

# Managing Plastics

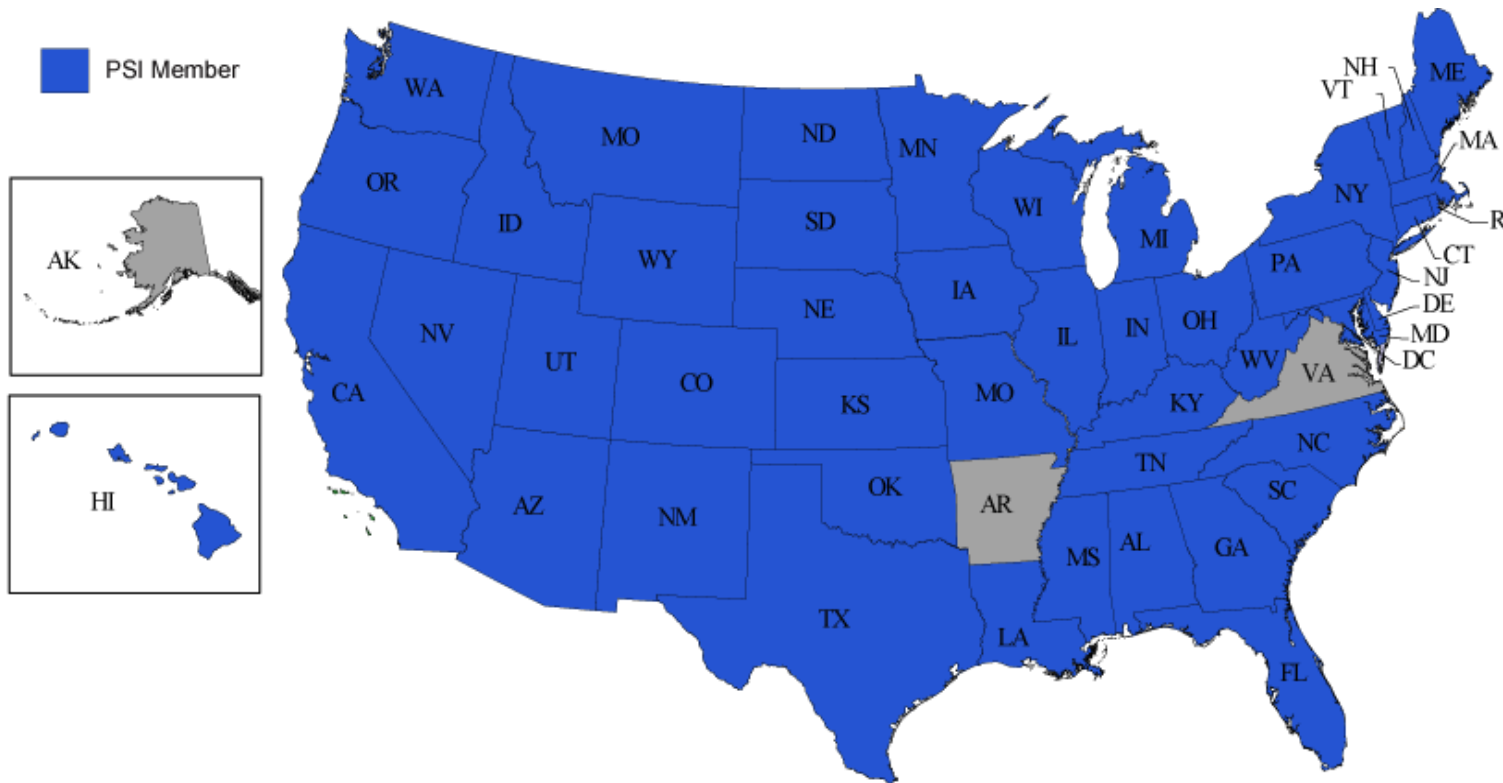
# Learning from Extended Producer Responsibility Programs

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# Product Stewardship Institute (PSI)



***Building the capacity for product stewardship and EPR in the U.S. to reduce the health & environmental impacts of products across their lifecycle since 2000***

