

Oregon Recycling Steering Committee

Item F: Informational Update for the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission

Dec. 3, 2020, EQC special meeting

Presenters: Abby Boudouris, David Allaway and Sanne Stienstra

Today's Presentation

- Challenges facing Oregon's recycling system
- Charter and scope of the Oregon Recycling Steering Committee
- Information gathering
- Consensus proposal
- Next steps



Key Challenges

- Public confusion and contamination
- Volatile and increasing costs
- Inadequate processing and post-processing standards
- Social inequities in both benefits and burdens



Root Causes

- Market prices don't reflect environmental benefits
- Oregon's laws are outdated
- Current producer actions are inadequate



Oregon's Recycling Steering Committee



- David Allaway and Abby Boudouris, Oregon DEQ
- Dylan de Thomas, The Recycling Partnership
- Sarah Grimm, Lane County
- Jason Hudson, Waste Connections
- Nicole Janssen, Denton Plastics
- Scott Keller, League of Oregon Cities (City of Beaverton)
- Laura Leebrick, Rogue Disposal & Recycling
- Kristan Mitchell, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association
- Jeff Murray, EFI
- Pam Peck, Metro
- Amy Roth, Association of Oregon Recyclers
- Timm Schimke, Association of Oregon Counties (Deschutes County)
- Jay Simmons, NORPAC
- Vinod Singh, Far West Recycling
- Matt Stern, Waste Management
- Bruce Walker, City of Portland

Committee Charter

Make recommendations for modernizing Oregon's recycling system, in order to:

- Optimize the environmental benefits of managing materials at the end of life using a life cycle perspective.
- Create a resilient recovery system that can adapt to changes in supply and demand.
- Restore and maintain public trust in the system through education and engagement.



Desired Functions

WHOLE SYSTEM DESIGN

- Optimizes the benefits of recycling
- Resiliently adapts to changes in supply and demand
- Provides sustainable and equitable financing
- Integrates all system components
- Reduces upstream impacts of materials
- Designs for equity

RESPONSIBILITY

- Shares responsibility for the system among players

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Ensures materials are managed responsibly
- Ensures all players in the system perform responsibly

GOALS AND MEASURES

- Uses goals and metrics to support ongoing improvement

EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

- Educates the public to use the system properly
- Engages the public to understand recycling and reducing lifecycle impacts of materials

MATERIALS COLLECTED

- Identifies beneficial materials to collect

COLLECTION SYSTEM

- Collects clean, acceptable materials for processing

MATERIAL PROCESSING

- Ensures processing facilities receive clean materials in sufficient volumes
- Produces quality materials that reach end markets

Research and Information Gathering

- Policy frameworks from other states and nations
- Social equity considerations
- Extensive public engagement
 - Interested stakeholders
 - Local governments
 - Underrepresented stakeholders



