



# ANNUAL UPDATE ✦

## What has happened and what's to come!

Much of our focus in 2024 narrowed in on advancing the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act. With Same-as bills in both chambers, we were hopeful the Assembly would follow the Senate in passing their bill and getting onto the Governors desk, but unfortunately time ran out. As disappointing as that was, 2025 is already off to a fast start with both versions already introduced this session, so we can pick right up where we left off in June.

Our advocacy for sensible EPR policy would not be possible without the generous contributions of our donors, supporters and members who selflessly support our mission of transforming materials management in New York. Their assistance and dedication have allowed us to champion a series of efforts to advance circularity that, in turn, will provide much needed relief to our struggling programs.

In addition to Packaging, we also supported EPR bills related to mattress, rechargeable batteries, deposit containers and textiles, and will continue that support this year.

This session we will work just as hard to advance to educate and enhance the understanding of EPR policy for both the pocket books and environmental integrity of New Yorkers.

We are excited to announce that we have amended our Municipal Toolkit into a more comprehensive "Outreach" toolkit that includes multiple [EPR explainer videos](#) and a social media strategy for our supporters to use as they see fit.

Finally, our goals and commitments for the 2025 legislation are ambitious, but we are hopeful and remain dedicated to our mission, and that mission includes you! Thank you for your support and sustained collaboration. Together, we can make a real difference for New York.

Onward and upward!

*-dawn*

### Looking forward in 2025:

Packaging

Textiles

Municipal Resources

Rechargeable Batteries

Solar Panels

Bottle Bill Expansion

Mattresses

Events





## Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA)

New York faces an imminent waste management crisis and municipalities are struggling to maintain recycling programs due to skyrocketing costs. Annually, nearly one million tons of recyclable material is trashed due to confusion about what is recyclable, lack of accessibility, and poor infrastructure.

NYPSC is part of a multi-stakeholder coalition that includes voices from local government, industry, recyclers, and environmental organizations, that is championing efforts to invoke reform for our recycling system.

Implementing a comprehensive EPR program for packaging and printed paper would provide multiple benefits to taxpayers across the state, including:

- providing nearly \$300 million in annual relief,
- creating dedicated funding for recycling infrastructure investments,
- Incentivizing producers to design packaging that is more recyclable and contains more recycled content, and
- boost recycling rates from the current 18% to over 70%, as demonstrated in other EPR jurisdictions.



## Textiles

NYSDEC has determined that approximately 1.4 billion pounds of clothing and textiles are disposed of in the state each year! Re-Clothe NY Coalition estimates the market value of discarded textiles exceeds \$130 million dollars.

Given the enormous potential social, economic, and environmental benefits of textile recovery, the NYPSC joins Re-Clothe NY and NYSAR3 in supporting policy that recovers textiles for reuse and recycling.



## Municipal Resources

For the last several years, NYPSC has created a toolkit for local governments to support Packaging EPR in New York. This year's "outreach kit" contains downloadable content for sharing.

For 2025 we are extremely excited to announce our explainer video series hosted on our YouTube page. These three minute videos visually summarize our motivation to find a solution to the waste crisis in New York!

All other toolkit content is hosted at [www.nypsc.org/epr](http://www.nypsc.org/epr)



## Rechargeable Batteries

In response to devastating and deadly fires caused by Lithium-ion batteries, NYPSC Board members Tom Outerbridge and Kate Kitchener continue to lead for expansion of NY's rechargeable battery law to include batteries found in e-mobility devices.



## Bottle Bill Expansion

NYPSC supports Bottle Bill expansion, however we prioritize passage of a comprehensive Packaging bill to 1) cover a broad range of materials and 2) stabilize an already fragile recycling infrastructure.

Nearly half of MRF revenue is derived from AI and PET. An expanded bottle bill would remove this revenue stream and further jeopardize recycling programs across the state.



## Solar Panels

Niagara County has adopted a local law to address solar panel recycling through EPR, which was highlighted as a strategy in the CLCPA Scoping Plan.

With a significant emphasis on solar and all renewable energy, Niagara County took the lead to foster a circular economy as it relates to solar development.

The NYPSC is committed to expanding this local law in other communities across the state.



## Mattresses

Mattress EPR introduced in NY builds on similar programs established across the Country. The NYPSC supports legislation with cost reimbursement, minimum convenience standards, and performance goals.



## Events

Join us for our upcoming food drive and help make a difference in our community. Let's work together to fight hunger and provide support to those in need. Here are the details:

- Federation Conference May 2025, The Sagamore
- NYS Association of Counties Fall Conference, September 2025, Niagara Falls
- The New York State Association of Reduce, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3), November 2025, The Otesga

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*Together we can make 2025 the best year yet!*



## Stories of impact: Paint Stewardship

The primary requirement of paint stewardship laws is for paint manufacturers to set up paint drop-off sites where households and businesses can take their leftover paint free of charge. Paint retailers are encouraged to participate, but not required.

The producers of architectural paint sold into the state must take part in a postconsumer paint collection and recycling program following a NYSDEC plan. The program covers interior and exterior coatings sold in containers of five gallons or less, and also includes house paint and primers (latex and oil based), stains, deck and concrete sealers, and clear finishes (e.g. varnishes and shellacs).

New York's Paint Stewardship Program will celebrate its three year anniversary this spring. Launched in May 2022, PaintCare, the nonprofit postconsumer paint stewardship program, created by the American Coatings Association, and managed by former NYPSC Chair Andrew Radin, continues to collect vast amounts of paint from New Yorkers!

Since inception, Paint Care has established more than 360 drop off sites across the state, has collected over 2 million gallons (over 58,000 gallons per month) of paint, has conducted over 830 "large volume pickups" for generators with over 100 gallons of unwanted paint, and has financed over 400 household hazardous waste and Paint Only collection events.

*Thank you sponsors!*



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