Extended Producer Responsibility

General principles and international cases

2024

PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY COALITION

Editorial

PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY COALITION

The **Producer Responsibility Coalition** brings together about forty Producer Responsibility Organisations around the world to advocate the proper inclusion of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) into the future legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, mandated by the resolution 5/14 of UNEA-5 in March 2022.

As these negotiations highlighted the importance of considering the entire plastic life cycle in future policy decisions, EPR has emerged as a relevant political tool. We believe that EPR sets clear objectives for the circular economy: reduction, eco-design of materials, financing of waste collection, recycling, development of new circular systems such as reuse, and consumer-awareness.

By aggregating the thoughts and cases of several EPR worldwide, the Coalition has published two positions papers during INC-1 (November 2022)[1] and INC-2[2] (May 2023), explaining what EPR is and how it could be included into the future Treaty.

The aim of this third position paper, "**General principles and international cases**" is to present the main operating principles of EPR in terms of its definition, its adaptation, the need for a regulatory framework, the permanent and dedicated funds it allows and the accountability it ensures. To illustrate these principles, which are being developed through different approaches throughout the world, various examples of Producer Responsibility Organisations are described in the second part, setting out their objectives and the ways in which they are implemented.

[1] *Integrate EPR in the international treaty on plastic pollution - November 2022*

[2] *Key tools to better include EPR in the international treaty on plastic pollution - May 2023*

What is Extended Producer Responsibility?

The OECD defines Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as an environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of its life cycle. This approach underlines the idea that producers must take financial and/or organisational responsibility for their products' end of life through measures applied throughout their life cycle, from design to management of waste generated by these products. Over time, EPR encourages companies to produce more sustainably, innovate and contribute significantly to reducing their own environmental impact.

EPR for packaging first emerged in Germany and France in the early 1990s and has subsequently been adopted by most other European countries. Since the early 2000s, EPR has spread to all continents, with countries such as Canada, Chile, the Philippines, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Vietnam, and many US states developing their own initial EPR schemes.

Moreover, EPR applies to an expanding range of sectors due either to their level of market relevance, recoverable materials, or specific end-of-life management requirements. The main sectors involved are packaging, electrical and electronic equipment, batteries, textiles, paint, pharmaceuticals, and tires. EPR coverage of products and sectors is expanding to include almost all waste generated by the consumer goods market.

Producers placing products on the market may mutualize this responsibility by entrusting it to an external entity - such as a Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) - to act on their behalf. In this case, they declare data on their products (e.g. sales units, weight, size, material) put on the market each year and pay their contribution subsequently.

Depending on applicable regulations, these PROs may or may not operate within a competitive framework. Their operations can fall within two distinct categories: financial where the PRO assume a purely financial responsibility by taking on some of the costs borne by local authorities tasked with waste management, or operational - where the PRO coordinates the collection, sorting, and recycling of their respective waste stream.

EPR activities evolve and adapt based on the local and national context and on innovation.

EPR systems pool resources nationally or subnationally to fund end-of-life recovery of products placed on the market in their sectors with a view to reducing their environmental impact EPR, in some countries, also funds programmes on eco-design/reduction, reuse, waste minimisation, improving recyclability, compostability and anti-littering, as well as awareness and education campaigns on sorting and anti-littering habits. In countries starting to implement an EPR scheme, this constitutes furthermore a market activator to solve local problems of demand for recyclable materials.

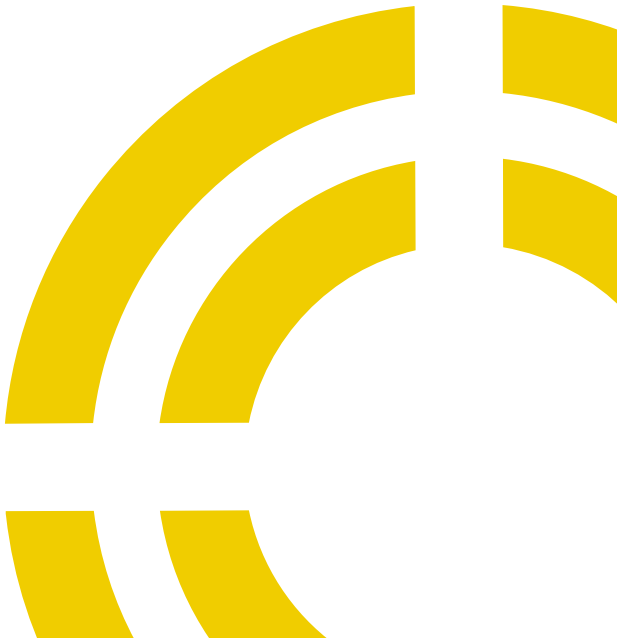
These various initiatives can be implemented on a local or national scale as required and adapted accordingly. They help support the circular economy by accomplishing '3R' or '4R' goals in terms of reducing, reusing, repairing, and recycling products, with the ultimate aim of reducing the environmental impact of goods placed on the market.