Environmental Promoters listening session, 2/29/2020

Research and Information Gathering

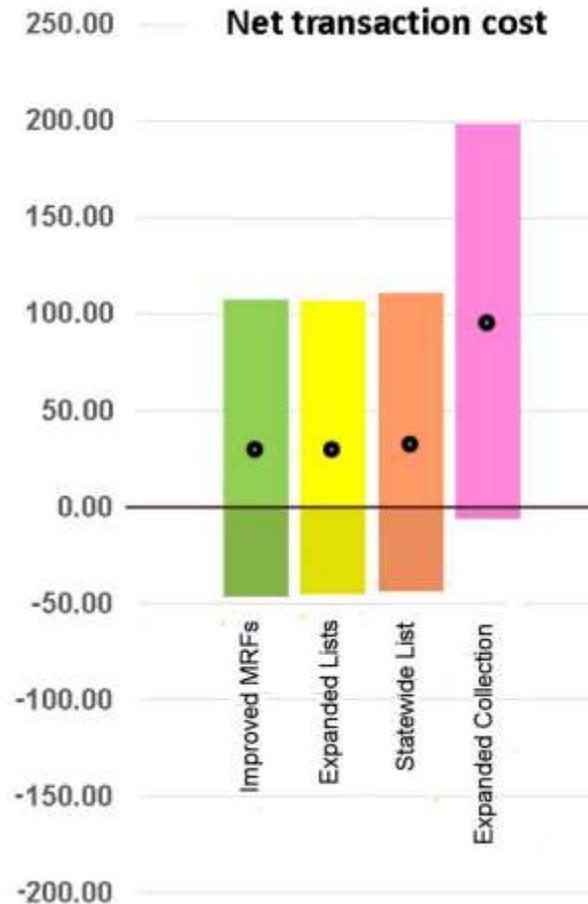


- Infrastructure options: materials, collection, and processing
- Environmental impacts and benefits

