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THE GLOBAL COMMITMENT 2030

EPR Global Action Partnership

PLASTIC POLLUTION ACTION DIALOGUES

WEBINAR 2 Thursday, 5th November 2026, 15:00 – 16:15 EAT (Virtual)

Implementing Extended Producer Responsibility



Elisa Tonda

Chief, Industry Innovation Branch
Industry and Economy Division
UNEP

Moderator

WEBINAR 1 - 13 October 2026

Scaling **reuse** through system design and investment

WEBINAR 2 - 5 November 2026

Implementing **Extended Producer Responsibility**: lessons learnt from regulatory development and operation of EPR schemes

WEBINAR 3 - 25 November 2026

The role of **product design** to reduce plastic pollution: principles, key aspects, and examples

WEBINAR 4 - 15 December 2026

Unlocking **finance and investment** opportunities to scale up innovative, transformative, and outcome-driven solutions: finance gaps, available finance approaches, and pathway to impacts

AGENDA

Meeting opening and welcome remarks - **Elisa Tonda** (UNEP)

12:05-12:10 **TOPIC INTRODUCTION**

High-Level Overview - **Peter Borkey** (OECD Environment Directorate)

12:10-12:25 **COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS**

National Experience - **Do Xuan Thuan**, Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Viet Nam

National Experience - **Anja Gerdung**, German Environment Agency, Germany

12:25-13:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION**

Moderated Panel - **Peter Borkey** (OECD)

Q&A - Moderated by **Elisa Tonda** (UNEP)

Wrap-up - **Elisa Tonda** (UNEP)

TOPIC INTRODUCTION



Peter Borkey

Circular Economy Lead
OECD Environment Directorate

High-level Overview

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – Basic facts and key principles

