Extended Producer Responsibility Principles
for a successful circular collection system in Washington State

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Washington State provides the opportunity to create an efficient, financially sustainable collection system of all recyclable materials used for consumer goods, including plastic, aluminum, cardboard, paper and glass.

Key Components of an Effective EPR Program in Washington State

- Impacted products include all types of consumer goods packaging and printed paper.
- A single, nonprofit Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) manages the funding of the system, sets fees for producers, implements system changes, contracts for recycling services.
- Producer fees are set by material type, based on the cost to recycle the material minus scrap value.
- A designated government agency evaluates and approves the PRO’s plan for achieving goals, monitors progress, and provides enforcement.
- Fees fund 100% of the net cost for residential recycling of packaging and printed paper for single and multi-family dwellings, including the government’s cost of rulemaking, oversight and enforcement.
- Obligated producers have right of first refusal to their share of recovered material at market terms.