To achieve these goals, a PRO must adopt an innovative approach enabling it to improve the environmental efficiency of products throughout their life cycle. Such an approach enables it to propose practical solutions to its members and fund new activities and R&D projects to enhance its own role and actively contribute towards advancing a circular economy.

EPR system needs a detailed regulatory framework defining the roles and obligations of all stakeholders.

To guarantee its effectiveness, an EPR system requires a sound legislative framework designed and steered by the state regulator in coordination with all relevant stakeholders (producers, local authorities, industrial waste management and recycling operators, waste value chain actors, waste pickers, consumers, and environmental protection groups) to enable a workable and implementable system.

- This framework must determine all stakeholders' scope of responsibility and obligations and the nature of their interactions with PROs to ensure a participatory approach. It must furthermore be built around clear, measurable targets subject to enforcement and penalties, encouraging stakeholders to take the necessary action and creating a level playing field among obligated producers. Its implementation should be monitored using various accountability tools to ensure transparency and confidence in the system.
- With a view to tackling all types of pollution, particularly plastic pollution, an EPR scheme can be implemented by product type (e.g. packaging, textiles etc.) rather than by material. This will enable an effective coordination of similar stakeholders on a given sector.



EPR allows dedicated and long-term funding, enabling circular economy to be implemented.

Contrary to what many believe, EPR is not a budget or taxation tool. Aligned with their respective extended responsibilities, producers directly pay contributions to PROs that fulfil their obligations. These contributions are used to form a permanent, dedicated fund that ensures solidarity, fairness and accountability, and which finances waste management infrastructures and operations within the regulatory framework. This funding often extends to eco-design, reduction, reuse, and citizen awareness-raising measures. Moreover, it offers the predictability needed to make key investments ensuring an efficient, long-term waste management system.

- While fiscal and budgetary policies may fluctuate, EPR funding is consistent and remains in line with the required scope of responsibility. Compared to this, the various available financial or budgetary tools and support are often too limited, erratic, or piecemeal to ensure proper management and meet the challenge of reducing environmental impacts.
- The tariff system implemented must cover all costs defined by the respective regulations in force. A company's annual contribution to an EPR scheme may therefore be calculated based on its data regarding goods placed on the market (sales units, weight, size, material) and may be modulated using a bonus/penalty system based on environmental criteria, such as recyclability and post-consumer recycled content, encouraging businesses to develop, use and place on the market products that are better for the environment and sustainable.
- Once an initial tariff basis has been established, the costs needed to meet EPR targets may be optimised or also increased if necessary. To be correctly calculated and considered, these costs must be based on reliable data collection and should reflect scoped and optimized operations considering local conditions. They must be legally applied to all regulated producers, thus creating a level playing field.

EPR system meets accountability and traceability requirements.

To ensure confidence in an EPR system and guarantee its successful implementation, it is essential to collect relevant data so that products are traceable throughout their life cycle. This is also crucial for ensuring that the PRO is properly accountable for its activities in light of targets set by regulations.

- Data regarding goods placed on the market submitted by companies to the PRO are first fed into an initial assessment of waste tonnage and funds required to implement schemes to reduce their environmental impact, particularly at end of life. The PRO can also use this initial data to draw up a plan to support its members with their eco-design efforts.
- Alongside this, a list of products or materials covered by EPR, and their respective rates must be clearly specified so that each producer pays their contribution. In some jurisdictions, a unique identifier is used to monitor companies' fulfilment of their EPR commitments. This identifier is assigned exclusively to contributing companies authorised, and this certification enables them to sell their products on the market.
- Once products have been used, they must be tracked from collection to recovery using information provided by stakeholders involved in the entire chain (product and waste management operators, municipal authorities, producers, etc.). This data can be used to measure reuse, recycling, and recovery rates for various products.

To report on the proper management of financial flows and the achievement of targets, PRO submit regular activity reports to public stakeholders responsible for EPR regulations. On that basis, a state approval is granted by the public authorities to the PRO enabling it to continue with its operations.