- Members
- Partners
- Advisory council
- State product stewardship councils (PSCs)
- 20+ products

# Product Stewardship

A principle that directs all those involved in the **life cycle** of a product to take **shared responsibility** for reducing the health and environmental impacts that result from the production, use, and end-of-life management of the product

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## Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

A **mandatory** type of product stewardship that includes, at a minimum, the requirement that the producer's responsibility for its product extends to **post-consumer management** of that product and its packaging

# U.S. EPR Laws (partial list)

3



5



9



10



1 state,  
9 local

11



13



24



28



5 state,  
23 local

**118\*** epr laws  
14 products  
33 states + d.c.

*\*while bottle bills are highly effective at recovering beverage containers, this does not include the 10 state bottle bills in the U.S. due to the different ways the policies shift responsibility to producers.*

# Why EPR Is Growing

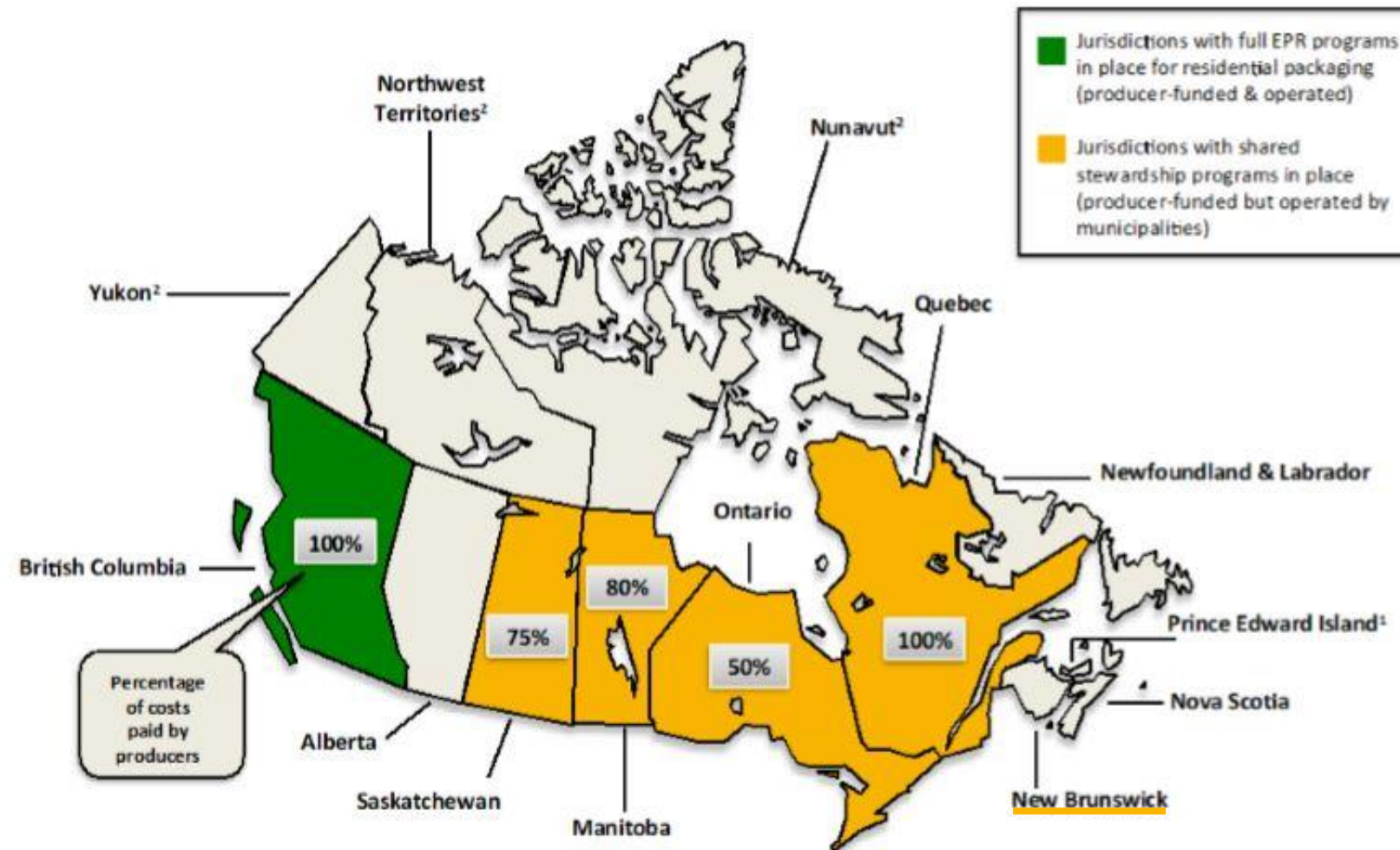
## In the U.S. and Globally

- Ground has been plowed
- Effectiveness:
  - Sustainable financing (\$\$\$ savings)
  - Education and infrastructure (convenience)
  - Increased recovery, reuse, and recycling
  - Jobs
  - Improved efficiency
  - Better products (fewer lifecycle impacts)





# EPR for PPP in Canada



1: In PEI, a provincial agency, Island Waste Management Corporation, operates an integrated province-wide recycling program

2: YT, NWT, NU: some municipal programs in major centres

# EPR for PPP in Canada

Province	Producer Operated	Municipal Operated	Producer Funding
British Columbia	√*		100%
Manitoba		√	80%
Ontario	**	√	50%**
Quebec		√	100%
Saskatchewan		√	75%

\* In the British Columbia system, some municipalities continue to provide recycling services under contract with RecycleBC, the producer responsibility organization.

\*\*The Ontario program is shifting from a shared responsibility, municipal-operated program with reimbursements from producers to a full responsibility, producer-operated program with 100% of the costs borne by producers.



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## Municipalities can:

- Collect under contract within program and be paid;
- Turn recycling over to producers; or
- Continue as-is, no reimbursement.

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# Incentivizing Change