Cost Assessment

Scenario evaluation compared to base case after market disruption

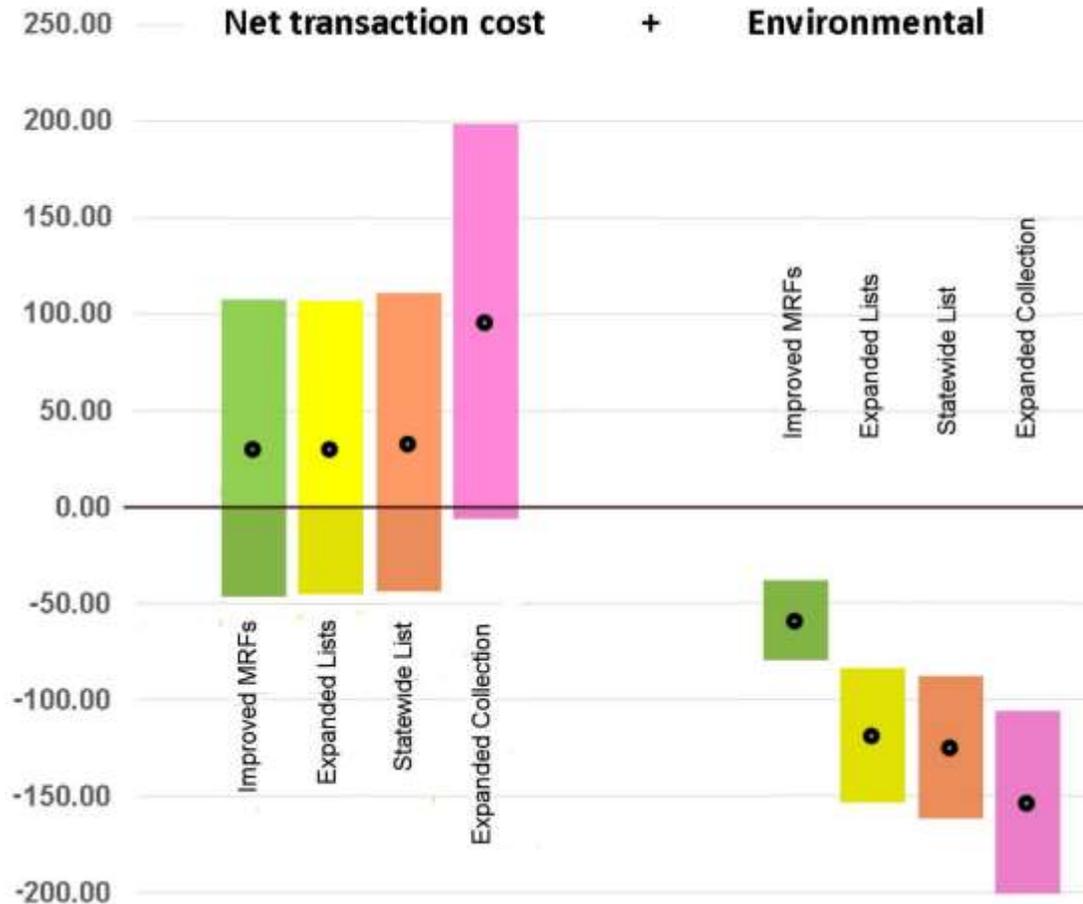
In millions of 2019 dollars



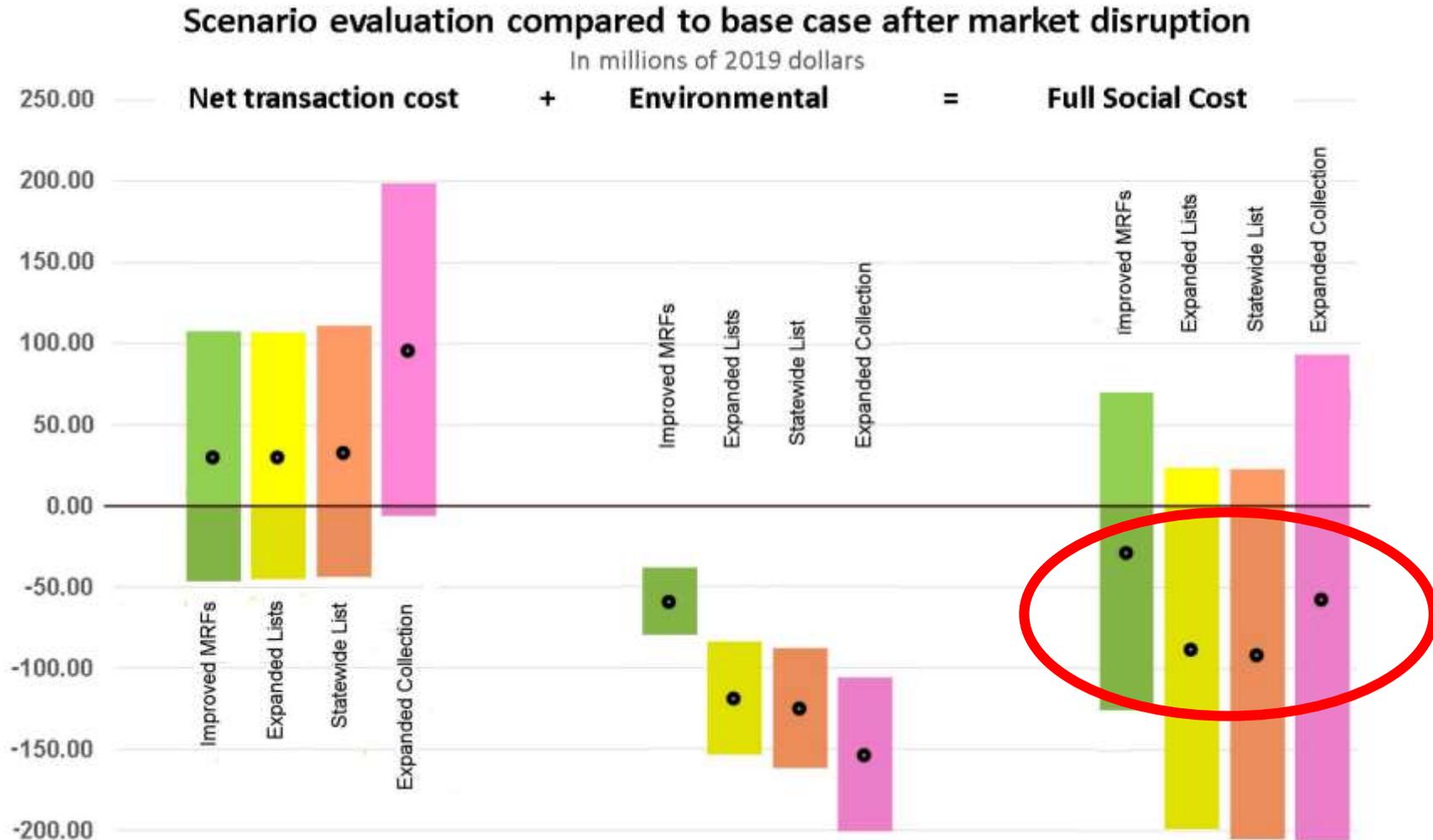
Cost Assessment

Scenario evaluation compared to base case after market disruption