Peter Börkey

Team lead, Circular Economy

OECD Environment Directorate

3 November 2026

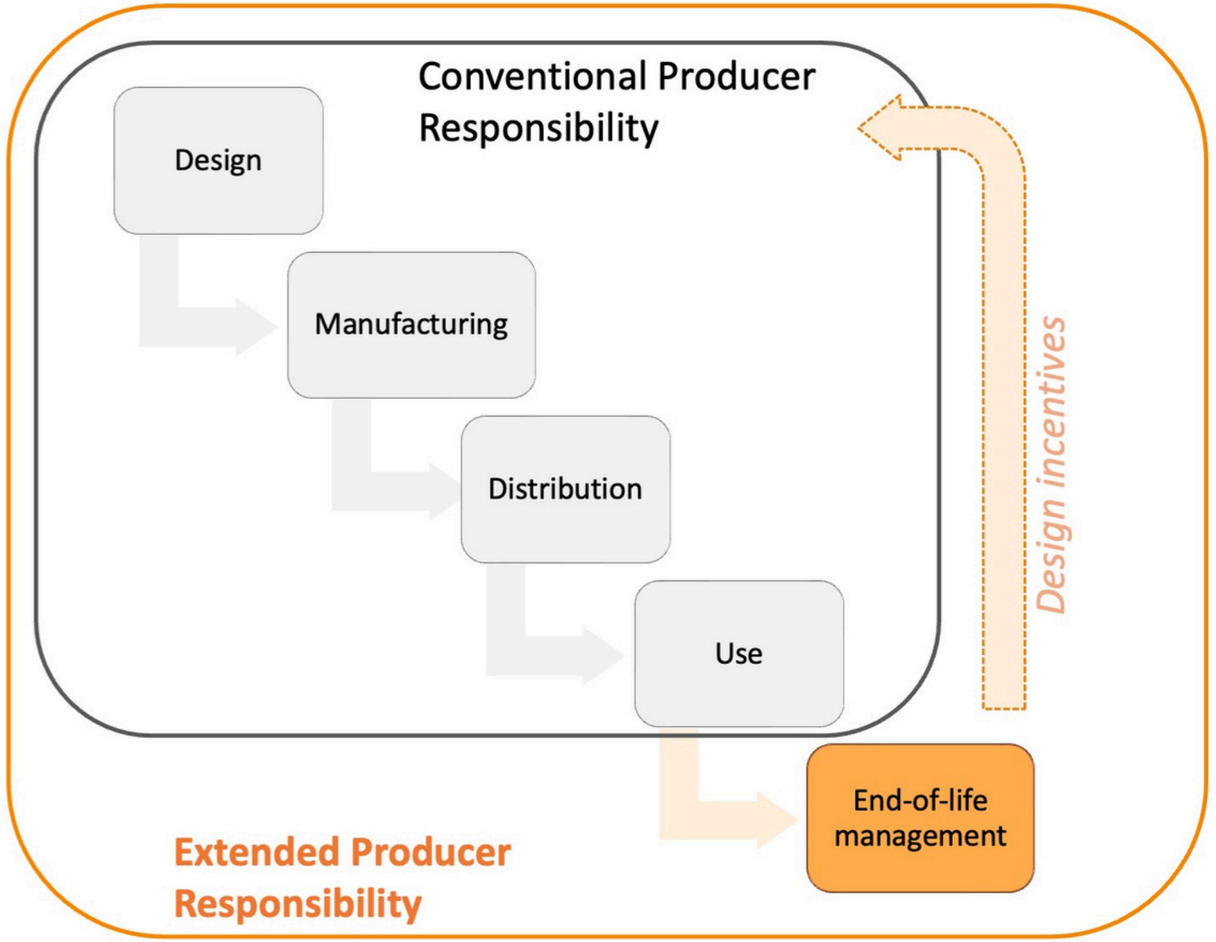
EPR Global Action Partnership



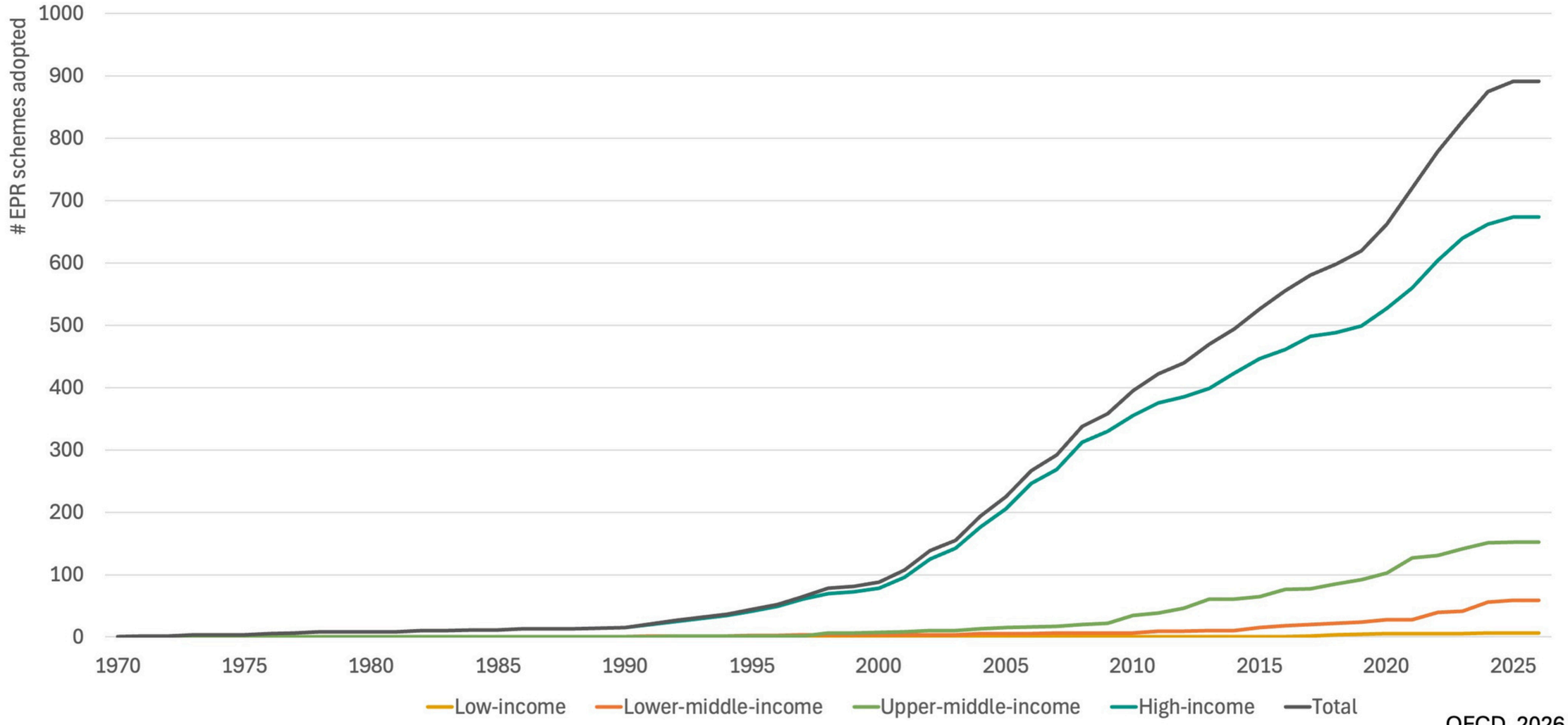
What is Extended Producer Responsibility?

