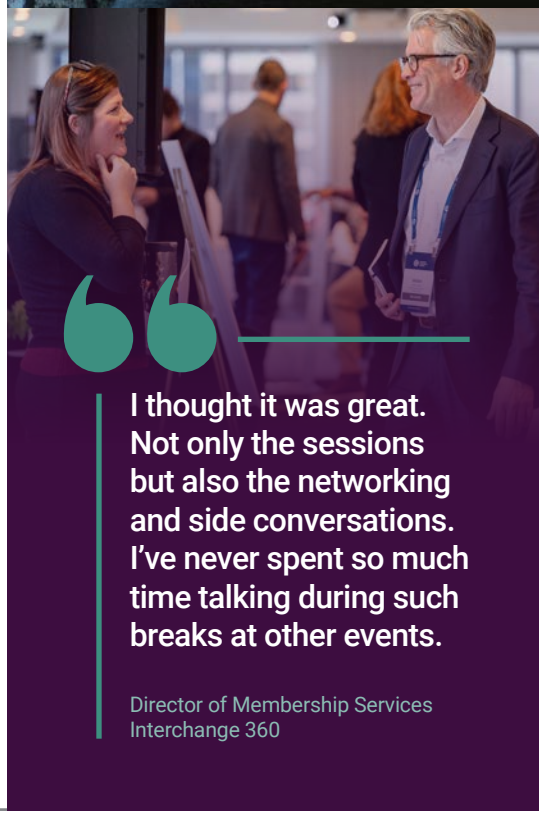
For U.S.-based companies and global multinationals placing packaged products on the EU market, **understanding the PPWR regulations are only the starting point. The real challenge lies in turning regulatory requirements into workable business practices,** including packaging design, supplier management, documentation, data systems, and clear accountability for compliance.

Our workshop leaders will explore how companies can operationalize PPWR requirements, align cross-functional teams, and develop implementation strategies that support compliance while minimizing business disruption.

This interactive workshop will help you:

- Determine which products and packaging formats fall within scope
- Identify the responsibilities of manufacturers, importers, distributors and other relevant entities
- Map requirements and deadlines, so your team can distinguish immediate work from changes that need longer-term planning
- Collect packaging specifications, supplier evidence and other information needed to support compliance decisions
- Assess potential design changes involving recyclability, reuse, labeling and substances of concern
- Consider what packaging data and design work can support both EU and U.S. programs





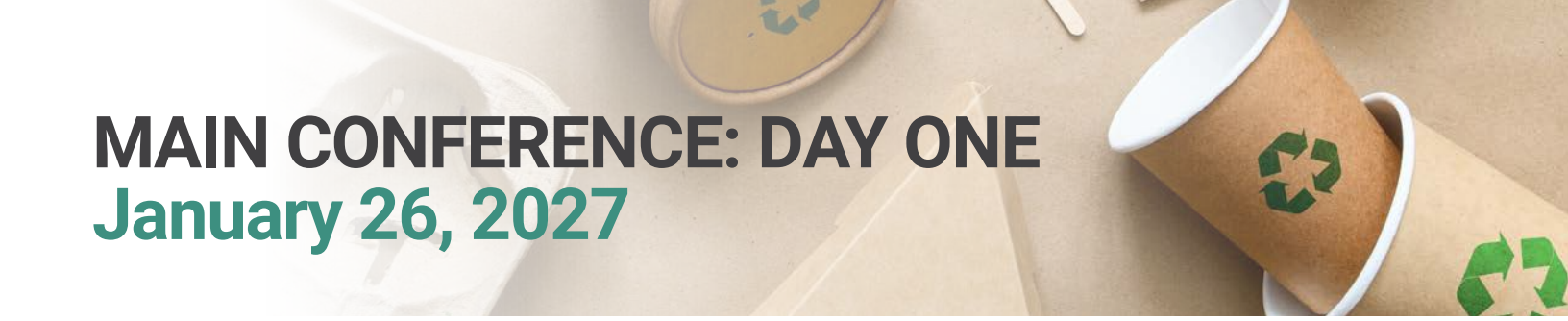
> I thought it was great. Not only the sessions but also the networking and side conversations. I've never spent so much time talking during such breaks at other events.
>
> Director of Membership Services
> Interchange 360

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For more information please contact:
Aaron Goldstein
Senior Business Development Manager
Email: A.Goldstein@AmericanConference.com



MAIN CONFERENCE: DAY ONE
January 26, 2027

7:30 Continental Networking Breakfast and Registration

8:30 Co-Chairs' Welcome Remarks



Anders Persson
Regulatory Affairs Leader
IKEA

8:45 Federal EPR Outlook and the Future of Packaging Policy

Although the prospects for a comprehensive federal EPR law remain uncertain, policymakers are considering narrower federal measures that could bring greater consistency to packaging labeling and recycling policy.