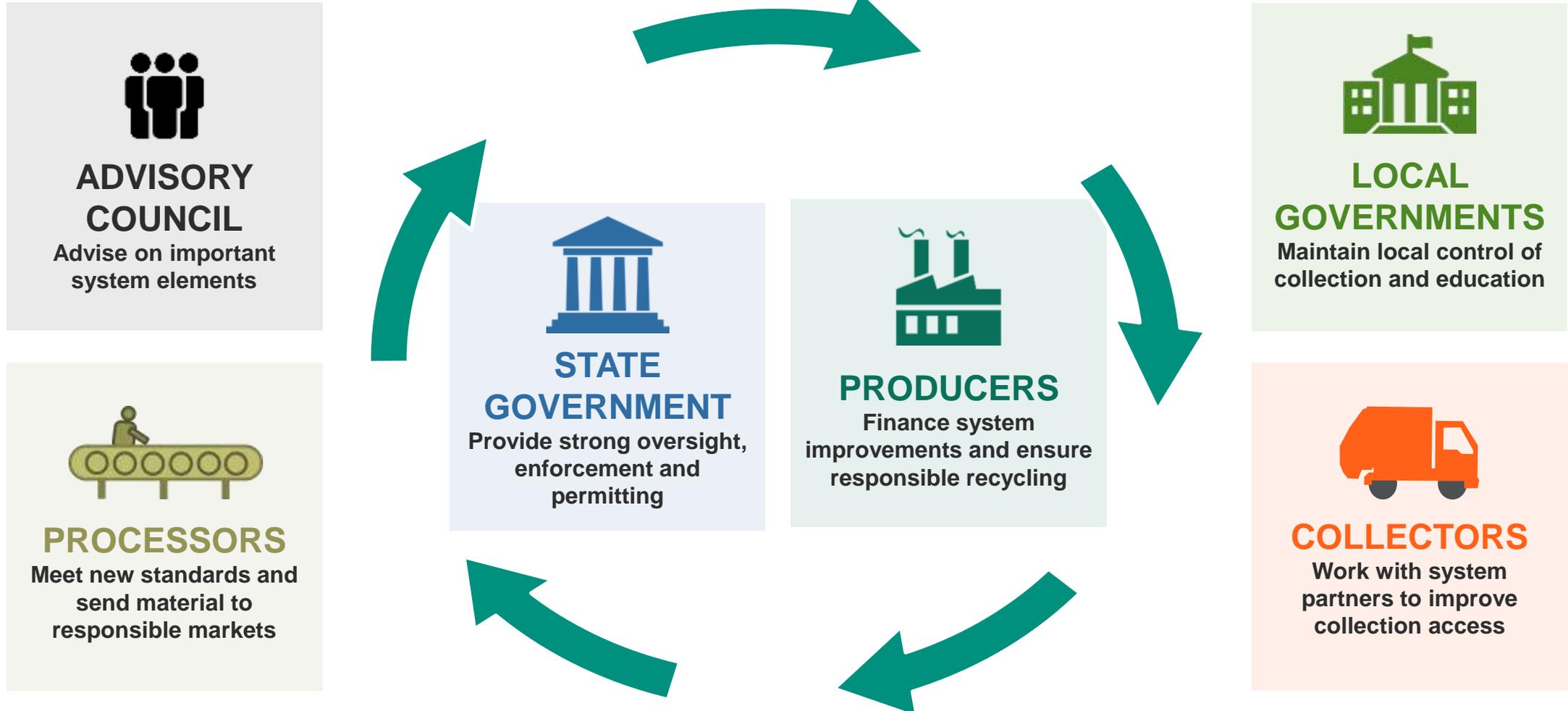
In millions of 2019 dollars



Cost Assessment



Shared Responsibility Model



Truth in Labeling



- Create new “truth in labeling” standards
- Eliminate requirement to label plastics with chasing arrows