Over time, priorities can be redefined, and new joint strategies adopted based on an examination of identified barriers to achieving 3R targets (reduction, reuse, recycling) in consultation with all circular economy stakeholders.

Relevant cases of PROs worldwide

Colombia - Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia

In Colombia, the PRO Visión 2030 has been active since 2019 as the national ruling was published in 2018 and requires producer organizations to demonstrate the recovering and use of 30% of the total amount of packaging waste put on the market by 2030, starting with a 10% goal for 2021. For 2024, the goal is 16%.

Currently, Visión 3030 represents over 350 producers, located at 18 out of 32 departments of the country, and covers 69 economic groups according CIIU international codification.

Measuring the amount of packaging waste was an initial challenge and now is one of the strongest processes that producer organizations have internalized and committed to embrace in order to reduce the impact.

Since the creation of the PRO, over €6 million have been allocated to 5 strategic objectives: strengthening value chains, promoting applied research, driving social and productive inclusion, executing territorial projects, and delivering consumer pedagogy. These efforts have resulted in the recycling of over 150 thousand tons of postconsumer packaging waste, working together with over 100 collecting organizations plus 45 recycling sites over the country.

Australia - Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation

The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) is the not-for-profit organisation established to administer the Australian Packaging Covenant (the Covenant) on behalf of the Australian, State and Territory Governments, and its industry Signatories. The Covenant is part of a compulsory, co-regulatory product stewardship framework established under national legislation to reduce the impact of packaging on the Australian environment. Liable brand owners must either become signatories to the Covenant or acquit equivalent obligations under government regulation.

APCO is directly accountable to Australia's National and State and Territory Environment Ministers for leading all industry sectors in delivering the National Packaging Targets, which were established in 2018 and are:

- 100% of packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable.
- 70% of plastic packaging recycled or composted.
- 50% average recycled content across all packaging.
- Phase out problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging.

APCO also administers the Australasian Recycling Label Program, which has two key elements:

- An online recyclability assessment tool that packaging designers use to assess packaging recyclability in the Australian and New Zealand kerbside or approved drop-off recycling systems, and
- The Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) – an on-pack label that provides clear and simple instructions about how to recycle all the separable components of a package.

The Australian Government has established a policy target of 80% of all supermarket product packaging carrying the ARL.

The National Packaging Targets have been instrumental in encouraging many brand owners to reduce packaging, transition to more recyclable materials and find ways to incorporate recycled content, however in percentage terms progress towards the targets has been slow. Australia's Environment Ministers have announced packaging reform that will include mandatory design rules, recycled content requirements and elimination of chemicals of concern.

Reusable packaging is increasingly commonplace in supply chains. Australia is recycling more packaging year on year and developing substantial new reprocessing capacity.

Austria - Altstoff Recycling Austria

ARA
Altstoff Recycling Austria

Altstoff Recycling Austria AG (ARA) has been a driving force in the Austrian waste and recycling industry for over 30 years and is the market leader among Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) in Austria and one of the most successful recycling and recovery schemes for packaging, e-waste, and batteries in the EU.

ARA handles the statutory take-back and recovery obligation of packaging for more than 16,000 customers. As a partner in the economy, ARA and its subsidiaries develop tailor-made waste management solutions in the waste and recycling industry: from waste disposal and material flow management to circular design and digitalization of the circular economy.

ARA, a not-for-profit company owned by Austrian businesses (packaging manufacturers, the manufacturing industry, businesses, and trading companies), has been organizing and financing the collection and sorting of packaging waste all over Austria since 1993.

ARA contributes to tackling climate change by ensuring that as much packaging as possible is recycled. Consumers benefit from a nationwide, convenient, and high-performing infrastructure for the separate collection, recycling and recovery of packaging from households and businesses with around 2 million containers and bins for paper, plastic, metal and glass.

Furthermore, ARA offers nationwide target-specific education initiatives, littering and awareness campaigns.

