

Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Board

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Start 9 a.m. - End 12 p.m. CDT

[MS Teams](#) | Phone conference ID: 956 901 900# | Call in (audio only) +1 651-395-7448

Meeting Location: conference room 116, MPCA St Paul Offices, 520 Lafayette Rd N., St. Paul, MN 55155

If attending in person, RSVP to packaging.mPCA@state.mn.us by noon on Monday, September 22.

Agenda:

Time	Topic	Speaker	Type	Page
9 a.m.	Call to order Meeting logistics Welcome and roll call / attendance Meeting outcomes Approve agenda Approve August meeting summary	Chair Reinhardt	Action	2
9:05 a.m.	Updates from MPCA & CAA	Annika Bergen, MPCA Bridget Anderson, CAA	Information	
9:15 a.m.	Contractor update for Preliminary Assessment	Eunomia	Information	
9:35 a.m.	Ad hoc committee discussion: proposed covered material categories	Miriam Holsinger (committee chair)	Information	5
10:50 a.m.	Break			
11:05 a.m.	Responsible end markets – <i>definitions, how MN law is written</i>	Kirk Koudelka, MPCA	Information	18
11:15 a.m.	Recycling end markets - <i>overview of some of the challenges, opportunities, and status of markets for most general recyclables</i>	Susan Heffron & Gwen Jenkins, MPCA	Information	
11:45 a.m.	Public comment			
12 p.m.	Adjourn			

Packaging EPR Advisory Board

Meeting notes

Virtual via Microsoft Teams or in-person at the MPCA St. Paul Office | 3 hours

Friday, August 22, 2025 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CT

Recording available at: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/events-and-meetings/packaging-extended-producer-responsibility-advisory-board-meeting-2025-08-22>

Attendance

Board member attendance

Present <i>(9 members required for quorum)</i>			Absent
Gabbie Batzko-Conley	Sydney Harris	Maggie Schuppert	Mike Griffin
Sara Bixby	Miriam Holsinger (Vice Chair)	Mac Sellars	Bill Keegan
Townsend Brown	Kirk Koudelka	Jon Steiner	
Kris Coperine	Gregory Melkonian	Steve Vrchota	
Megan Daum	Shoshana Micon		
Kate Davenport	Victoria Reinhardt (Chair)		
Steve Vrchota joined after introductions; Maggie Schuppert joined at 9:15 a.m.			

Guest presenters: Briget Anderson, CAA; Ben Crowell, MPCA; Peter Hargreave, CAA

Agency staff: Molly Flynn, John Gilkeson, Tina Patton, Annika Bergen

Participants: Alejandro Torres; Alex Kim; Alicia Cafferty; Amanda Erickson; Amber Backhaus; Ana Miller; Angela Bouma; Annebelle Klein; Apurupa Gorthi; Brian Martinson, Association of MN Counties; Carol Patterson; Catherine Abel; Dan Donkers, Ramsey County; Dustin Strickland, SynergyLabs (a producer from North Carolina); Emma Forsyth; Elly Ventura, World Centric; Garth Hickie; Heidi Radke; James Lehner; Jeremy Fauskee, DNR; Joan Popowics; Joel Carlson; Josh Allen; Julie Ketchum, WM Area Director of Gov Affairs; Kristen Wahlberg, Hennepin County; Lea H; Leah Batstone-Cunningham; Lena Zodda; Lucy Mullany, Eureka Recycling; Lul Shoble; Mallory Pankretz; Maria Erickson; Marina P; Marissa Heffernan; Mark Carpenter; Matt Herman; McKenzie Pearson; Melissa Finnegan, R&E; Michelle Carter, MPCA; Molly Blessing; Peter Bierbaum; Phillip Shaffer, NWRA; Quynh Akers; Rachel Sosnowchik; Rebecca Thomas; Ryan O’Gara; Scott DeFife; Scott Moening; Susan Bush; Tim Wilkin, Minnesota Beverage Association; Todd Hill; Tony Kwilas; Tristan Steichen

Meeting notes

Call to order

Chair Victoria Reinhardt opened the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

Megan Daum motioned and Jon Steiner seconded. Annika Bergen conducted a roll call vote.

Aye: Batzko-Conley, Bixby, Brown, Coperine, Daum, Harris, Holsinger, Melkonian, Micon, Reinhardt, Sellars, Steiner, Vrchota

Nay: None

Absent: Davenport, Griffin, Keegan, Schuppert

Approval of July 2025 Meeting Summary

Sara Bixby motioned and Jon Steiner seconded. Annika Bergen conducted a roll call vote.

