

Welcome to the first edition of Policy Now, a new monthly email from Resource Recycling.

If you've been keeping tabs on industry headlines or attended any recycling conferences of late, the pace of policy evolution has likely become clear to you.

Extended producer responsibility for packaging has gone from abstract concept to [legislated reality in several states](#). The federal government is [boosting recycling grant funding](#). And then there's the burgeoning Global Plastic Treaty, material bans all over the world and much more.

The latest major development: an ambitious plastics management bill [introduced by Congressional Democrats last week](#).

The long and short of it is that **policy is reshaping recycling**, and every proposal is underpinned by complex details and plenty of unknowns.

That's where Policy Now comes in to help. Look for this email the **first Monday of each month** to get exclusive insight and an easy-to-digest rundown of all that's happening in this increasingly important segment of the sector.

For the first three months, we'll be sending this product to all Resource Recycling and Plastics Recycling Update e-news subscribers. But after that, we'll only send to those who opt in – be sure to [sign up for free](#) today.

As always, thanks for reading. And don't hesitate to drop a line if you have thoughts on the evolution of recycling policy, or anything else.

—Dan Leif, Resource Recycling Managing Editor
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Let's start with California

In the four states that have passed EPR packaging (California, Colorado, Maine and Oregon), the question of the moment is clear: **How exactly will implementation work?**

Marissa Heffernan, Resource Recycling's staff reporter and policy lead, recently **raised that question with the head of CalRecycle**. The key takeaways: [California is moving fast](#) (and hiring feverishly) to get its EPR framework in place while also administering recycled content requirements, an evolving container redemption program, e-scrap program changes and more.

"We so appreciate that the legislature and the governor enacted this legislation because, really, it's time."

—CalRecycle Director Rachel Machi Wagoner

Speaking of California's CRV system, [here's a look](#) at what the **recent addition of wine and spirit bottles** means for processors in the Golden State.

And for more on California (because we know you can't get enough from the West Coast), see Heffernan's [detailed rundown on the collaboration](#) that took place behind the scenes to **push the state's packaging EPR bill over the finish line** this summer.

Insight from our sponsor

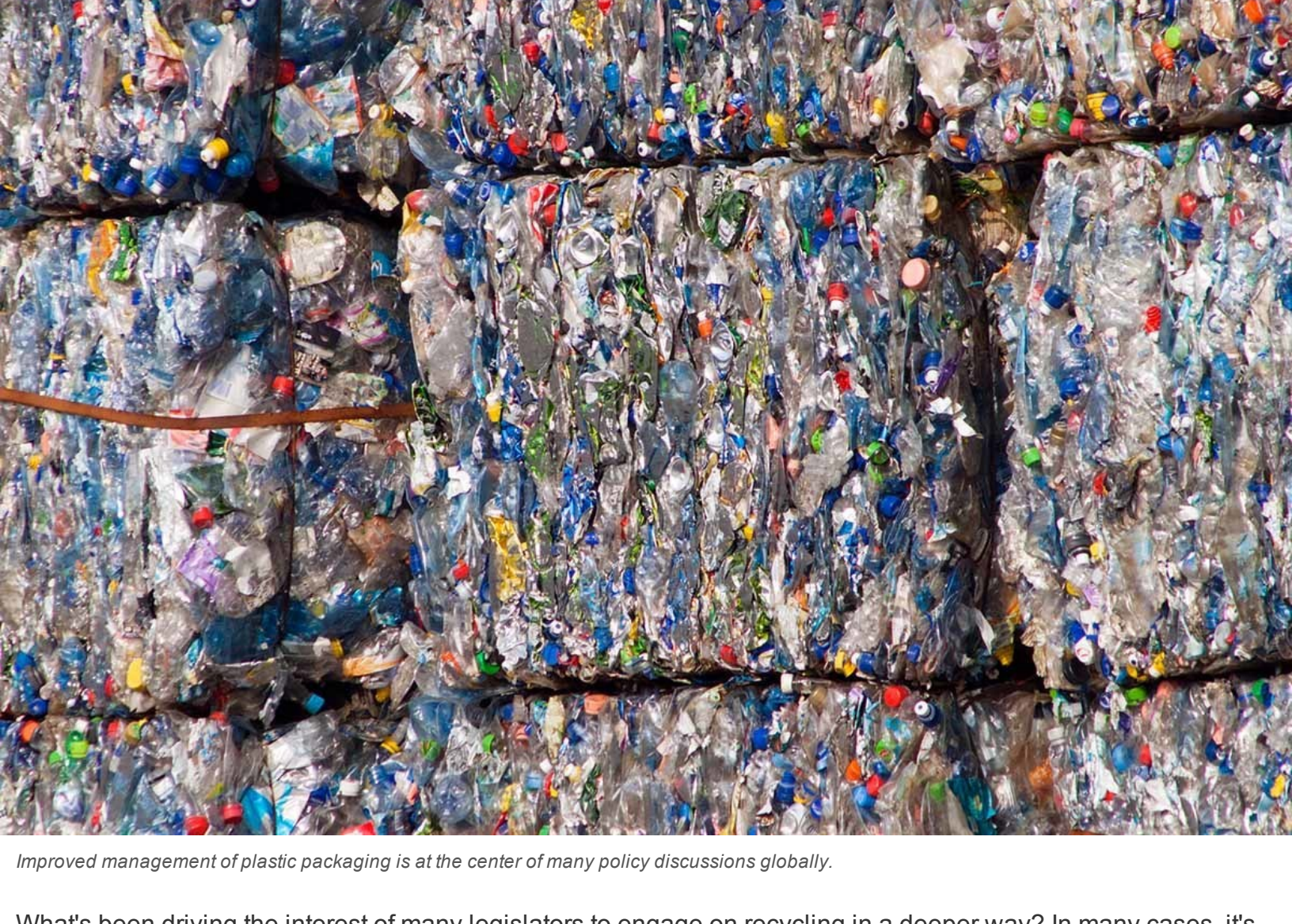
It's widely expected that more states will be following the "first four" to bring paper and packaging EPR into the fold.