Canada – Circular Materials, Éco Entreprises Québec, Recycle BC, Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba and Multi-Material Stewardship Western

Extended Producer Responsibility has been part of the Canadian landscape for over 20 years. In 2009, Canada formalized its commitment to EPR when the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME) released a *Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility*, which aimed to increase diversion of solid waste by coordinating provincial EPR programs and entrenching the principle in Canadian waste policy. Since then, most provinces and territories have enforced legislation on a wide range of products and materials under EPR programs. From 2002 to 2022, stewards have funded over 5 billion dollars to finance the local recycling systems for paper and packaging products in Ontario, Québec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

In 2014, Recycle BC, the PRO for residential packaging and paper recycling in the province of British Columbia, became the first full-EPR program for residential packaging and paper in North America. Since then, its producers have contributed $876 million to fund the collection of over 1.8 million tonnes of packaging and paper. In 2022, 98% of the plastics collected in the province were sent to recycling end markets, and 98% of that remained in British Columbia, supporting a local circular economy. Recycle BC is also the only jurisdiction in North America that currently collects and recycles flexible plastic packaging for all residents.

Following the success of British Columbia, many other provinces are either implementing full-EPR or transitioning from existing financial-responsibility models. In Québec, Éco Entreprises Québec, the PRO representing producers since 2005, has been designated to ensure the transition to full operational control over the curbside recycling system by January 1st, 2025, as well as lead a progressive transition for the institutional, commercial, and industrial sectors by 2030, a first in the world. In Ontario, Circular Materials, a PRO

supporting producers in meeting their EPR regulatory obligations for collecting and managing packaging, paper, and packaging–like products, is leading the transition to full-EPR by January 1st, 2026. Circular Materials is also leading the implementation of a new full-EPR system in New Brunswick by 2027, and will soon play a similar role in Alberta, Nova Scotia, and the Yukon. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the transition is managed respectively by Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba and Multi-Material Stewardship Western.

Through this transition period, the five Canadian non-for-profit PROs are committed to working together to optimize and harmonize the models to deliver efficient and effective EPR for paper products and packaging across the country.

France – Citeo

In France, the Producer Responsibility Organisation, Citeo has extended its remit to include activities that cover the whole life cycle of household packaging and graphic paper. 60,000 companies contribute to the EPR scheme for household packaging and paper and 700 contracts have been signed with local authorities. In 2024, €1.3 billion of annual contributions will be used to fund both standard waste management activities and supplementary programmes. Consequently, €100 million will be allocated to developing reuse this year, and approximately €100 million will also be spent on the programme to tackle litter.

Funding for the are therefore dedicated towards:

- Support for local authorities
- R&D programmes providing dedicated support on the 3Rs
- Extension of collection points, particularly out of home
- Awareness and information campaigns.

Through its commitment, Citeo is able to achieve tangible results which are reflected in recycling performance, with 66% or around 3.8 million tonnes of household packaging and 1 million tonnes of paper placed on the market recycled annually. This translates as 2.2 million tonnes of CO_2 emissions savings.

Germany – Der Grüne Punkt GmbH

Der Grüne Punkt (GreenDot) – founded in 1990 as an industry-owned, non-profit company for EPR implementation – is an example of a PRO with 100 % financial and operational control for household packaging recycling. In its 30+ years of operation, GreenDot has been highly influential in supporting the implementation of EPR in Europe and abroad. The regulatory landscape

in Germany has changed significantly so that today, GreenDot is one of several PROs working in a competitive environment, with a central monitoring platform setting guidelines for transparency and enforcement.

The GreenDot system in Germany is characterized by the following elements:

- EPR compliance for 115.000 obliged companies, from global brands to small importers e.g. from Asia.
- coordination of collection, sorting and recycling of all household packaging materials. GreenDot was instrumental in increasing Germany's plastic household packaging recycling from 3 % in 1991 to 65 % in 2022.
- Tenders for collection and sorting of packaging, ensuring cost control and transparency.
- Kerbside collection for >80 mio. Inhabitants for lightweight packaging and paper, convenient collection of glass.
- Communication and education of consumers on separate collection, as well as reliable reporting and performance tracking for obliged producers and regulators.
- Developing and adjusting pricing mechanisms, eco-modulation models, etc. to ensure system performance and stability, guided by regulatory parameters and changes in recycling targets and priorities. Supporting producers with regard to packaging recyclability as well as use of recycled content in packaging.
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Spain – Ecoembes and Ecovidrio

Ecoembes was founded by Spanish producers in November 1996 as a non-profit company to design systems aimed at separately collecting and recovering household packaging waste, in cooperation with our regional and local authorities. The latter receive financial compensation for the collection, transport, and treatment of lightweight packaging - plastics, metals and beverage cartons - and paper and cardboard, providing 47.5 million inhabitants with the necessary infrastructure to make recycling possible. As of 2023, Ecoembes gathers over 15,000 companies and holds over 55 agreements with public authorities.
Ecoembes strives for a future without waste that effects positive change on both the environment and people. We make it our mission to accompany companies, public administrations, and citizens in facing challenges and opportunities on the way to achieving full circularity of packaging, from an environmental, social and governance (ESG) perspective.

