



PLASTICS 2026 Recycling Open House

CAA's role in building practical recycling pathways for plastics

Virtual Event | August 19, 2026

Roxanne Spiekerman
Plastics Director, Circular Action Alliance

Statements contained in or conveyed by this presentation are for informational purposes only and subject to change without prior notice. This presentation is illustrative and forward-looking; subject to rulemaking and program plan approval. This is not legal, investment or compliance advice.

© 2026 Circular Action Alliance. All rights reserved.

Legal Disclaimer

The information provided in this presentation does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. Circular Action Alliance is not an attorney nor law firm and does not provide legal advice or recommendations. Information in this presentation is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney. No reader should act or refrain from acting on the basis of information in this presentation without first seeking legal advice from your attorney. All liability with respect to actions taken or not taken based on the contents of this presentation are hereby expressly disclaimed.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. EPR Overview
3. CAA Overview
4. EPR Across the States
5. CAA's Role in the CA System
6. How to engage with active groups and CAA
7. Questions

What is EPR? What is a PRO? (Quick Recap)

EPR sets the responsibility. The PRO is how producers organize delivery.



The Role of the **PRO**

A **Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO)** is a producer-led nonprofit organization that manages and improves the system for collecting and recovering materials after use. We facilitate compliance with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws, leading to positive environmental outcomes for communities.



CAA's Mission

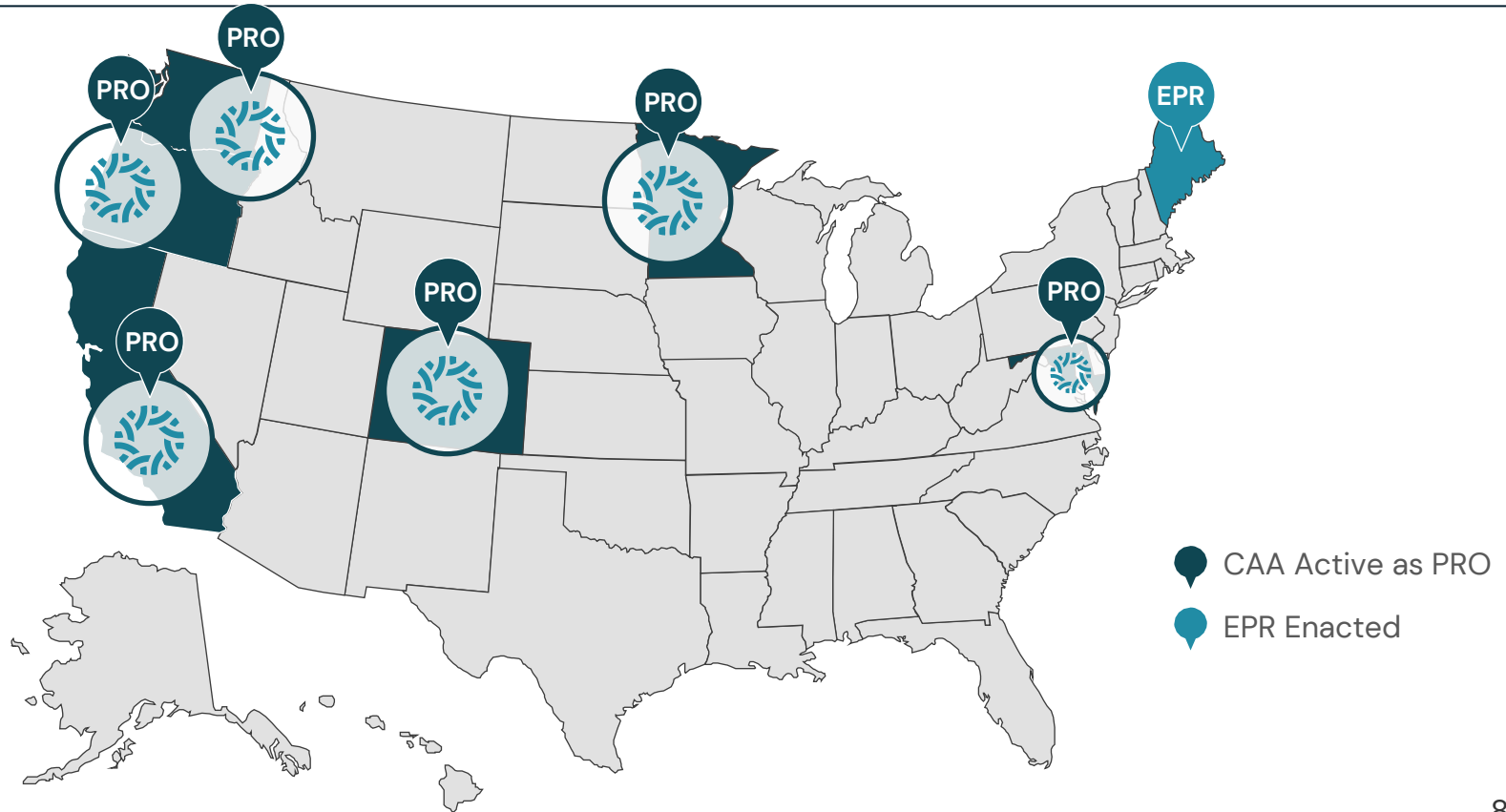
CAA's mission is to help producers comply with EPR laws, deliver harmonized, best-in-class services and work with governments, businesses and communities to reduce waste and recycle more.