Discussion:

- Jon Steiner asked for clarification on the summary of the Agency update (pg 3). MPCA clarified that while shared documents can't be used between board members outside of the board meetings to communicate notes and ideas, documents can be shared by board members with the communities they're representing in order to communicate updates and get feedback.
- Jon Steiner noted an incomplete final sentence in the summary of the Compostable Packaging Law presentation (pg 4). Update made.

Aye: Batzko-Conley, Bixby, Brown, Coperine, Daum, Davenport, Harris, Holsinger, Melkonian, Micon, Reinhardt, Sellars, Steiner, Vrchota

Nay: None

Absent: Griffin, Keegan, Schuppert

Agency updates

Presented by Annika Bergen, MPCA staff

The first CAA income contract payment was successfully completed, which at this time accounts for the agency staff time, advisory board costs, and the preliminary assessment. There have been further contracting delays with finalizing the contract for the consulting firm selected for completing the preliminary assessment and needs assessment. The announcement for the contractor and their work plan will be done once the contract is signed by all parties.

CAA updates

Presented by Bridget Anderson, Circular Action Alliance (CAA)

Bridget Anderson introduction as new point of contact for CAA. Continuing to build out regulatory capabilities and guidance that will support MPCA and other states, including responding to inquiries.

SCORE 101

Presented by Ben Crowell, MPCA staff

Provided an overview of the history and data collected for the annual SCORE (Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment) report. This data source is a strong baseline for understanding the materials and solid waste managed in the state of Minnesota, including packaging. This data will feed into the preliminary assessment and needs assessments.

Preliminary Assessment workplan overview

Presented by Annika Bergen, MPCA staff

The scope of the preliminary assessment is outlined in the law (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/115A.1450>). The consultant will use both primary and secondary research to meet the requirements in law for this report and finalize prior to the December 31, 2025, deadline. This process will include a public comment period and input from the advisory board.

Covered material categories

Presented by Peter Hargreave, Circular Action Alliance (CAA)

Provided CAA's perspective and expertise on the covered material categories, which are used for the reporting categories in their system with producers. Shared background on how categories were developed, with note of high-level lessons learned and overall uses for the categories.

2032 Requirement (reusable, recyclable, compostable)

Presented by Kirk Koudelka, MPCA Assistant Commissioner

Provided background on why the material categories are important. The material categories will feed into the "acceptable materials" collection lists which will then be the basis for whether a specific item is considered reusable, refillable, recyclable, or compostable.

Ad Hoc Committee: Preliminary Assessment

Presented by Chair Reinhardt

Presented the opportunity for board members to participate in an ad hoc committee intended to dive into key aspects of the Preliminary Assessment, including:

- Providing input on the development of the covered materials category list
- Providing comments on surveys intended to be used to collect data by the consulting firm
- Providing a thorough review of the Preliminary Assessment draft in order to draft initial comments for the board to review, discuss, and finalize as a group.

This is not a deciding committee, but a working group to dedicate additional time to these items outside of the monthly board meetings.

Public comment

Julie Ketchum, WM – In reference to the presentation on SCORE reporting and RETRAK, while the data fields for reporting are decided by the MPCA, the materials and what is collected at a facility is typically decided between the collector and, if it's under contract, the municipality. Otherwise, if it's open market it's between the MRF and the end market. End market availability is critical for the ad hoc committee work developing the covered material categories. Need to make sure that MRFs are covered – each MRF is different and processes different things.

Parking Lot

Comments and questions have been consolidated and paraphrased:

- None

Notes compiled by: Annika Bergen

[Minnesota's Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Board](#)

Proposed covered material categories

The ad hoc committee met over the last month to prepare this covered material categories list. After discussion with the full Packaging EPR Advisory Board, the proposed list will be shared with the MPCA and the contractor completing the preliminary needs assessment for further review and refinement.

Subcommittee members

Gabbie Batzko-Conley, Sara Bixby, Kris Coperine, Kate Davenport, Miriam Holsinger, Bill Keegan, Gregory Melkonian, Steve Vrchota

Covered material categories and factors

Covered material type definition:

"Covered materials type" means a singular and specific type of covered material, such as paper, plastic, metal, or glass, that:

- (1) can be categorized based on distinguishing chemical or physical properties, including properties that allow a covered materials type to be aggregated into a discrete commodity category for purposes of reuse, recycling, or composting; and
- (2) is based on similar uses in the form of a product or package.

Packaging definition:

"Packaging" means a container and any appurtenant material that provide a means of transporting, marketing, protecting, or handling a product. "Packaging" includes pallets and packing such as blocking, bracing, cushioning, weatherproofing, strapping, coatings, closures, inks, dyes, pigments, and labels.