This panel will look at where federal intervention may be heading and what it could mean for existing state programs.

- Assessing the political and legislative outlook for federal packaging policy, including the likelihood of comprehensive EPR legislation
- Tracking the PACK Act, the Truth in Labeling Act and any successor proposals governing recyclable, compostable and reusable packaging
- Considering whether a national framework would enable companies to use consistent packaging and labeling across the US, or create another layer of compliance



Jeff Bezzo
Executive Director – Plastic & Packaging Sustainability
SC Johnson



Danielle Waterfield
Policy Director and General Counsel
AMERIPEN



Anthony Tusino
Senior Director, Public Policy & Government Affairs
The Recycling Partnership

9:30 Morning Networking Coffee Break

10:00 **Fireside Chat** with Circular Action Alliance

10:30 **Lessons from Other EPR Programs:** What the CPG and Packaging Industries Can Learn from Electronics, Battery and Mattress Manufacturers

Other industries have already spent years building producer-funded collection systems, working with retailers and recyclers, and adjusting programs.

Our panelists will examine which approaches have worked, where costs and operational challenges emerged, how to manage obligations; and the most valuable takeaways for the CPG industry.

- Comparing how different EPR programs define the producer, assign costs, and hold participants accountable
- Learning what it takes to build efficient collection networks and effective partnerships with retailers, municipalities, and recyclers
- Examining how companies selling electronics or mattresses manage product stewardship alongside EPR packaging



Jason Linnell
Executive Director
National Center for Electronics Recycling



Alexandra (Ally) Peck
Director
Consumer Technology Association



Justine Fallon
VP Operations
Mattress Recycling Council



MODERATOR:
Paul E. Hagen
Principal
Beveridge & Diamond PC



Todd Ellis
Vice President, Stewardship, Services & Solutions
The Battery Network

11:15 State Regulators' Roundtable: From Rulemaking to Real-World Implementation



Mallory Anderson
Packaging and Paper Products Extended Producer Responsibility
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



Shannon McDonald
Director, Waste Diversion Division
Maryland Department of the Environment



Nicole Portley
Program Plan Lead
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Back by popular demand, state regulators return to share their insights on the latest developments in packaging EPR implementation across the United States. This interactive roundtable will explore upcoming milestones, enforcement priorities, and lessons from states at different stages of implementation.

12:30 Networking Lunch

1:30 AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

COMPLIANCE, DATA AND FINANCE TRACK

Building Better EPR Data Systems and Scalable Compliance Programs



Rachael Dettmann Spiegel
Partner
Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP



Paul Gill
Business Intelligence Director
Evnia by UL Solutions



Rachel Hain
Manager, Packaging Stewardship Compliance
Keurig Dr. Pepper

Effective EPR compliance depends on reliable data about what a company sells, where its products go, and how they are packaged.

This session will examine how to move from manual data collection to a scalable process that supports accurate reporting and fee forecasting.

- Establishing clear ownership of packaging data across legal, sustainability, packaging and finance teams
- Collecting and validating material and weight data from suppliers and business units
- Creating consistent records and defensible audit trails to support reported data
- Evaluating what software platforms and external consultants can realistically automate, and where internal review remains essential

PACKAGING AND CIRCULARITY TRACK

California Source Reduction: Finding a Workable Path to 2032

California's SB 54 sets an ambitious 2032 goal for reducing single-use plastic packaging and food service ware.

This panel will examine how companies are putting source-reduction plans into action, the practical changes required, and the lessons learned from early implementation efforts.

- Forecasting reductions as sales volumes and product mixes change
- Balancing source reduction with food safety, shipping and product protection considerations
- Developing individual source-reduction plans and measuring progress against them



2:15 Afternoon Networking Break



3:00 AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

COMPLIANCE, DATA AND FINANCE TRACK

Demystifying Exemptions and Covered Materials



Shoshana Micon
Manager, Recycling and Packaging Sustainability
American Forest & Paper Association

This practical session will help producers assess what packaging falls within scope and what evidence they may need to support a potential exemption.