CAA will:

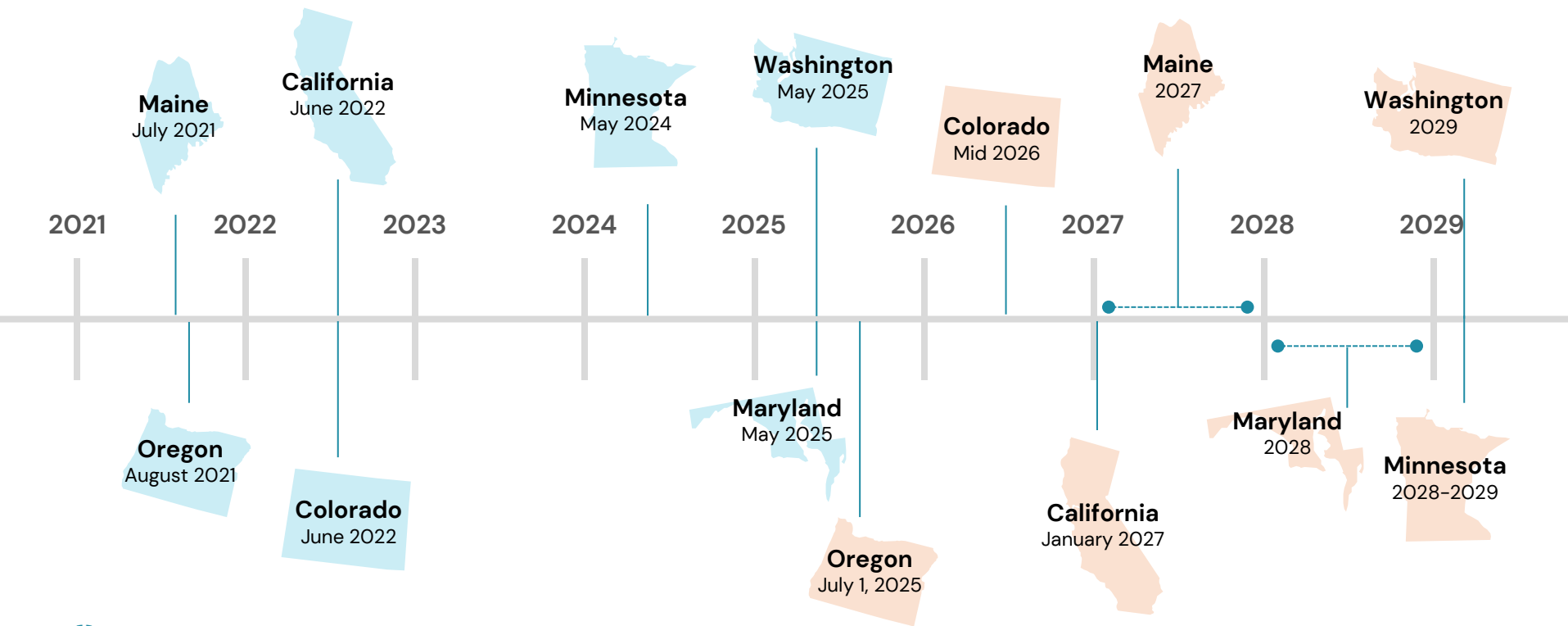
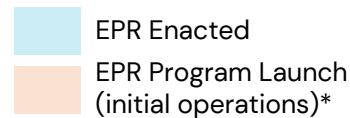
- ✓ Meet state-specific regulatory requirements;
- ✓ Leverage existing recycling systems and infrastructure; and
- ✓ Advance the circularity of covered materials through collaboration with local governments, service providers and recycling system interest holders.