EPR is an environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle.

- Internalises waste management costs in line with the **polluter-pays principle**
- Creates incentives for more **sustainable product design**
- Generates **financial resources** for waste collection and recycling



Mandatory EPR schemes have grown fourfold since 2005 and the geographic coverage increased significantly



OECD, 2026 forthcoming

What can EPR do?



What are the challenges?

- Incentivising design change
- Concerns about competition/anti-trust
- Ensuring cost effectiveness
- Administrative oversight capacity
- Minimise free-riding and non-compliance
- Governance, transparency, complexity

Additionally… Low- and Middle-Income countries face:

- Limited existing waste management capacity
- Incorporating existing informal collection
- Creating a legal framework for PROs to operate
- Missing successful examples



Key design principles

- Clear definition of responsibility
- Target setting
- Stakeholder coordination
- Transparency
- Government capacity
- Fair competition
- Involving the informal sector



Key sources:

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
- United Nations (UN) agencies,
- European Union (EU),
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and
- PREVENT Waste Alliance



Global Action Partnership for EPR

Thinking ahead jointly – this is our mission. As the Global Action Partnership for EPR, we **connect** practitioners and experts worldwide, **foster** collaboration, and **innovate** the global conversation on EPR.

https://gap-epr.prevent-waste.net/

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EPR
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Thank you!

www.oe.cd/EPR



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COUNTRY PRESENTATION



Do Xuan Thuan

Senior Officer, EPR's Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Viet Nam

National experience
Viet Nam

INTRODUCTION TO EPR REGULATIONS IN VIETNAM

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Do Xuan Thuan | Email: thuandoxuan@gmail.com | Mobile (WhatsApp): +84 914113469

1 OVERVIEW OF VIETNAM'S EPR FRAMEWORK

Vietnam's EPR framework covers two main responsibilities:

Recycling responsibility

Applies to products with recycling value and packaging of products with recycling value.

Waste treatment responsibility

Applies to products that are difficult to collect and recycle.

2 MANDATORY RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS FOR PACKAGING

Scope: Packaging of food, cosmetics, fertilizers, animal feed, detergents, and cement.



Food



Cosmetics



Fertilizers



Animal feed



Detergents



Cement



Mandatory requirements: The Government sets mandatory recycling rates and recycling specifications.



Reporting obligations: Producers and importers must declare the quantities of packaged products placed on the market and the corresponding packaging weight.



Applicability threshold: Businesses with annual revenue exceeding VND 30 billion are subject to the requirements.



