

# Oregon's Recycling Modernization Act

## What is the RMA?

Oregon's Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (RMA) creates important changes in how packaging, paper products and food service ware (covered materials) are managed in commercial and residential recycling programs after use. The RMA is a type of **Extended Producer Responsibility** (EPR) law that strives to improve the overall effectiveness of Oregon's recycling collection and processing ecosystem by requiring producers of covered materials to pay fees to ensure improved and expanded recycling services. Under this **shared responsibility** model, packaging producers, local governments, recycling processors, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) all play a role in creating an innovative system that works for everyone.

## Who is a Producer?

Companies that sell or supply packaging items, food serviceware or paper products into Oregon are considered producers under the RMA and must pay fees to a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO). A PRO is a non-profit organization that provides producers with compliance services to help them meet their obligations and implements most elements of the RMA.

To **protect small businesses**, the law exempts small producers. The law defines small producers as those with gross global revenue of less than \$5 million in their most recent fiscal year, or that sold less than one metric ton of covered products in or into Oregon in the most recent calendar year. Certain product categories, such as containers covered by the bottle bill, are exempt by statute or rule.

## Who is CAA?

Circular Action Alliance is a U.S. Producer Responsibility Organization dedicated to implementing effective Extended Producer Responsibility laws for paper and packaging. As a nonprofit, producer-led organization, CAA is committed to delivering harmonized, best-in-class compliance services to all producers to **advance an efficient and effective circular economy**. CAA was founded in 2022 by 20 producers representing the food, beverage, consumer goods, and retail industries. CAA has been selected as the PRO in Colorado and California.

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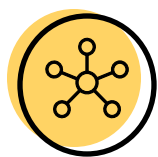


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## Key Benefits of the RMA



### **Shares and scales responsibility across the recycling system.**

Producers fund improvements and expand recycling services. Cost to producers will be based on what materials they use and how much they sell into Oregon.



### **Creates one statewide list of what can be recycled.**

The Uniform Statewide Collection List (USCL) will provide clarity to households and businesses about what can be recycled, and create efficiencies in recycling operations across the state.



### **Increases access to recycling.**

Provides recycling services to Oregonians who didn't previously have it, such as those who live in apartments and rural areas.



### **Prevents plastic pollution.**

Ensures collected materials are recycled responsibly and supports reuse and other plastic pollution reduction solutions.



### **Creates accountability to outcomes.**

DEQ will permit and audit recycling processors, and the Governor-appointed Oregon Recycling System Advisory Council (ORSAC) reviews producer program plans, the statewide collection list, and educational resources.



### **Incentivizes sustainable products.**

Producer fees will be higher for non-recyclable products and those creating more environmental pollution.

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