Packaging EPR in the US



U.S. Packaging EPR Timeline



EPR Across U.S. States

EPR Across U.S. States

	Covered Materials	Sectors	Full or Partial Recycling System Funding?
California	• Packaging • Plastic foodservice ware	• Consumer Packaging • IC&I	• Partial (new or incremental)
Oregon	• Packaging • Printing and writing paper • Foodservice ware	• Consumer Packaging • IC&I*	• Partial (capital for collection; MRF payments and operation of PRO depot network)
Colorado	• Packaging • Paper products • Foodservice ware	• Consumer Packaging • Limited IC&I*	• Full (100% of the net cost of recycling services)
Minnesota	• Packaging • Paper products • Foodservice ware	• Consumer Packaging • Limited IC&I**	• Partial (but increasing)
Maryland	• Packaging • Paper products • Foodservice ware	• Consumer packaging • Limited IC&I**	• Partial (but increasing)
Maine	• Packaging • Some foodservice ware	• Consumer Packaging • Limited IC&I**	• Full
Washington	• Packaging • Paper products • Foodservice ware	• Consumer packaging • Limited IC&I**	• Partial (but increasing)

*Potentially subject to change.

**May include small businesses, public spaces, schools, childcare centers, non-profit, and government-operated buildings.

State Updates

State Updates – Oregon

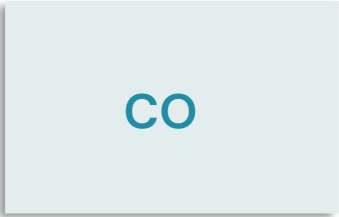


Here are a few of the milestones from Oregon's first operating year that show how producer funding is making a difference across Oregon.

Between July 2025 and June 2026:

- More than **265,000 tons (530 million pounds)** of recyclable materials were delivered from Oregon communities to recycling sorting facilities.
- **34 RecycleOn Centers** have opened, with more than 50 additional sites planned to open this year.
- Producer funding has supported more than **36,000 new recycling carts** and **11 recycling collection trucks** serving communities across the state.
- **\$30 million** has been distributed to recycling sorting facilities to modernize equipment and help more recyclable materials stay out of the landfill.
- **3,272 brands that sell packaging and paper products** are registered in Oregon's producer responsibility program.
- **91 end markets** have self-attested to meeting [Oregon's Responsible End Market](#) standards, with independent third-party verification beginning this year.