For producers and other stakeholders, consistency across the landscape will be crucial, but it's also true that each region of the country **has its own pinch points and existing infrastructure**.

The leaders of the Signalfire Group [say consistency across programs](#) can in fact come alongside variations tailored to what makes each state unique. The key is to act with intention around variables such as infrastructure, demographics and culture.

"Striving for consistency does not mean state policy efforts should embrace less aggressive performance requirements."

Plastics, plastics, plastics



Improved management of plastic packaging is at the center of many policy discussions globally.

What's been driving the interest of many legislators to engage on recycling in a deeper way? In many cases, it's been plastics packaging (and related pollution concerns). Just see the details of that [new bill in Congress](#) we mentioned earlier.

Several recent conversations have explored how policy might most effectively bring more recycled resin into the value chain, or **prevent plastic materials from being produced in the first place**.

A webinar from the **Association of Plastic Recyclers** [took a look](#) at how federal decision-makers are mulling possible steps around plastics when it comes to procurement practices, grant funding and more.

The **Product Stewardship Institute**, meanwhile, brought together a variety of stakeholders to help suss out where [chemical recycling should fit](#) into policy frameworks.

And during a **National Recycling Coalition** [online discussion about EPR](#), the leader of activist group Beyond Plastics said she had concerns with all four current state laws, noting in particular "glaring loopholes" in California (and here you were thinking we were done with Golden State mentions).

Find out what to expect in 2023

As we move into the new year, which legislatures will be seeing significant recycling policy action, and what are the critical trends?

Join us for a [Policy Now webinar](#) on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 1 p.m. Eastern for a discussion with **Kate Bailey** (the newly hired chief policy officer of the Association of Plastic Recyclers) and independent policy analyst **Sydney Harris**. They'll discuss what they are watching for in the months ahead.

The **one-hour webinar is free** and will include time for audience questions. [Sign up now](#).

And outside the U.S.?


If you want to see the future of recycling policy in the U.S., often you just need to see **what's happening already in Europe**. And the latest update from the EU is a push by the European Commission [to increase targets for recycled content and reuse](#) in a variety of packaging types.

If the proposals are approved by the European Parliament, beverage bottles in the EU would be required to include **65% recycled content by 2040**.

It's clear mandates and more will be a growing reality in the recycling ecosystem in the years to come, in the EU, in the U.S. and across the globe. [Stick with Policy Now](#) to keep track of this ongoing evolution. See you next month.

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