

Plastic Packaging Stewardship

Fixing Recycling and Reducing Plastic Pollution (HB1204/SB5397)

Making domestic recycling systems efficient and effective for plastic packaging

Increased use of plastic packaging by manufacturers is causing a myriad of problems

Plastics are a pollution problem in our rivers, lakes, Sound and ocean where they are ingested by birds, fish and marine mammals.

Plastics are causing serious problems for recycling programs, contaminating materials sent to markets overseas as well as clogging recycling machinery here at home. Our entire recycling system is currently at risk due to this contamination. **Plastics are a major contamination problem** for our commercial compost.

Manufacturers are rapidly expanding the use of plastic packaging because it is lighter and cheaper. **Costs associated with plastic packaging are then shifted to ratepayers and the environment.**

What this bill does: Establishes a Plastic Packaging Stewardship program, based on models that work in British Columbia and Europe

Includes powerful new incentives and requirements that will address many of the problems above:

- **Shifts all costs** associated with managing plastic packaging off the backs of ratepayers and on to the manufacturers where they belong.
- **Creates incentives for waste reduction** (less use of unnecessary plastic packaging) through fees and other mechanisms.
- **Enhances recycling of plastic packaging** through a range of mechanisms including incentivizing recyclable packaging, better sorting of materials (eliminating contamination and producing more marketable materials), funding for reprocessing and marketing of plastics, and public education.



Creates new jobs here in Washington as we build domestic markets for plastics and invest in recycling and processing facilities here at home.

Program based on successful models in British Columbia and Europe. Recycle BC has reported a 75% recovery rate for packaging in 2017.

This bill results in the recycling system working. It will clean up the system and create new jobs.

Existing jobs stay put and new jobs created

- **Local haulers and recycling companies would continue their current operations** and would receive financial support to handle the plastic items.
- New local jobs in Washington would be created because the program would be **incentivized to upgrade equipment and build new facilities here to process and re-manufacture plastics here**, rather than sending contaminated bales to foreign countries for processing.

Incentivizes the use of recyclable packaging and plastic packaging design innovations that are good for the environment through reduced costs to those manufacturers who innovate.

Plastic Packaging Stewardship Legislation Overview

Requirement that **manufacturers** of plastic packaging sold for use in WA:



Stewardship Plans will have the following elements:

- Widespread, convenient, and equitable access to collection opportunities of plastic packaging
- Sorting of plastics to ensure higher marketability
- Reprocessing and marketing of plastics
- Prevention and collection of plastic litter
- Public education and outreach

Producers of plastic packaging will pay **charges** assessed by stewardship organization to fund the stewardship plan

Charges pay for implementation of program/plan.

Charge structure rewards manufacturers who:

- Use less plastic
- Use plastic packaging that is more easily recyclable

Recycled content standards for certain plastic products:

To increase the value of recycled plastic resin (and thus recyclables), the bill contains recycled content standards for certain types of plastic packaging:

- Film bags, shipping envelopes and shipping air bags.
- Rigid plastic packaging containers (i.e., bottles and cartons)
- Plastic collection bins

* *includes post-consumer recycled content credit trade mechanism*