State Updates – Colorado



CO

- **Service providers:** CAA Colorado is moving local governments, recycling collectors, processors and drop-off providers through contracting so producer-funded reimbursements can begin.
- **Education and outreach:** The statewide RecycleOn Colorado campaign is underway, and CAA is providing local governments and haulers with customizable education materials, training and funding for community-level outreach.
- **Responsible end markets (REMs):** CAA is developing Colorado's REM standards and verification process while working with processors to document where collected materials are sent and confirm that markets meet environmental, health and safety requirements.
- **Producer activities:** Producers are funding implementation through dues based on the materials they supply. CAA issued 2026 invoices using 2024 supply data and is supporting producer compliance activities, including post-consumer recycled content (PCR) waiver requests.

State Updates – Maine and Maryland



- Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) published the request for proposals (RFP) on June 15, 2026 to solicit a Stewardship Organization to provide day to day operations of the Maine Stewardship Program for Packaging. Maine DEP is in the process of updating its webpage.



- CAA is the appointed PRO for Maryland's packaging EPR law and serves as the single PRO representative on Maryland's Producer Responsibility Advisory Council (AC) as non-voting member.
- The first set of Maryland regulations was adopted, effective May 25, 2026 and are available here: <https://regs.maryland.gov/us/md/exec/comar/26.04.14>
- CAA must file a PRO registration with MDE by July 1, 2026, including a list of participating obligated producers and brands and covered materials. Producer registration and reporting closed May 31. Contact CAA Producer Services for information on how to if you missed the window.
- CAA is required to submit its producer responsibility plan to MDE by July 1, 2028, after consultation on the draft with the advisory council and other interested parties.

State Updates – Minnesota and Washington



- MPCA expects to commence its rulemaking process in 2026.
- CAA must register with MPCA by July 1, 2026, including a list of participating obligated producers and brands.
- CAA is required to submit its stewardship plan to MPCA by July 1, 2028, after consultation on the draft with the advisory board.



- On March 3, 2026, Ecology selected CAA as PRO
- Washington has announced the members of its advisory council and intends to hold a kick-off meeting on Feb. 5, 2026.
- Washington's preliminary needs assessment is due December 2026, with the second following in December 2027.
- Washington is required to develop the initial statewide collection lists by Oct. 1, 2026.
- The PRO is required to submit its plan to Ecology by Oct. 1, 2028 after consultation on the draft with the advisory council.

State Updates – California



- CAA submitted its draft California program plan to the Packaging Producer Responsibility Advisory Board (PRAB) on June 15. This initiated a public comment period: CAA will accept public comments and PRAB comments from June 15 through Aug. 13, under a schedule set in regulations.
- CAA will review and consider all public comments received during this window, as it works toward its final program plan submission to CalRecycle on Oct. 13.
- In line with statute and regulations, CAA's final program plan will include a summary of all public and PRAB comments, and a description of any edits CAA made in response to comments.
- CAA presented an overview of the program plan at the June 26 and July 17 PRAB meetings, offering additional visibility into the proposed approach and pathways for meeting the state's ambitious recycling, reuse and source reduction targets. Both meetings provided an opportunity for additional public comments.
- CAA engaged with the PRAB and public in an additional PRAB meeting Aug. 7, during which the PRAB finalized its comments for submission to CAA.
- CAA continues to actively revise its program plan as it works toward the October submission.
- CAA's California Recycling and Reuse System Optimization Project (CARRSOP) is underway. This project is building on statewide Needs Assessment studies, refining implementation cost estimates, and deepening engagement with interest holders. Targeted surveys were conducted for MRFs, organics processors, alternative collection providers, and end markets.