Broad categories and applicable laws:

- Compostable
 - "Compostable material" means a covered material that:
 - (1) meets, and is labeled to reflect that it meets, the American Society for Testing and Materials Standard Specification for Labeling of Plastics Designed to be Aerobically Composted in Municipal or Industrial Facilities (D6400) or its successor;
 - (2) meets, and is labeled to reflect that it meets, the American Society for Testing and Materials Standard Specification for Labeling of End Items that Incorporate Plastics and Polymers as Coatings or Additives with Paper and Other Substrates Designed to be Aerobically Composted in Municipal or Industrial Facilities (D6868) or its successor;
 - (3) is comprised of only wood without any coatings or additives; or
 - (4) is comprised of only paper without any coatings or additives
 - To reduce contamination at compost facilities, a new law in Minnesota ([Minn. Stat. § 325E.046](#)) requires all bags, packaging, and food service products labeled as "compostable" and sold in Minnesota after Jan. 1, 2025, to meet certain requirements. They must be made only of wood or paper with no additives or coatings or meet specifications for composting in an industrial compost facility.
 - Bags, packaging, and food service products that are labeled "compostable" and meet the requirements above must be clearly and prominently labeled on the product or the product's smallest unit of sale to reflect that they are intended for composting at an industrial compost facility.
 - Bags, packaging, and food service products may not be labeled "biodegradable," "degradable," "decomposable," or any similar terms.
 - Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, all products sold in the state that are labeled "compostable" must be certified compostable by a nonprofit third party.

- Recyclable
 - "Recycling" has the meaning given in section 115A.03 except that recycling does not include reuse or composting, as defined in this act.
 - 115A.03: "Recycling" means the process of collecting and preparing recyclable materials and reusing the materials in their original form or using them in manufacturing processes that do not cause the destruction of recyclable materials in a manner that precludes further use.
- Newspaper/magazines

(9) are paper products used for a newspaper's print publications, including supplements or enclosures, that include content derived from primary sources related to news and current events;

(10) are paper products used for a magazine's print publication that has a circulation of less than 95,000 and that primarily includes content derived from primary sources related to news and current events;
- Reuseable
 - "Reuse" means the return of a covered material to the marketplace and the continued use of the covered material by a producer or service provider when the covered material is:
 - (1) intentionally designed and marketed to be used multiple times for its original intended purpose without a change in form;
 - (2) designed for durability and maintenance to extend its useful life and reduce demand for new production of the covered material;
 - (3) supported by adequate logistics and infrastructure at a retail location, by a service provider, or on behalf of or by a producer, that provides convenient access for consumers; and
 - (4) compliant with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes, rules, ordinances, and other laws governing health and safety.
- Refillable
 - "Refill" means the continued use of a covered material by a consumer through a system that is:
 - (1) intentionally designed and marketed for repeated filling of a covered material to reduce demand for new production of the covered material;
 - (2) supported by adequate logistics and infrastructure to provide convenient access for consumers; and
 - (3) compliant with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes, rules, ordinances, and other laws governing health and safety.

Cost Profile variations

- Collection/processing Type (curbside, drop-off, rebate, refill, reuse)
- Material value once separated/processed
- Non-Recyclable or Compostable

Other considerations:

- Toxicity (required by legislation) Toxicity and environmental impact defined as "the impact of a covered material on human health and the environment from extraction and processing of the raw materials composing the material through manufacturing; distribution; use; recovery for reuse, recycling, or composting; and final disposal.
- Is this subcategory already tracked by MPCA

Producer definition:

(a) "Producer" means the following person responsible for compliance with requirements under this act for a covered material introduced:

- (1) for items sold in or with packaging at a physical retail location in this state:

