



Save Taxpayers Money and Make Recycling More Effective

Support: LD 2104

An Act To Support and Increase the Recycling of Packaging

“The cost of recycling has skyrocketed, forcing Maine communities to abandon recycling efforts to stem huge price increases that fall on the property taxpayer. LD 2104 is a step in the right direction by asking producers to be part of the solution.”

– Maine Municipal Association

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LD 2104 is urgently needed to help Maine communities struggling with rising costs of an ever-growing flood of wasteful packaging materials. There is increasing confusion about what can be recycled, and dozens of Maine towns have already been forced to cut back or cancel their recycling programs.

That’s why towns across Maine support LD 2104 to adopt a proven solution called **Extended-Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging**, which is used around the world to save money for cities and towns, increase recycling rates, and spark innovation in packaging design to reduce waste.

Maine’s Recycling Programs are Struggling to Survive

- Towns have no control over the flood of packaging that needs to be disposed of or recycled.
- It costs Maine taxpayers more than \$16 million annually to manage packaging waste.

A Proven Solution to Reduce Costs for Cities and Towns

- LD 2104 asks multi-national corporations to help ensure the long-term viability of recycling by reimbursing towns for the cost of managing wasteful packaging materials.
- The approach is based on successful programs Maine has adopted over the past 20 years to recycle used electronic waste, old paint, and mercury thermostats.

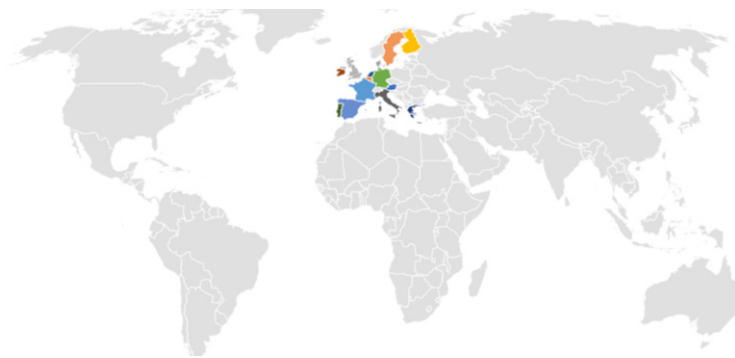
Brands Sold in Maine Already Participate in EPR Programs Worldwide

- EPR for Packaging programs already exist in 47 jurisdictions around the world, including the entire European Union and five Canadian provinces.
- Hundreds of brands like Amazon, Best Buy, Kimberly Clark, Hasbro, Home Depot, McDonald’s, Mattel, Nabisco, Samsung, Tyson, Unilever, and Wal-Mart are already participating in EPR programs elsewhere. There’s no reason they shouldn’t do so in Maine, too.

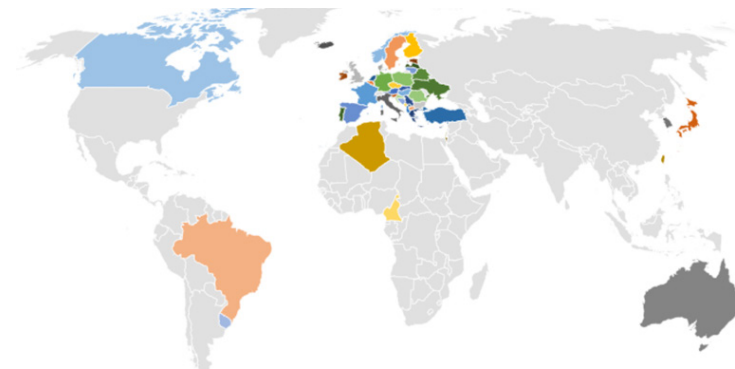
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Countries with EPR for Packaging Laws:

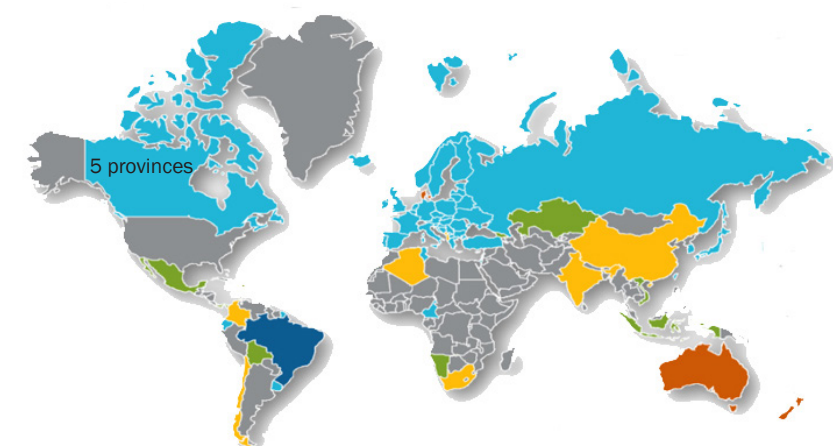
Albania	Canada (5 Provinces)	Germany	Kosovo	Norway	South Africa
Australia	Croatia	Greece	Latvia	Poland	Spain
Austria	Cyprus	Hungary	Liechtenstein	Portugal	Sweden
Belarus	Czech Republic	Iceland	Lithuania	Romania	Tunisia
Belgium	Denmark	Ireland	Macedonia	Russia	Turkey
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Estonia	Italy	Moldova	Republic of Serbia	Ukraine
Brazil	Finland	Japan	Montenegro	Slovakia	United Kingdom
Bulgaria	France	South Korea	Netherlands	Slovenia	Vatican
Cameroon					



2003 EPR Packaging Programs



2015 EPR Packaging Programs



2019 EPR Packaging Programs

- Mandatory EPR in Effect
- Voluntary EPR in Effect
- EPR in Effect (province-level); In Implementation (country-level)
- In Implementation (India & China expected by 2022)
- Framework EPR Legislation

Map images provided by: 