CAA's Role in California

California Compliance Requirements



* Also required in MN

CAA's Role In The California System

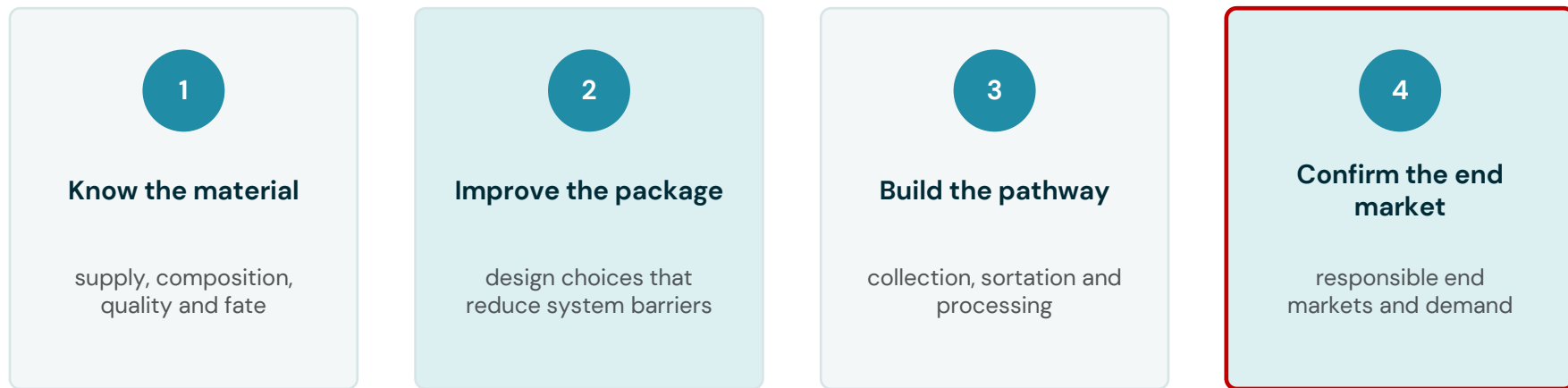
Circular Action Alliance (CAA) is the Producer Responsibility Organization implementing Extended Producer Responsibility laws for packaging in California.



CAA's work sits at the intersection of statutory compliance, end market reality and operational execution.

- Engages processors, reclaimers and manufacturers to understand material needs
- Uses available data to identify gaps in capacity, quality and responsible end markets
- Coordinates with public agencies, producers and regional partners to support implementation

CAA's Materials Strategy Framework



Data → design → recovery → market.

If one link breaks, the pathway is not ready yet.

What End Markets Need From The System

Reclaimers and manufacturers do not just need more tons. They need reliable tons that match a specification.