- (i) if the item is sold in or with packaging under the brand of the item manufacturer or is sold in packaging that lacks identification of a brand, the producer is the person that manufactures the item;
 - (ii) if there is no person to which item (i) applies, the producer is the person that is licensed to manufacture and sell or offer for sale to consumers in this state an item with packaging under the brand or trademark of another manufacturer or person;
 - (iii) if there is no person to which item (i) or (ii) applies, the producer is the brand owner of the item;
 - (iv) if there is no person described in item (i), (ii), or (iii) within the United States, the producer is the person who is the importer of record for the item into the United States for use in a commercial enterprise that sells, offers for sale, or distributes the item in this state; or
 - (v) if there is no person described in items (i) to (iv), the producer is the person that first distributes the item in or into this state;
- (2) for items sold or distributed in packaging in or into this state via e-commerce, remote sale, or distribution:
- (i) for packaging used to directly protect or contain the item, the producer of the packaging is the same as the producer identified under clause (1); and
 - (ii) for packaging used to ship the item to a consumer, the producer of the packaging is the person that packages the item to be shipped to the consumer;
- (3) for packaging that is a covered material and is not included in clauses (1) and (2), the producer of the packaging is the person that first distributes the item in or into this state;
- (4) for paper products that are magazines, catalogs, telephone directories, or similar publications, the producer is the publisher;
- (5) for paper products not described in clause (4):
- (i) if the paper product is sold under the manufacturer's own brand, the producer is the person that manufactures the paper product;
 - (ii) if there is no person to which item (i) applies, the producer is the person that is the owner or licensee of a brand or trademark under which the paper product is used in a commercial enterprise, sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into this state, whether or not the trademark is registered in this state;
 - (iii) if there is no person to which item (i) or (ii) applies, the producer is the brand owner of the paper product;
 - (iv) if there is no person described in item (i), (ii), or (iii) within the United States, the producer is the person that imports the paper product into the United States for use in a commercial enterprise that sells, offers for sale, or distributes the paper product in this state; or
 - (v) if there is no person described in items (i) to (iv), the producer is the person that first distributes the paper product in or into this state; and
- (6) a person is the producer of a covered material sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into this state, as defined in clauses (1) to (5), except:
- (i) where another person has mutually signed an agreement with a producer as defined in clauses (1) to (5) that contractually assigns responsibility to the person as the producer, and the person has joined a registered producer responsibility organization as the responsible producer for that covered material under this act. In the event that another person is assigned responsibility as the producer under this subdivision, the producer under clauses (1) to (5) must provide written certification of that contractual agreement to the producer responsibility organization; and
 - (ii) if the producer described in clauses (1) to (5) is a business operated wholly or in part as a franchise, the producer is the franchisor if that franchisor has franchisees that have a commercial presence within the state.

(b) "Producer" does not include:

- (1) a state, a federal or state agency, a political subdivision, or other governmental unit;

- (2) a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization or 501(c)(4) social welfare organization;
- (3) a de minimis producer;
- (4) a mill that uses any virgin wood fiber in the products it produces; or
- (5) a paper mill that produces container board derived from 100 percent postconsumer recycled content and nonpostconsumer recycled content.

Meeting notes (Sept 4 and Sept 10, 2025)

Goal:

Create subcategories of covered materials (paper + packaging as outlined in the law) that need to be tracked separately to assess handling cost, recovery rate, and toxicity

Process:

- Review current laws, scope, and legal definitions around EPR law, recycling, composting, and reuse.
- Reviewed general guidelines for how and why we would break something out into a subcategory
- In the meeting, review each broad material category to identify what sort of subcategories would be needed
- Following the meeting review notes and bring back to our teams and
- Second meeting do another pass through all the categories, adding in feedback from we received when reviewing notes with internal stakeholders.
- Final list to be presented to full Advisory Board at Sept 25 meeting with non-committee members able to provide input. MPCA will have final say over list categories.
- Note that this list is just a recommendation from the committee based on our current knowledge. It will likely evolve as the study begins and the state conducts research to finalize the recyclable and acceptable materials lists.

General questions:

Q: How much do we focus on current markets vs future markets for material?

A: If there isn't a current market, we'll put it under trash because that is where it is now. If that changes before 2032 then it could move out of that category and be allowed to be sold in MN

Q: How will these items be tracked? At what level will they be tracked? While there are cost/material differences the idea of tracking the recovery rate separately is daunting to some committee members (and there are concerns that MRFs will be required to do this work).

A: A significant amount of tracking will be at the manufacturing level where producers have data on all units and where they go so that shouldn't be difficult. Depending on MPCA's decision around targets some of these subcategories may be grouped together to assess capture rate and/or intermittent waste sorts/audits may be conducted as well.

Q: Can you share the color coding used on the spreadsheet

A: Each Tab/Material Type has its own color (that the MPCA came up with and I left as is). All "trash materials" were changed to orange and moved them to the trash materials tab. Items that we thought need more research or are difficult to recycle are a light green.

Composting discussion:

- Seeing more companies move towards using compostable materials for sachets and small format items as they realize the difficulty in capturing and recycling small format items in the recycling stream.
- Note that all additives/coatings on compostable materials will need to be certified compostable.
- Although a separate law requires that ALL material be certified compostable will still keep a non-certified compostable category in order to track non-compliance

- Added wood-based category to include wooden plates and other food packaging
- Added “other plant-based products that have no additives or coatings or is 100% certified compostable) to allow tracking of non-bio plastic and non-paper materials (i.e. bagasse/sugar cane, mushroom-based, hemp based etc). Added plant pots and trays into this category since more and more of them are compostable.
- Added newspapers to this list – even though they are not a covered material, they do impact the collection of food waste as they are used to line containers and vehicles to contain the results of hunting and fishing. It wouldn’t necessarily be counted on the front end but may need to count as a “container” when used that way.
- Reminded ourselves that food waste and yard waste is not part of this list.