On this journey, our open-innovation approach, landed by our CircularLab, allows us to find opportunities across each and every phase of the recycling cycle, from eco-design to make packaging recyclable to encouraging citizen participation in separate collection through continuous operational improvement.

In so doing, we also believe in inclusive circularity that creates opportunities for everyone. This is why we embark on high-impact social projects focused on job creation, circular talent, and accessibility, among other flagship initiatives such as Libera, a programme aimed to end waste abandoned in nature, in cooperation with SEO/Bird/Life.

Twenty-seven years on following its foundation, Ecoembes makes it possible for over 74% of the packaging waste under its remit to be recycled. And, as of 2025, it is expected for Ecoembes to extend its scope to commercial packaging.

Ecovidrio is the EPR organisation and non-profit entity entrusted with glass packaging recycling in Spain, representing packaging glass companies and contributing to their compliance with waste-related regulations at EU and national level. Ecovidrio started operations in 1997 and manages separate collection of all kind of glass packaging throughout the country and through specific monomaterial containers, thereby guaranteeing maximum quality (only 2% impurities) and ensuring waste collected is used for new glass packaging. Today 7 out of 10 glass packaging are recycled thanks to the collaboration of all stakholders and the push for Ecovidrio.

Ecovidrio carries out containerization, selective container collection, collection in urban waste plants, additional *ad hoc* collections, intensive collection operations in the HORECA sector (which generates 50% of glass packaging waste), as well as designs awareness campaigns aimed at the citizens and the HORECA sector.

Based on a private-public collaboration with municipalities, Ecovidrio adapts the collection management model to the needs and characteristics of the municipality, and as a premise of its activity, treatment operations are monitored to obtain cullet under the principles of sustainability, efficiency, effectiveness, and traceability. Moreover and as a peculiarity of its management, in 60% of Spanish municipalities, Ecovidrio is directly responsible for the collection of glass packaging waste what it provides a high knowledge of the circumstances and the needs of the territory.

Data driven and innovation are also fundamental pillars. Ecovidrio is implementing programmes with technological applications for weighing and data transmission scales per container and container geolocation which allows through artificial intelligence to improve decision making and activation of the most effective plans.

In the collaboration strategy with companies to comply with their packaging obligations, Ecovidrio develops packaging ecodesign guides, business prevention plans and more than 10 ad hoc services in the technical, formative, communicative and administrative field.

Bulgaria – ECOPACK

In Bulgaria ECOPACK is the largest producer responsibility organisation covering over 40% of the population with systems for separate collection of packaging waste. There are 3 more PROs in the country. Over 1100 companies among which the biggest multinational producers and importers of packaged goods. Ecopack's packaging collection system consists of:

- Full responsibility for establishment and operation of three-colour igloo curbside bins in 96 municipalities with over 5000 inhabitants, which have contracts with the organization.
- Cooperation with the biggest retail chains and industrial clients in Bulgaria for collecting their packaging waste.

- Joint projects with HORECA, municipalities and waste pickers' and collectors' sector.

Ecopack acts as a main driver that pushed the collection and recycling business in Bulgaria forward. As the organisation manages collection fully outside of municipal systems through a network of partnerships and private subcontractors so it has better control on costs. Ecopack also has full ownership of the material, which allows better revenue management. The fact that the organization is non-profit by statute is a guarantee that its operation is done in the most efficient manner, and all collected funds from obliged industry and waste revenues are invested back into the development of the ecosystem.

The role of Ecopack for the development of the recycling ecosystem is one of main the reasons why 7 million (by population) Bulgaria is among the EU leaders in plastic packaging recycling (Eurostat data as of 2021).

Over the last 20 years of operation Ecopack Bulgaria strictly meets and even exceeds targets and has so far delivered over 1,5 million tonnes of packaging waste for recycling.

Belgium – Fost Plus

The Producer Responsibility Organisation Fost Plus operates in Belgium since 1994. Today, 4.800 companies see their legal obligations in terms of household packaging and packaging waste managed by Fost Plus. Fost Plus is the only PRO for household packaging in Belgium and thus covers almost the entire Belgian market.

Fost Plus plays a crucial role in facilitating the transition to a more circular economy. Originally founded to fulfil its members' take-back obligation, Fost Plus is now innovating packaging systems together with them. In line with modern consumption trends and societal expectations, Fost Plus guides them in the transition to more reusable packaging or new models without packaging.