Reporting platform: Declarations are submitted through the National EPR Information System.

3 COMPLIANCE OPTIONS UNDER THE EPR MECHANISM

How can producers and importers fulfil their EPR recycling obligations?

Producers and importers may choose one of the following options:

01

Self-recycling

Collect and recycle through their own systems.

02

Contracting recyclers

Hire qualified recycling service providers.

03

Authorizing a PRO

Delegate implementation to a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO).

04

Financial contribution

Contribute financially to the Vietnam Environment Protection Fund (VEPF).

4 INITIAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN EPR IMPLEMENTATION

Businesses are increasingly engaging in EPR implementation.

2+

years of EPR implementation

After more than two years of implementation, businesses have actively engaged in fulfilling their EPR obligations.

Packaging recycling alliances have been established, bringing together major companies in the food, consumer goods, and related sectors.

Participating companies have actively fulfilled their recycling obligations and achieved high recycling rates.

5 CHALLENGES IN EPR MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

Monitoring and enforcement remain challenging.

Centralized implementation: EPR is a national-level policy that has not yet been decentralized to local authorities, despite the large number of businesses subject to the requirements.

Limited data integration: Tax and customs databases are not yet interconnected to automatically identify free riders, leaving monitoring heavily dependent on direct inspections by specialized officials.

Traceability: Tracing the origin of recycled materials and monitoring recycling operations remain difficult.

PRO requirements: Appropriate requirements for PROs are needed, together with mechanisms to ensure that they establish collection systems rather than operate solely as EPR compliance service providers.

COUNTRY PRESENTATION



Anja Gerdung

Legal Expert for Circular Economy Law,
German Environment Agency

National experience
Germany

Für Mensch & Umwelt

Umwelt Bundesamt

Plastic Pollution Action Dialogue

Implementing Extended Producer Responsibility Packaging and Packaging Waste – Germany‘s Experience

Dr. iur. Anja Gerdung, LL.M.

Section III 1.6 Plastics and Packaging
Subsection Implementation of Packaging Law
German Environment Agency

Legal Framework, Scope and Targets

Waste Framework Directive (WFD)
(2008/98/EC, last amended by Directive (EU) 2025/98)

Circular Economy Act (KrWG)

Guiding principle: Waste Hierarchy



Art. 8 WFD established EPR
Art. 8a added: General minimum requirements for EPR schemes

Packaging Ordinance (VerpackV)
1991; repealed by:

Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste
(94/62/EC) repealed by:

Packaging Act (VerpackG)
2019; repealed by:

Regulation on Packaging and Packaging Waste
(EU) 2025/40), effective since 12th August 2026; Art. 45: EPR

Packaging Law Implementing Act (VerpackDG)
effective since 12th August 2026

- **Scope:** All packaging and packaging waste
- **Goals of EPR:** Internalizing costs of waste management; strengthening the re-use and the prevention, recycling and other recovery of waste; transition to a circular economy

***For packaging types most frequently found in the environment:* Single-Use Plastics Directive**
(EU) 2019/904

Act on the Single-Use Plastic Fund (EWKFondsG)
Effective since May 2023; producers of such items additionally have to pay to the fund to reimburse municipalities for respective waste management costs

EPR in the Packaging Law Implementing Act

- **Registration obligation for all packaging producers**
- **Other producer obligations & compliance options vary depending on the packaging types**



Design: perplexity.ai

Packaging subject to system participation:

Sales, service and grouped packaging, primary production and transport packaging that, after use, typically accrues as waste in private households or at comparable sites like hotels, restaurants, government offices, hospitals, educational institutions