Paper discussion:

- Noted the need to exclude exempt materials such as magazines under 95K circulation that include news or current events
- Asked about how to handle B2B material such as OCC going to grocery stores and other retail establishments. Does this fall under the purview of the law? Miriam will research and report back.
- Added small paper category that will include stuff under 2 inches and shredded paper since they cannot be handled by MRFs but could be collected in drop offs.
- Added paper cups since some mills except them – but kept them as a hard to recycle material since at this time they cannot be recycled in mass with cartons and if they were too high a percentage of a bale Mills would have difficulty recycling them as well.
- Added Carrier Stock/Wet Strength (Pop and Beer boxes) to this list a hard to recycle item since only one mill that we’re aware of takes them (at a fee) and they likely don’t get recycled if they are mixed in with the regular paper.
- Discussed freezer boxes and realized we don’t know if they are still poly coated or not. Recommend the MPCA and/or needs assessment organization does further research.
- Added non-compostable but lined (with plastic and/or foil) paper products to the trash list. This includes things like paper plates, freezer boxes (if they are lined), wrappers that go around burritos, gyros, sandwiches, gum, etc.
- Moved newspapers off the tracking list, even though the MPCA tracks them, since they are exempt.

Plastic discussion:

- Identified that small format plastics (2 inches or less) is currently not acceptable in a MRF need their own category. Subcategories could be created if drop off becomes available for some of them – in which chase subcategories would follow the same as the other plastics categories (which have end markets).
- Need more information about recyclability of plastic film when collected in drop-off formats – Miriam will call EFS + GDB, Gabby will reach out to Trex.
- Notes that even though utensils aren’t in the covered material category, they should be tracked as they will likely be a large cost/contaminate to composting and recycling operations.

Discussion/Decisions around PET (#1)

- Separate out opaque vs translucent colored PET since there is a market for translucent material but not for opaque
- Combine Opaque Bottles and Containers since there is no market for either, so both are equally not recyclable.

Discussion/Decisions around HD (#2)

- We need an additional “oversize” (larger than 3 gallons) HD category since that material though minimally recyclable, will not be sorted at MRFs.
- Decided no need to separate bottles from containers regarding HD since end markets don’t distinguish between the two
- Identified tubes (toothpaste, cosmetics, etc.) as their own category since some but not all end markets now accept these. Drop off may work as a collection vehicle for this material but until

there is wider acceptance MRFs/Curbside collection will not be an option. Note that many tubes are under 2 inches so may also fall in the “small format category.”

- Identified a lot of “bulky rigids” recycled with buckets would be out of scope (i.e. laundry baskets, plastic toys, carts, etc.) but since some consumer products are sold in HD larger than 3 gallons need this category
- Reminded ourselves that just because we personally reuse a 5 gallon bucket, it wouldn’t be counted as “a reusable item”

Discussion/Decisions around PVC (#3)

- No packaging is recyclable + Material will rate high in toxicity so should go in its own trash category

Discussion/Decisions around Film Plastics

- Drop off markets exist for clean dry LDPE film
- Rigid LDPE containers are acceptable in PP Bales
- What about coloring/dyes/inks in films.
- Based on feedback received from bag markets learned that there is #2, 4 and 5 films and similar to other plastics, natural has a higher value and more potential applications than color.

Discussion/Decisions around PP (#5)

- Decided no need to separate bottles from containers regarding HD since end markets don’t distinguish between the two
- Decided to separate “natural” and “color” PP since markets are moving in that direction as they have with PET and HD and natural material is likely to have a higher value.
- Created an oversized category for PP since we know cat litter pails currently come in that material. Noted that currently this material is not as easy to recycle as oversized HD and markets currently prefer them not to be mixed.

Discussion/Decisions around PS (#6)

- Separated out food packaging from shipping materials since there are known drop-off recycling options for shipping materials (that are clean and dry) but no known markets for food containers.
- Separated EPS (foam) food containers from condensed PS (red solo cups, some clamshells) since these clearly have different properties and may have different handling and toxicity issues.
- Moved Food related PS to trash category since no known markets exist for this material.

Metals discussion:

- Debated separating wrapped cans from printed beverage cans since too many wrapped cans (locally made beverages often put a sticker on a can instead of ordering them printed for financial and logistics reasons). Also noted that in some MRFs if material is optically sorted prior to going over an eddy current, some wrappings will be pulled off with the optical and not make it into the aluminum stream. Ultimately decided to separate them.
- Added cat food cans to the “aluminum food packaging category” that includes foil pans, serving trays, etc. since this is standard operating procedure to include mix these two materials together in MRFs.
- Reviewed the “Mixed Metal/material” category and decided it included spiral bound food cans with a tin bottom that are accepted in some but not all MRFs in MN and have a debatable capture rate in MRFs.