Through an effective and efficient ecosystem that bring together citizens, local and national governments, companies, and experts, Fost Plus rethinks the way we use packaging and materials. The ultimate goal is to pave the way for a better society and cleaner living environment for everyone by making sustainable and infinite material chains possible.

In 2022, Fost Plus recycled 95% of all household packaging brought onto the market by its members. To that end, it set up efficient structures for citizens to sort correctly always and everywhere and it supported its members in improving packaging design. Fost Plus has a working budget of 285 million euros. This

mainly covers the costs for the selective collection, sorting, and recycling of household packaging. These costs are borne by the Fost Plus members, via the payment of the Green Dot rates.

Nigeria – Food and Beverage Recycling Alliance (FBRA)

THE FOOD & BEVERAGE RecyclingAlliance

Nigeria's PRO for the packaging sector is the Food and Beverage Recycling Alliance (FBRA) which was established in March 2018 for the food beverage and tobacco industry. It started with 4 founding members and has grown to currently 33 member companies with 3 focus areas:

- Enabling the collection and recovery of packaging material- has supported the recovery of over 76,000MT of recyclables that would have been in the environment (dumpsites, waterways or gutters) from over 18 States in partnership with over 54 collection partners.

- Policy & Thought Leadership Drive which has enabled the development of the rPET Standard for food contact application (2019): a member company Nestle Nigeria Plc launched the first rPET brand in December 2023 with 50% recycled content; the National Waste Management Policy (2020) and the Plastic Waste Control Regulation (2023).

- Adovcacy through educational campaigns in schools, community engagement in over 100 communities and training of over 1000 waste pickers and public awareness creation.

FBRA and her members are committed to creating secondary markets for recycled products through their commitment to their EPR obligations and facilitation of the waste management value chain ecosystem in Nigeria.

South Africa - Petco Producer Responsibility Organisation

petco
Leading Producer Responsibility.

Petco was started in 2004 after the South African PET producers & users recognized the need to intervene to grow the collection & recycling of PET packaging. The project was initiated on a voluntary basis, by a coalition representing around 90% of the market for beverage PET and about 60% of the total PET market.

In 2004 there was around 7,000 tonnes of PET, mainly beverage bottles collected in South Africa, or around 15% of the beverage bottles placed in the market. In 2021, Petco supported the collection & recycling of around 90,000 tonnes of PET.

By almost any metric this is an impressive result. And although it has become harder and harder to continue growing our collection rate, we believe that this success and the successful replication of the Petco principles in other markets in Africa and in Southeast Asia.

It is important to highlight at this point, that this has been achieved using an unconventional approach that we believe is more suited for the conditions in developing markets. Unlike most European PRO's, Petco does NOT actually do the collection, buy bottles or own recycling facilities. Petco works with and supports a network of independent businesses and individuals from waste pickers to world class recycling plants and everyone in between in order to make this circular economy turn.

At the end of 2021, South Africa introduced Mandatory EPR under Section 18 of the National Waste Management Act.

Throughout this period, we have seen the circular economy develop & grow, experienced numerous market cycles both positive & negative and also managed the transition between voluntary EPR & regulation. It is helpful to identify issues to help inform policy that can better support EPR policy & regulation in a developing market context, acknowledging the differences between the economies and economic realities of the developing world when we consider EPR policy & the circular economy.

Two of the most important differences between developing and developed markets is the maturity of general waste management systems and the relative wealth of their citizens. Although EPR fees are charged to the Producers, it is critical to remember that ultimately these costs are passed through to consumers.

For these reasons Petco has sought to develop an efficient but cost-effective model for supporting the circular economy in developing markets

Portugal – Pontoverde

sociedade pontoverde

In Portugal SPV is the leading Producer Responsibility Organisation for packaging and packaging waste with a market share of 81%. Portugal's EPR regime is one of competition amongst not-for-profit PRO. The mission of SPV encompasses a wide range of responsibilities including:

- The management of the licensed/declared packaging of over 8.000 producers of fast-moving consumer goods;
- Contract management of 33 municipal system contracts and over 80 contracts with waste management companies, many of which are direct recyclers, that close the recycling cycle for packaging waste.
- Funding of selective collection and sorting activities by municipal partners to ensure a proper waste management flow with recycling purposes.
- Support to R&D and innovation projects and initiatives that foster more and better packaging segregation at source, collection, sorting, and recycling.
- Communication and awareness campaigns to the packaging value chain, with a specific focus on producers of household and equivalent waste.
- Waste composition analysis activities as well as audit procedures aiming to verify contractual compliance both by municipal partners as well as by the recycling industry.