- Working through common material-classification questions and differences between state programs
- Examining food-contact, health, and safety-related exemptions
- Resolving questions about producer responsibility when products are sold through distributors or move across state lines

PACKAGING AND CIRCULARITY TRACK

Making EPR Work on the Ground: What Recyclers, MRFs, Composters and End Markets Need



Paula Luu
Managing Director
Biocycle



Miriam Holsinger
Co-President, COO
Eureka Recycling

This panel will bring stakeholders across the value chain, to discuss which investments are helping, which packaging creates persistent challenges, and what producers need to hear from the people handling their materials.

- Examining how EPR funding is changing collection, sorting, and processing operations
- Identifying packaging formats that facilities can realistically recycle or compost at scale
- Improving communication between producers, packaging designers and operators before materials enter the system

3:45 AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

COMPLIANCE, DATA AND FINANCE TRACK

Eco-Modulation and Fee Forecasting: Turning Packaging Decisions into Financial Strategy



Robert Flores
Vice President, Sustainability Operations & Advocacy
Amcor

EPR fees are becoming a significant and growing business expense, making it increasingly important for producers to understand how packaging choices can affect costs across states.

This session will explore how companies can forecast financial exposure, assess potential fee incentives, and use those insights to inform packaging decisions and budget planning.

- Understanding how material classifications, packaging volumes, and emerging eco-modulation formulas influence fees
- Modelling potential costs across states as fee schedules and program requirements evolve
- Identifying applicable fee adjustments and other opportunities to reduce costs
- Communicating financial exposure, uncertainty, and investment needs to senior leadership

PACKAGING AND CIRCULARITY TRACK

Packaging Innovation in Practice: Balancing Manufacturing, Performance and Recyclability



Treijon Johnson
Director of Sustainability
Accredo Packaging

Hear from producers, packaging engineers/manufacturers, and material suppliers on the decisions behind a real packaging change, and whether it can be manufactured, used and recovered in practice.

- Working through equipment, production and operational complications during the pilot
- Examining ways of expanding a successful pilot across facilities, product lines or markets
- Finding workable approaches for packaging formats that remain difficult to recycle

4:30 Cocktails and Conversation

MAIN CONFERENCE: DAY TWO
January 27, 2027

8:00 Continental Networking Breakfast and Registration

9:00 Co-Chairs' Welcome Remarks



Anders Persson
Regulatory Affairs Leader
IKEA

9:15 Comparing Existing and Emerging State EPR Packaging Programs

With Minnesota, Maryland, and Washington moving forward with implementation of their EPR packaging programs, and proposals under consideration in New York, New Jersey, Tennessee, and several other states, the compliance landscape is quickly changing.

This session will explore and compare what is taking shape across these jurisdictions and help you plan for the years ahead.

- Reviewing upcoming milestones and producer obligations in Minnesota, Maryland, and Washington
- Tracking packaging EPR proposals in New York, New Jersey, Tennessee, and other states
- Comparing differences in covered materials, producer definitions, exemptions, and reporting requirements
- Examining where state programs may become more consistent, and where companies should expect differences to remain



Jason Bergquist
CEO
RecycleMe



Olivier Jamin
Counsel
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP



Roxanne Sharif
Director of Sustainability
Can Manufacturers Institute

10:15 Morning Networking Coffee Break

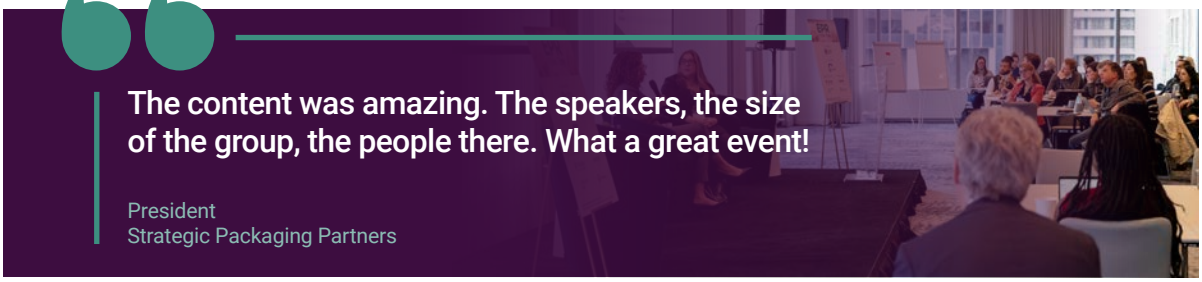
10:45 **Producers' Reality Check Roundtable:**
What Is Working, What Is Not, and What We Would Do Differently

Hear directly from producers about what worked, what caught them by surprise, and what they would do differently with the benefit of hindsight.