Glass discussion:

- Discussed the inclusion of returnable glass bottles and decided to keep it since these ultimately will likely be recycled with glass (but they’ll also be in the reuse category).
- Discussed the benefit of keeping color categories separate (brown, green, clear). In some parts of the country there is no difference in value but in MN since Anchor Glass is only interested in clear glass, material without added color has higher value. Decided to keep them separate regarding tracking.

- Clarified that the ceramics category that may be used for reusable items is not recyclable with glass and should be considered as trash.
- Added a “glass dishes and reusable containers that are not bottles or jars” category and put it with the trash, recognizing that these items may be used in the reuse system but cannot be recycled with glass.

Reuse discussion:

- Reminded ourselves for reuse to count it needs to be part of a broader system that does deposit returns or refills. Us reusing a product at home, whether as a dish/food storage container, or even refilling our little soap dispenser from a larger bottle we purchased does not count.
- With minimal reuse infrastructure in MN decided to keep the categories simple but open
 - Separate categories for refill vs reuse
 - Each product should be categories by type (i.e. Milk bottle, Beer Growler, DRS Deli Package)
 - Each container should be further categories by its material type (I.e. Glass milk bottle, Glass Beer Growler, PP DRS Deli Package).
- Added category of B to B materials reused within a returnable infrastructure (i.e. a distribution network). See examples below
 - Wax cardboard boxes (used for produce for grocery stores and CSAs)
 - Wooden Pallets
 - Plastic Pallets
 - Milk Crates
 - Bread pallets

Draft category list

Compostable Materials	Subcategories	Definition/Description
Paper	Compostable paper packaging and products not confirmed ASTM certified	Paper packaging and food service products that may be compostable but are not confirmed to be compostable by BPI certified labeling or another third-party labeling indicating that it is ASTM certified. This can include material that is labeled as compostable but has no third-party certification labels. It can also include material not labeled but can be composted such as: non-polylined/polycoated packaging or food service paper that may be composted such as food-soiled pizza boxes, waxed cardboard boxes, cups, plates, cartons, boats, clamshells and similar containers, paper napkins and tissues.
	Compostable paper packaging and products, confirmed ASTM certified	Must have BPI certified labeling or another third-party labeling indicating that it is ASTM certified. Could include non-polylined/polycoated packaging or food service paper products such as cups, plates, french fry cartons, boats, clamshells and similar items.
Plastic	Compostable plastic products, confirmed ASTM certified	Must have BPI certified labeling or another third-party labeling indicating that it is ASTM certified; may also have #7 plastic recycling label or the triangle with PLA inside it. Can include clamshells, to-go containers, cups, utensils and other food service products.
Other plant-based products	Plant-based products that have no additives or coatings or 100% certified compostable coatings or additives	Such as Bagasse (sugar cane) or other fiber products, mushroom based, hemp based, etc. - also includes compostable plant pots and trays
Wood	All wood products with no additives	Bamboo plates or other wood packaging with no additives, coating
Newspaper	Newspaper used supporting compost management	For example, used to line bins or other containers to collect/contain messy compostable bits (especially in regards to hunting and fishing)

**Recyclable
Materials**

Materials	Subcategories	Definition/Description
Paper	Magazines/catalogs/glossy	Magazines, catalogs, newspaper inserts and similar products with glossy paper.
	High grade office paper products	High-grade white or light-colored bond and copy machine papers and envelopes without windows, cards without plastic, metal or other additives, continuous-feed computer printouts and forms of all types, except multiple copy carbonless paper.
	Mixed/low-grade paper products	Low-grade recyclable papers, including colored papers, notebook or other lined paper, envelopes with plastic windows, carbonless copy paper, junk mail, telephone books, and shredded paper
	Boxboard and kraft paper	Low-grade recyclable non-corrugated paperboard packaging, for example beverage container boxes, egg cartons, and cereal and cracker boxes. Chipboard boxes and wrapping paper not coated with wax, plastic or metal.
	OCC or corrugated cardboard	Corrugated containers and boxes, no poly- or foil-laminated.
	Aseptic cartons, gable top containers, and polycoated packaging	Multi-layer paper packaging designed to keep food and other putrescible contents fresh such as soup cartons, liquid containers, ice cream cartons, frozen food cartons, and juice cartons.
	Small Paper	Small paper under 2 inches included shredded paper
	Polylined paper cups	Made of a high-grade fiber, lined with plastic used to contain hot or cold beverages
	Carrier Stock/Wet Strength	Pop and beer boxes, coated brown paper used to container heavy items that may experience significant condensation
	Exempt Paper	Magazines under 95K circulation that include news or current events or other material exempt by law
Rigid Plastic	Misc Small plastics	Plastics that are smaller than two inches and/or not recoverable in a MRF - could be further categorized similar to the larger rigid plastics
	#1 Clear PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles/Jars	Includes beverage and non-beverage containers and are typically clear or colored bottles, jars and jugs with a narrowing neck.
	#1 Clear PET non-bottle rigid containers & packaging	PET tubs, clamshells, cups, trays that are > 2" and <2 gallons, frozen food trays, retail packaging and other rigid items.
	#1 Translucent Color PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles/Jars	Includes beverage and non-beverage containers and are typically clear or colored bottles, jars and jugs with a narrowing neck.
	#1 Translucent Color PET non-bottle rigid containers & packaging	PET tubs, clamshells, cups, trays that are > 2" and <2 gallons, frozen food trays, retail packaging and other rigid items.