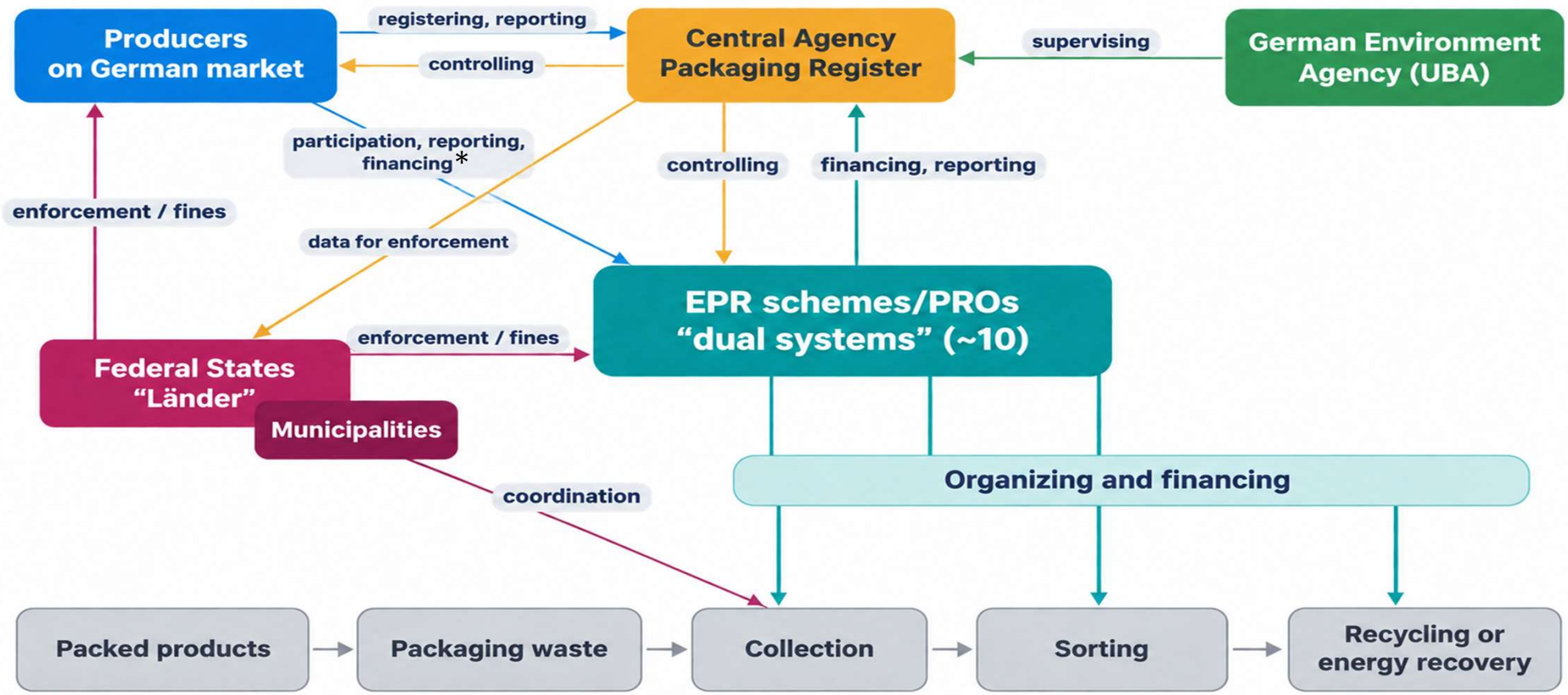
➡ PROs to fulfill EPR obligations for producers

Packaging not subject to mandatory system participation:

Re-useable packaging as part of a closed-loop system, single-use beverage packaging subject to a deposit, sales packaging for goods containing harmful substances, B2B transport packaging, industrial packaging, sales, grouped and primary production packaging not accruing as waste in private households or at comparable sites

➡ Producers and distributors to fulfill EPR obligations

Governance Structure and Monitoring for Packaging Subject to Mandatory PRO Participation



* The single-use plastic levy does not replace the system (PRO) participation requirement.