Collect Clean Materials

- Consistent statewide collection list
- Consistent educational materials, in multiple languages
- Effective feedback to households and businesses to reduce contamination



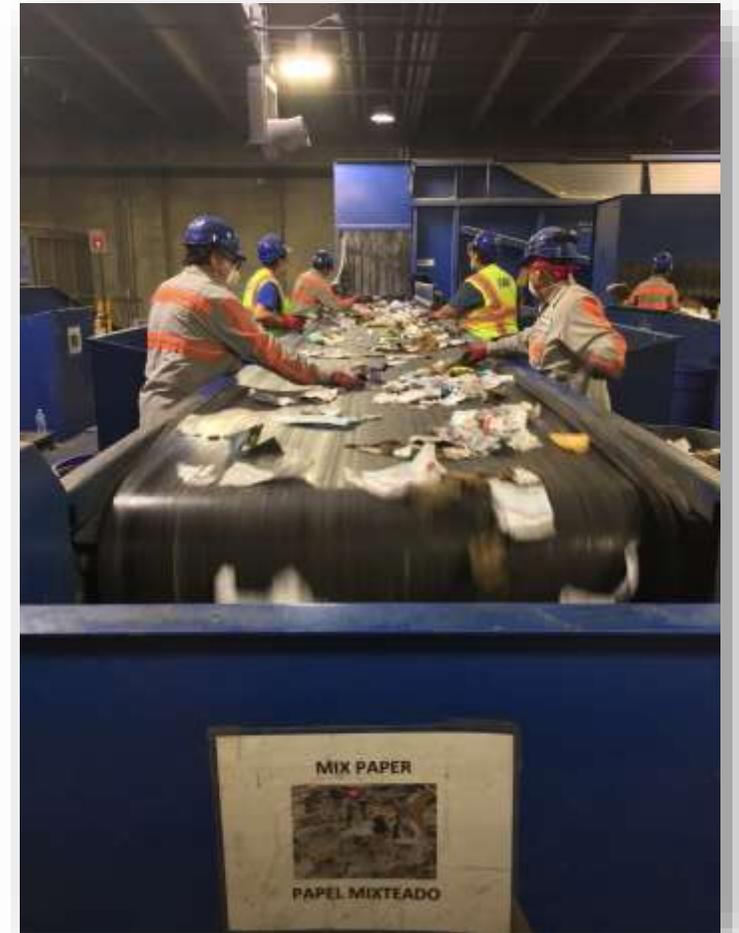
Expanding Collection Access

- Producer funding to expand collection
- Recovery goal for plastic packaging
- Expanded drop-off and mobile collection
- Transportation reimbursement for distant communities



New Processing Standards

- To address:
 - Sorting quality
 - Contamination removal
 - Post-processing disposition and transparency
 - Fair and equitable treatment of workers
 - Community impacts
- Direct recyclables to facilities that meet standards
- Use both permits and certification



Responsible End Markets



- Producers obligated to work with processors
- Producers ultimately responsible for:
 - Ensuring that materials properly collected are recycled responsibly
 - Avoiding negative impacts on ratepayers