	#2 HDPE (high-density polyethylene) Tubes	Tubes that carry cosmetics, toothpaste, personal care products that are made from HDPE #2 (larger than 2 inches)
	#2 HDPE (high-density polyethylene) bottles - natural	Unpigmented high-density polyethylene that may be cloudy white in color, allowing light to pass through and examples include milk jugs, water jugs and vinegar bottles/jugs, uncolored bottles for windshield fluid, antifreeze, bleach, eye drops, rubbing alcohol, soap.
	#2 HDPE (high-density polyethylene) bottles - colored	HDPE bottles that are a solid color, preventing light from passing through it, examples include detergent bottles, some hair-care bottles, empty motor oil, empty antifreeze, and other empty vehicle fluid containers marked with the number "2", fabric softener, and bleach.
	#2 HDPE (high-density polyethylene) buckets	Larger (more than 3 gallons) HDPE Container? I.e. for Salt, Kitty litter, etc
	#2 HDPE (high-density polyethylene) black bottles	Larger (more than 3 gallons) HDPE Container? I.e. for Salt, Kitty litter, etc
	#4 LDPE (Low-density polyethylene) hard packaging	Includes any plastic bottle or container marked with the #4.
	#5 Natural PP (Polypropylene) bottles + Packaging	Polypropylene that narrows at the neck >2" that bears the number "5" in the triangular recycling symbol and may also bear the letters "PP".
	#5 Color PP (Polypropylene) bottles + containers	Polypropylene that narrows at the neck >2" that bears the number "5" in the triangular recycling symbol and may also bear the letters "PP".
	#5 Black PP bottles and containers	Larger (more than 3 gallons) HDPE Container? I.e. for Salt, Kitty litter, etc
	#5 Large Buckets	Larger (more than 3 gallons) HDPE Container? I.e. for Salt, Kitty litter, etc.
	#6 Expanded Polystyrene - shipping materials	Included are block styrofoam, styrofoam peanuts
Plastic Film	#2 LDPE film packaging - Color	Bags and wraps excluding agricultural films, will include all grocery, shopping, and merchandise bags, plastic wrapping, and cling film.
	#2 LDPE film packaging - Natural	Bags and wraps excluding agricultural films, will include all grocery, shopping, and merchandise bags, plastic wrapping, and cling film.
	#4 LDPE film packaging - Color	Bags and wraps excluding agricultural films, will include all grocery, shopping, and merchandise bags, plastic wrapping, and cling film.
	#4 LDPE film packaging - Natural	Bags and wraps excluding agricultural films, will include all grocery, shopping, and merchandise bags, plastic wrapping, and cling film.

	#5 LDPE film packaging - Color	Bags and wraps excluding agricultural films, will include all grocery, shopping, and merchandise bags, plastic wrapping, and cling film.
	#5 LDPE film packaging - Natural	Bags and wraps excluding agricultural films, will include all grocery, shopping, and merchandise bags, plastic wrapping, and cling film.
Metal	Aluminum beverage cans	Aluminum beverage cans (UBC) and other non- pressurized bi-metal cans made mostly of aluminum.
	Wrapped Beverage Cans	Aluminum UBCs that have a wrapper instead of a printed label
	Aluminum food packaging	Foil, pie plates, roasting/baking pans, storage and serving trays, cat food cans and food containers etc.
	Ferrous food cans-tinned and not coated	Including zinc or tin-coated steel food containers. This material includes bi-metal beverage cans, but not paint cans or other types of cans.
	Mixed metal / material	Packaging made of a mixture of ferrous and non-ferrous or a mixture of metal and non-metallic materials (as long as these are primarily metal) ie Spiral bound paper containers with tin bottom
	Aerosol containers - Aluminum	Empty, mixed material/metal aerosol cans. Aerosols that still contain product are sorted according to that material—for instance, solvent-based paint. Includes compressed air containers.
	Aerosol containers - Ferrous	Empty, mixed material/metal aerosol cans. Aerosols that still contain product are sorted according to that material—for instance, solvent-based paint. Includes compressed air containers.
Glass	Glass beverage containers bottle deposit	Any beverage container that has a deposit marking on it for another state.
	Clear glass containers	Bottles and jars made from clear glass.
	Green glass containers	Bottles and jars made from green glass.
	Brown/other colored glass containers	Bottles and jars made from brown glass, blue glass and other colors.