- Guidance on packaging waste prevention with the packaging value chain. www.pontoverdelab.pt/ecodesign is currently the largest information platform for packaging ecodesign in the world in Portuguese language.

Through its commitment and partnership work with the value chain, SPV has achieved a take-back and recycling rate for packaging waste of 60% in 2022 and a net carbon emissions' savings of 285.000 metric tons.

Ireland – Repak

Repak the Irish Packaging PRO was set up in 1997 to help businesses meet their obligations to recycle the packaging they place on the Irish market.

Repak works to empower consumers, schools, communities, and business organisations to collaboratively recycle more.

Repak has over 3,500 Members (importers, brand-holders, retailers of packaging) whose fees fund household recycling bins, bottle banks, civic amenities, and commercial back-door packaging waste nationwide. Over the past 27 years, Repak Members have invested over €633 million to help grow packaging recycling and recovery from under 15% in 1997 to an estimated 91% in 2023.

Repak is committed to reducing the environmental impact of packaging waste and works with its Members to both reduce the volume of packaging but to also increase the sustainability of packaging,

Repak educates consumers on reducing and recycling, through its 'Team Green' and Team Green for Schools campaign, 'and extensive marketing and communications activity.

Repak also advocates on behalf of its Members, raising awareness of key issues and developing policies and strategies to deal with new legislation.

Chile – Resimple

Resimple was born in 2022 to respond to the goals and obligations defined for packaging in Chile. The scope defined in Chile consider 2 categories: household and industrial packaging; and 5 subcategories per material (plastics, metal, glass, bricks, paper and carboard. Each one has defined specific goals (industrial consider only 3 subcategories: plastics, metal, and carboard) and the tariff model is full cost for the household and monitoring for the industrial packaging.

Resimple has over 1,000 members (importers, brand-holders, retailers of packaging) and the base line reported by the producers, represents around 66% of the market for household and 50% for industrial categories.

Resimple's operation consider the delivery of a house-to-house collection service nationwide and is being gradually implemented from 2023.

The waste pickers are a key piece in the design of Resimple's management plan. Which is

reflected in the coordination to operate in various parts of the country, where some are mandatory and others above the limits required by regulation.

Resimple is in the process of closing the first year of operation (3 months) in which various challenges have been presented, such as coordination with municipalities, market activation through tenders and the call for participation by consumers.

The tariff model implemented by Resimple considers ecomodulation for recyclability and in 2025 a tariff model will be implemented with an incentive that activates with greater emphasis the circularity of materials such as the use of recycled material and a seal that represents a call to action for the consumers.

India – Social Lab

SOCIAL LAB

EPR for Plastic packaging waste was introduced in India in 2016. This covers all kinds of plastic packaging, for example household and industrial, pre-consumer and post-consumer, single layer and multi-layer, rigid and flexible, packaging coming along with imports etc. The policy focused initially on promoting collection of plastic waste from municipalities and the obligated entities i.e Producers, and Brand owners had to set up the systems to collect, transport, and dispose the plastic packaging waste from the municipalities.

There was another major policy shift in 2022 where the EPR implementation moved its focus from collection, transportation, disposal/recycling to EPR credits. The entire EPR is shifting to a marketplace model where the Government (Pollution Control Boards) approve the registrations of Producer, Importers, Brand Owners (PIBOs), and Recyclers. The same marketplace then allows for generation of EPR credits by the recyclers based on their own collection, and then exchange of these EPR credits between the PIBOs and Recyclers.

Since 2022 when this system started, more than 2500 Brands, 4000 Producers, and 25000+ Importers have taken registration whereas 2500+ recyclers are also registered in the system. The first cycle of compliance for all these registered PIBOs ended on 30th November 2023 wherein ~3.5 million Metric Ton of EPR credits were exchanged between the PIBOs, and the recyclers.

Social Lab Environmental Solutions Pvt Ltd, established in 2018, began working in EPR by setting up the supply chain of plastic packaging waste from municipalities to disposal agencies. This included tie ups with 60 municipalities across 12 states/regions in India. We helped the municipalities by training the waste pickers to manually segregate low value and non-recyclable flexible plastic packaging waste from mixed waste where semi-automatic sorting equipment were not available.