Content: UBA, design: UBA and perplexity.ai

Key Achievements – Packaging Waste Generation

Trends in packaging waste generated in Germany [kt]
(composite packaging is fully assigned to the main material)



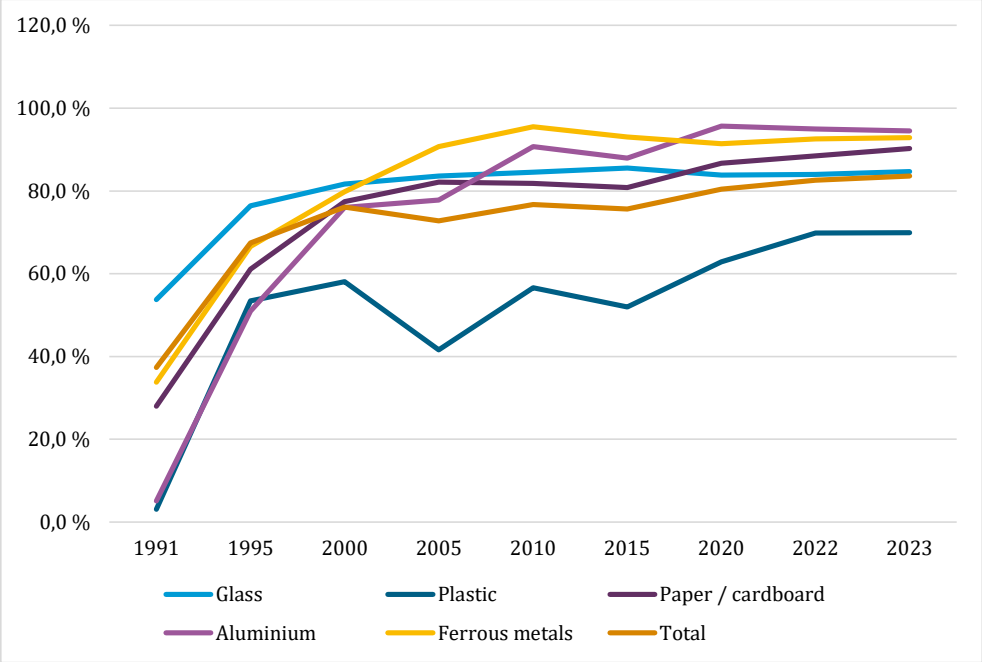
- Since 2021/2022 development towards less packaging

- Reasons, *inter alia*:
  - less consumption
  - with paper/cardboard also less material input
  - with glass also longer use of re-use glass, use of lighter glass, but also substitution by plastic
  - with plastic partly due to replacement of (heavier) rigid packaging by film

Source: GVM, Consumption and recovery of packaging waste in Germany in 2023; ZSVR