Robbie Lock
Senior Manager, Sustainability
HP Food

- Comparing how companies have structured their EPR programs and assigned responsibility across legal, sustainability, packaging, and finance teams
- Identifying unexpected costs, common mistakes, and practical changes that have improved compliance
- Sharing lessons from producer registration, packaging-data collection, and initial reporting
- Examining how companies work with suppliers, distributors, consultants, and software providers to fill information gaps



"The content was amazing. The speakers, the size of the group, the people there. What a great event!"

President
Strategic Packaging Partners

11:45 **Recyclability Claims Under SB 343:** Navigating the Injunction and What Comes Next

A preliminary injunction has created uncertainty around enforcement of California's SB 343 recyclability-labeling restrictions, but decisions still need to be made about packaging claims, artwork, and future compliance while the case proceeds.

This session will examine the practical impact of the ruling and how producers can prepare for the possible outcomes.



Emily Williams
Director
How2Recycle

- Reviewing the status of the injunction and what it means for current labeling decisions
- Assessing the use of chasing-arrows symbols and other recyclability claims on products and packaging
- Planning for packaging changes, inventory transitions, and the potential speed of action if enforcement resumes

12:30 Networking Luncheon

1:30 **EPR at Legal Crossroads:** What Challenges to the Oregon, California, and Colorado EPR Laws Mean for Producers

Legal challenges are testing the design and administration of state EPR packaging programs. With a court ruling now issued in Oregon and litigation involving California and Colorado still ongoing, this panel will examine what these developments mean for producers facing compliance obligations that are already underway.



Sheila Millar
Partner
Keller and Heckman LLP

- Reviewing the Oregon ruling and understanding the legal arguments shaping challenges to the California and Colorado programs
- Examining which aspects of EPR are being challenged, including producer fees, program governance, and the role of producer responsibility organizations
- Clarifying what producers must continue to do while litigation proceeds and where the legal uncertainty matters most

2:30 Afternoon Networking Break

2:45 **Enforcement Gets Real:** Registration, Penalties, and Audits

EPR enforcement is ramping up, with regulators increasingly targeting missed registrations, reporting deficiencies, and unpaid fees.

Our panelists will examine how states are identifying non-compliance, what consequences producers may face, and how you can prepare for greater scrutiny while obligations continue to evolve.

- Examining what happens when a producer fails to register, report packaging data or pay required fees
- Understanding when penalties or restrictions on selling covered products could apply under different state programs
- Clarifying how PROs identify potential non-compliant producers and how state regulators determine whether to take enforcement action

3:30 **California Textile EPR:** Understanding the Rules and Preparing for Implementation

California's textile EPR law is bringing new responsibilities for apparel and textile producers. As the state develops a system for collection, repair, reuse, and recycling, learn about what you need to do now and how the program could take shape in the future.

- Reviewing California's implementation timeline and the obligations already in place for producers
- Clarifying which apparel and textile products are covered and where questions about definitions remain
- Discussing the operational and financial implications for apparel brands, retailers, and other affected companies

4:15 Closing Remarks—Conference Adjourns

Upcoming Events



March 11–12, 2027 | New York, NY



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June 24–25, 2027 | New York, NY



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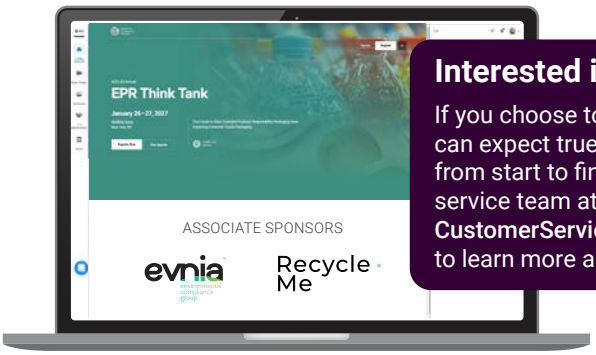
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