- Weight reduction (fees per ton)
  - High-value materials (net costs)
  - Materials that are easy to recycle (recovery and recycling rates; penalize contamination, damaging materials)
- - > *efforts to more precisely set fees to drive design change*

# Ontario

*“The current shared responsibility model for Ontario’s Blue Box Program is inadequate. It fosters **system fragmentation** by leaving operational decisions to individual municipalities... This fragmentation creates **confusion** for consumers; businesses have **no way of influencing** local programs and therefore **do not fully engage** on packaging design choices; and essential economies of scale cannot be achieved to support a circular economy because **uncertainty deters investment** in new processes and systems.”*

# Quebec

“From **payers** to **key players**...

- **Packaging ecodesign** as the norm (recyclable recycled materials with no overpackaging);
- A **comprehensive, integrated** and **transparent** approach and constant preoccupation with **quality** for all stakeholders;
- The development of local and neighboring recyclable **materials markets**;
- **Greater roles and responsibilities for companies**, beyond the funding they already provide, in the **organization of the system** and **management of the materials**”

# British Columbia

- Keys to weathering challenges:
  - Larger scale (province-wide)
  - Consistent material list
  - Harmonized communications

*quality and consistency of materials (reduced contamination and confusion) - - > ability to find markets*

# What Are the Goals?

- Shift costs? Sustainable financing?
- Collect more materials?
- Expand collection convenience?
- Increased quality of materials?
- Market development?
- Protect assets?
- Protect existing programs?
- Reduction of material? Of impacts?
- Circularity?



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***EPR changes the system***

***The design of the system  
influences outcomes***

# Current Legislative Proposals: State

- Study bills (WA; VT)
- EPR law in development (ME Resolve)
- Full EPR program bills (MA, IN)
- Additional states expected to introduce/re-introduce legislation next session



# Current Legislative Proposals: Federal

- U.S. Sen. Udall (NM), U.S. Rep. Lowenthal (CA)
- Comprehensive proposal
  - EPR for packaging
  - National bottle bill
  - Bag ban + fee
  - Other single-use plastics bans



# Thank you!

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