In case of high value and recyclable plastic waste, we had to formalize the informal value chain consisting of scrap dealers/aggregators at the collection end and to the recyclers at the other end. Most of these recyclers were unaware of the policy and the benefits arising from the same. They had to be convinced, brought under the ambit of the law and then made part of system so that they can play a role in fulfilment of the EPR obligations for the PIBOs by recycling plastic packaging waste. This included formalization of 25+ recyclers.

The combined volumes of both recyclable and non-recyclable plastic packaging handled by Social Lab from 2019 to 2022 used to be in the range of 25000 MT annually. With the new EPR credit system since 2022, the role of Social Lab has now changed to consulting where we help more than 450 PIBOs in fulfilment of all kinds of responsibilities under the EPR system that includes filling up of various forms, uploading of different kinds of data on the EPR systems, troubleshooting the system in case of difficulties, coordination with various state governments, apart from helping the PIBOs to purchase the required EPR credits.

United–Kingdom – Valpak

Valpak was the first packaging compliance scheme to be set up in the UK, and 27 years on remains the largest with over 2,000 producer members for packaging, with its services also now covering cup takeback, WEEE and batteries compliance.

Since 1997, the UK has had a packaging producer responsibility system featuring competition between compliance schemes.

Schemes have a narrower focus than PRO's across Europe. They do not handle material directly; instead working with accredited recyclers and exporters to purchase certificates, known as Packaging Recycling Notes (PRNs), which enable their members to demonstrate they've met their obligation to financially contribute to packaging recycling. Current packaging recycling rates are around 63%, with the system costing producers £200-300m a year.

The UK is currently introducing EPR to the packaging sector, which will require a redefined set of producers to cover the cost of household waste collections alongside their PRN responsibilities from late 2025. This, alongside new packaging labelling requirements and eco-modulation, will see producer costs rise to around £2bn a year. Valpak is engaging with stakeholders and government to ensure oversee the implementation of informed policies and appropriate systems.

Signatories

Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance (EXPRA) is the alliance of 31 packaging PROs from 30 countries working on a not-for-profit basis. EXPRA acts as the authoritative voice and common policy platform representing the interests of all its member.

Expra

TAMIR

ÚRVINNSLUSJÓÐUR

SLOPAK
ŽIVIMO Z OKOLJEM.

EKOPAK

GREENPAK
Waste recovery made easy

ENVIPAK

green-dot
Cyprus

ekopak
First licensed packaging recovery organisation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

ecovidrio

ÇEVKO

circular materials

ПАКОМАК
ДРУШТВО ЗА УПРАВУВАЊЕ СО ПАКУВАЊЕ И ОТПАД ОД ПАКУВАЊЕ

VALORLUX
Ensemble, en route vers un monde durable

Fostplus

RINKI

CONAI

verpact

ÖKOPANNON

GRØNT PUNKT

ECOROM
AMBALAJE

fti
FÖRPACKNINGS & TIDNINGS INSAMLINGEN

EKOKOM

VANA
DANSK EMBALLAGEANSVAR

HELLENIC RECOVERY RECYCLING CORPORATION

ETO

Éco Entreprises Québec

ANDI

RE SIMPLE
RECICLAR ES SIMPLE

THE PACKAGING FORUM

Swiss Recycling

valipac
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

ecoembes

REKOPOL
ORGANIZACJA ODZYSKU OPAKOWAŃ SA

PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY COALITION

Producer Responsibility Organizations Packaging Alliance (PROsPA) is an Alliance for cooperation and exchange between leading PROs in Europe. PROsPA exchanges closely with stakeholders along the value chain to better understand challenges towards a circular economy, find and implement practice-oriented solutions, promote common principles, and provide support and know-how where needed.

PRO PA
PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANISATIONS PACKAGING ALLIANCE

sociedade ponto verde · CITEO · ARA · REPAK Business funding recycling. · DerGrünePunkt · REKOPOL · valpak

Canadian PROs

MMSM Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba INDUSTRY FUNDING RECYCLING SimplyRecycle.ca · Éco Entreprises Québec · circular materials · RECYCLEBC · Multi-Material Stewardship Western

From Kenya, Nigeria, India, South Africa, and the United States of America

KEPRO Kenya Extended Producer Responsibility Organization Collaboration | Commitment | Circularity | Community · THE FOOD & BEVERAGE RecyclingAlliance · SOCIAL LAB · petco Leading Producer Responsibility

PSI PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE

PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY COALITION

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