Holistic System

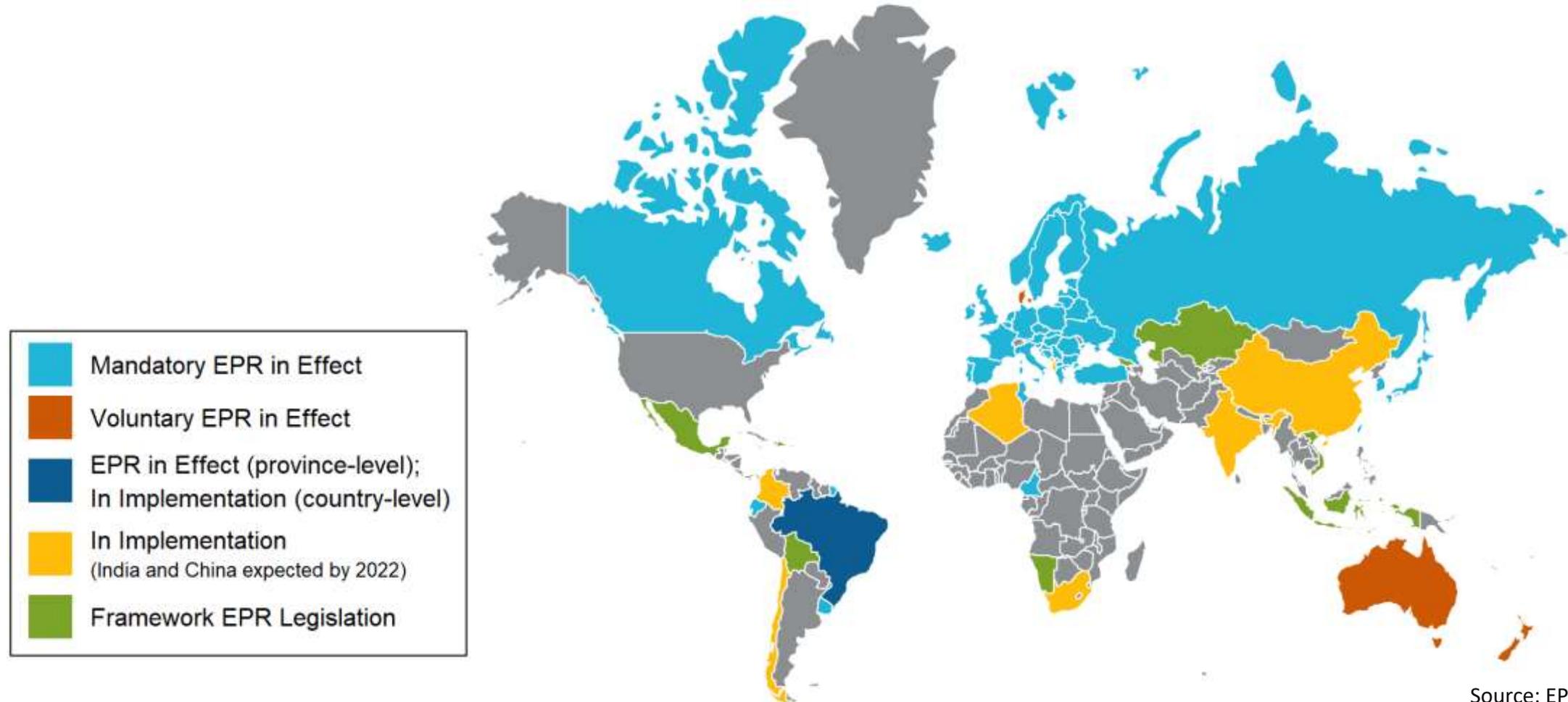
- Continuous improvement model for social equity
- Producers join a producer responsibility organization
 - Fees are “eco-modulated” to reduce life-cycle impacts
- Producer obligations to help control litter
- Producer funding for waste prevention and reuse

Coordination Elements

- Significant oversight role for DEQ
- Statewide advisory council



Producer Responsibility for Packaging



Source: EPI

Consensus Proposal

Addresses Root Problems:

- ✓ Market prices don't reflect environmental benefits
- ✓ Oregon's laws are outdated
- ✓ Current producer actions are inadequate

Addresses RSC Charter:

- ✓ Optimize environmental impacts using a life cycle perspective
- ✓ Create a resilient recovery system that can adapt to changes in supply and demand
- ✓ Restore and maintain public trust in the system

Next Steps



Questions?

More Information:

<https://go.usa.gov/x7nZG>

Contact:

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