Trash Materials	Subcategories	Definition/Description
Plastic	Mixed plastic packaging	Includes multi material items such as pouches, containers that are #7 or of unknown materials
	Utensils	Non-Recyclable (but not technically packaging) straws, forks, knives, etc - will likely contaminate compost and recycling streams
	#3 PVC (polyvinyl chloride) plastic packaging	Includes any plastic bottle or container marked with a # 3.
	#6 Polystyrene	Included are cups and containers
	#6 Expanded Polystyrene Containers	Included are EPS cups and containers, and egg cartons.
	Plant Pots and Trays	Plastic used to hold plants
	Woven mono material plastic film	Film that is woven is not recyclable even if it is mono material
	#1 Opaque Color PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles/Jars	Includes beverage and non-beverage containers and are typically clear or colored bottles, jars and jugs with a narrowing neck.
	#1 Opaque Color PET containers & packaging	PET tubs, clamshells, cups, trays that are > 2" and <2 gallons, frozen food trays, retail packaging and other rigid items.
Non-compostable lined paper	Coated paper food containers or wrapping	(i.e. plates, bowls, some freezer boxes, seals on some containers, gum wrappers, some deli wrappers)
	Non-compostable coated paper that does not touch food	(i.e. some freezer boxes)
Bio-plastic	Compostable plastic products, not confirmed ASTM certified	Plastic products labeled as compostable but has no certification labels; may also have #7 plastic recycling label or the triangle with PLA inside it. Can include clamshells, to-go containers, cups, utensils and other food service products.
Glass	Non-glass ceramics	Ceramics not composed of true glass and not typically used as building materials. Examples include dishes, crockware and decorative items.
	Glass dishes and reusable containers that are not bottles or jars	Ceramics not composed of true glass and not typically used as building materials. Examples include dishes, crockware and decorative items.

Reuse Materials
Returnable
Product Type
Material/End of Life Type
<i>Examples</i>
<i>Beer Growlers in glass bottles</i>
<i>Milk Bottles in glass bottles</i>
<i>Contained and/or limited time event with PP beverage cups</i>
Refillable
Product Type
Material/End of Life Type
<i>Examples</i>
<i>Bulk areas of stores that allow customers to bring their own containers</i>
<i>Stores that refill containers for customers</i>
B to B returnable via distribution network
Wax Cardboard (i.e. produce boxes + CSA Boxes)
Wooden Pallets
Plastic Pallets
Milk Crates
Bread Pallets

Responsible end markets

In Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act:

- PRO must “assist service providers to identify and use responsible markets” (MINN STAT 115A.1447)
- A service provider must “ensure that covered materials are sent to responsible markets” (MINN STAT 115A.1449)
- Needs assessment to evaluate robustness of markets and the degree to which markets can be considered “responsible markets” (MINN STAT 115A.1450, Subd 4, 12)
- PRO plan must include:
 - a description of activities by the PRO each year to “monitor to ensure that postconsumer recycled materials are delivered to responsible markets” (MINN STAT 115A.1451, Subd 3 (9)(v))
 - a description of how the PRO will provide technical assistance to “service providers in order to assist them in delivering covered materials to responsible markets” (MINN STAT 115A.1451, Subd 3 (14)(i))
- Alternative collection program must also have materials sent to responsible markets (MINN STAT 115A.1451, Subd 8(3))
- MPCA must consider “availability of responsible markets” in whether or not a material/item should be considered to be included on a collection list (MINN STAT 115A.1453)

Explicit reporting on end markets is not required in the MN law.

Oregon Responsible End Market’s Requirements:

- Self-attestation form: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/recycling/Documents/RMA-exemptions.pdf>
- Oregon rule on REMs: <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=319700>
- Current approved plan in OR: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/recycling/Documents/CAAApprovedPlan.pdf> (REM starts on page 141)