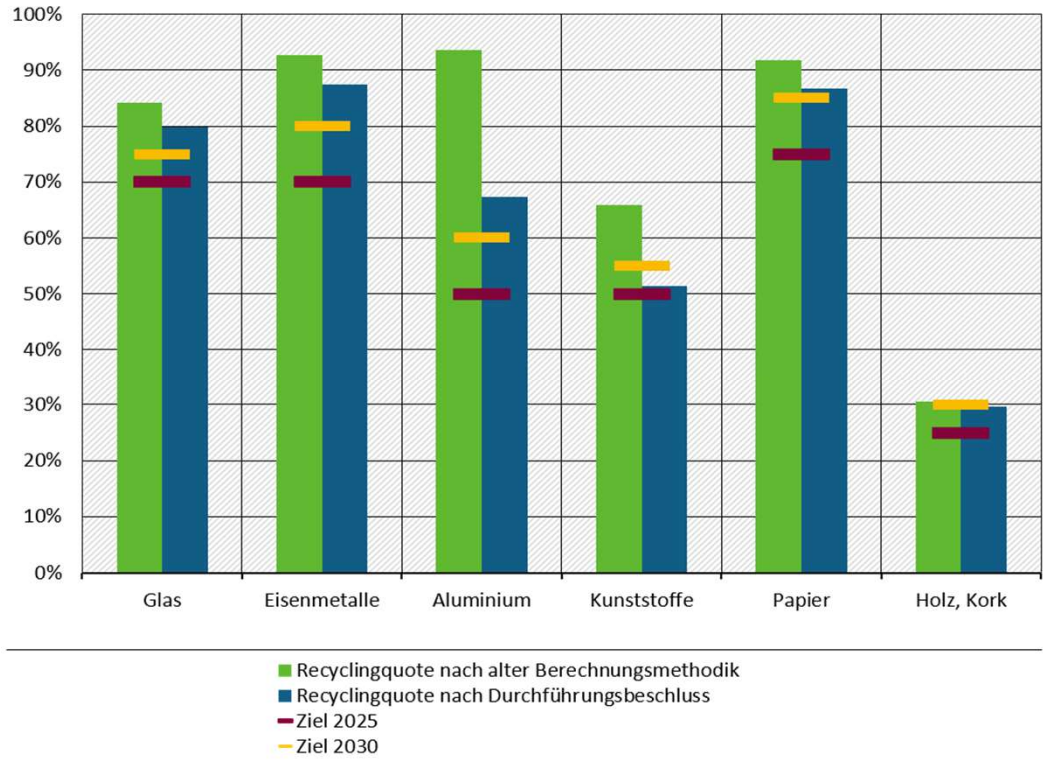
Key Achievements – More Recycling of Packaging Waste

Development of Recycling Rates* of Sales Packaging of Private Final Consumers



Source: GVM; illustration: UBA

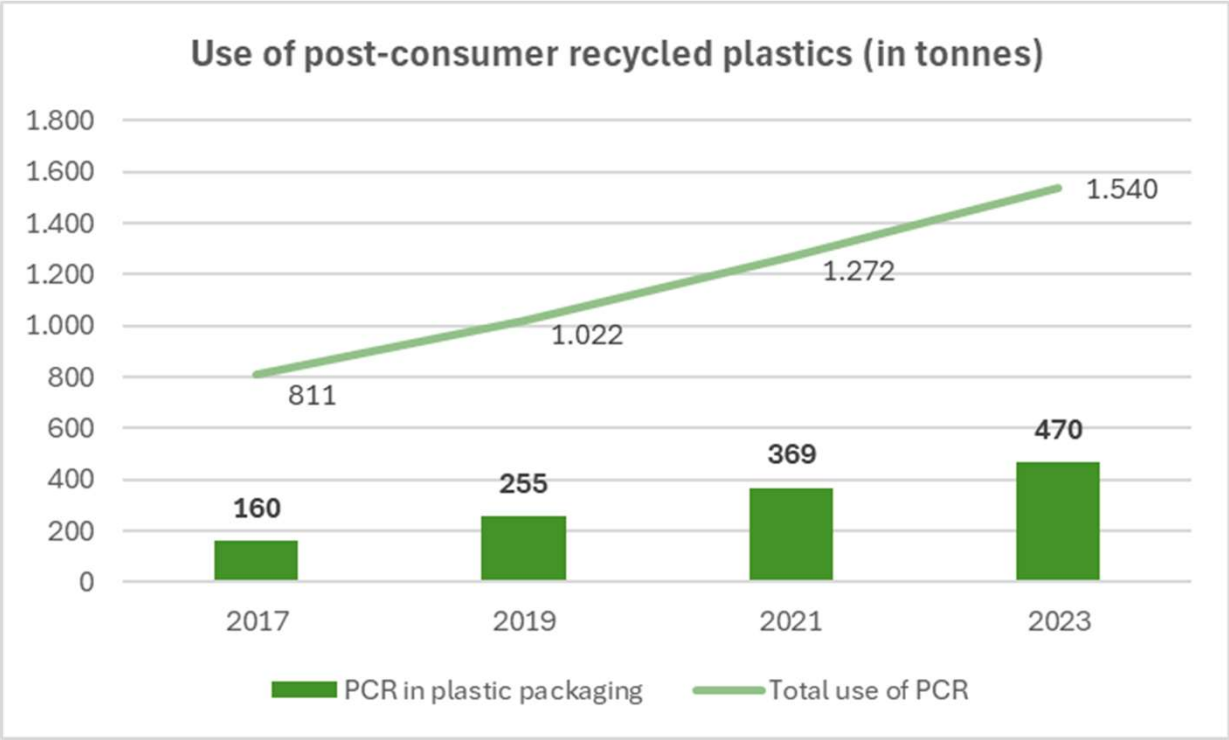
Recycling Rates 2024 of 5.5 Million Tons of Packaging Waste Recovered by PROs (Comparison with Art. 52 PPWR Targets)