Quality

Low contamination, known resin mix and predictable packaging forms

Reliability

Contracts, ongoing volume and fewer one-off supply swings

Economics

Costs that allow processors to compete with virgin resin and imports

Verification

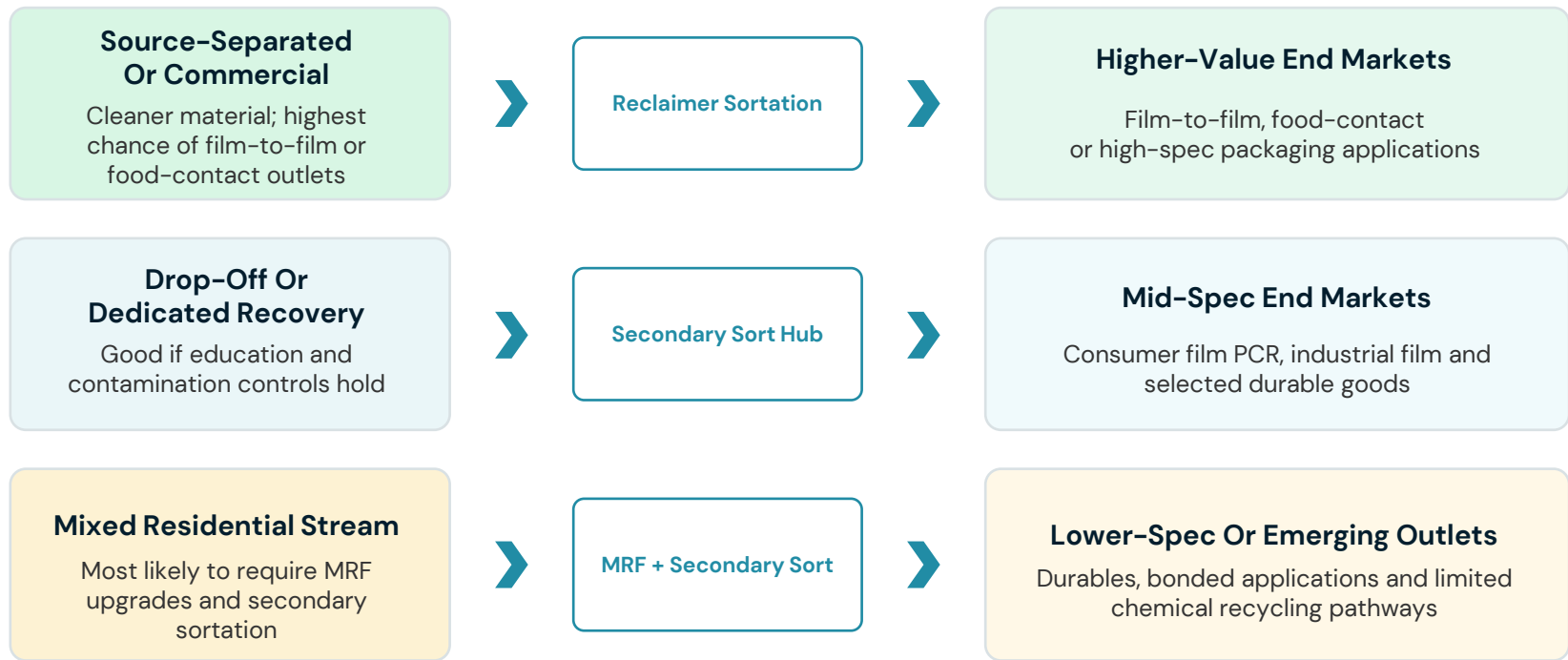
Clear responsible end-market pathways and documentation

The system-design question is not “Can someone recycle it?”

It is “Can the system deliver the right material to the right market **repeatedly**?”

Material Quality Determines End-Market Options

Different collection pathways create different feedstock quality. That quality determines which end markets can realistically use the material.



What To Watch As SB 54 Scales

Data Maturity

Better material-flow and end-market data will sharpen where investments should land.

Infrastructure Fit

MRFs, secondary sorting and reclaimers must match the material forms being collected.

Contracting Signals

Markets need confidence that volume will continue after pilots or one-time grants.

Responsible End Markets

Verification will matter more as volumes increase and materials move across geographies.

Bottom line: **market development is not a single project.**

It is an operating system that needs data, infrastructure and durable demand working together.

How to Engage with CAA

Come with actionable information — not just a general ask.



Bring data

feedstock, yields, specs, contamination, volumes



Bring pathway ideas

collection models, pilots, sortation concepts, end-market applications



Bring constraints

what makes the pathway hard, expensive, slow or risky



Bring partners

reclaimers, processors, brands, communities and logistics providers

Contact: info@CircularAction.org | CircularActionAlliance.org

Industry Organizations Active Across Priority Materials & Pathways

Organization	PET	HDPE	PP	Film & Flex	Multi-Material	MRF / Sortation	End Markets
APR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Recycling Partnership (TRP)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RRS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flexible Packaging Association (FPA)			✓	✓	✓		
PLASTICS / FFRA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
American Chemistry Council (ACC)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Closed Loop Partners	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Delterra				✓		✓	✓
GreenBlue / SPC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
US Flexible Film Initiative (US FFI)				✓	✓	✓	✓
US Plastics Pact	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PET Reclaimers / PRCC	✓						✓
Reclaimers / Converters	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓



Questions?

Thank You



Circularactionalliance.org



Circular Action Alliance



@CircularActionAlliance