Source: GVM; illustration: UBA

* Total rate includes liquid packaging board from 1995 onwards.

Key Achievements – More Use of Post-consumer Recycled Plastics

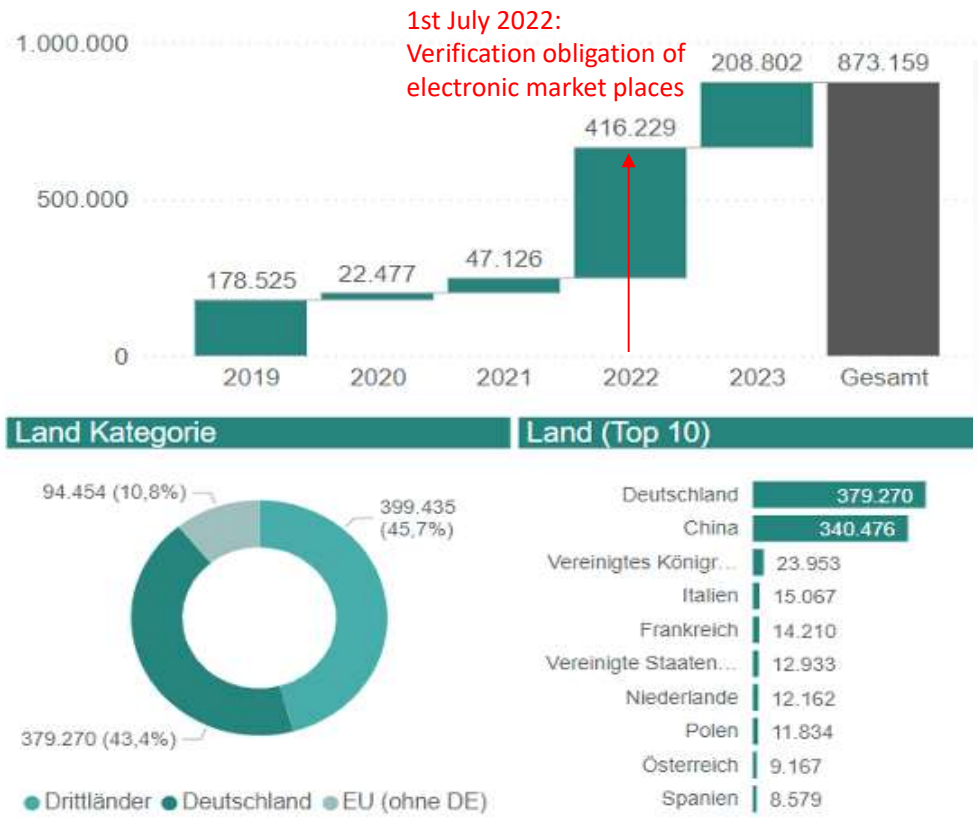


- Plastic packaging is the second-largest application area for post-consumer recycled materials (after construction products).
- Often there is substitution for new material of the same composition in applications typical of that material.
- This is possible after mechanical recycling that retains the quality of the material.
- German packaging law has set an additional target for mechanical recycling of plastics.

Source: UBA

Key Achievements – Increase in Registrations and Increase in Producer Participation in PROs

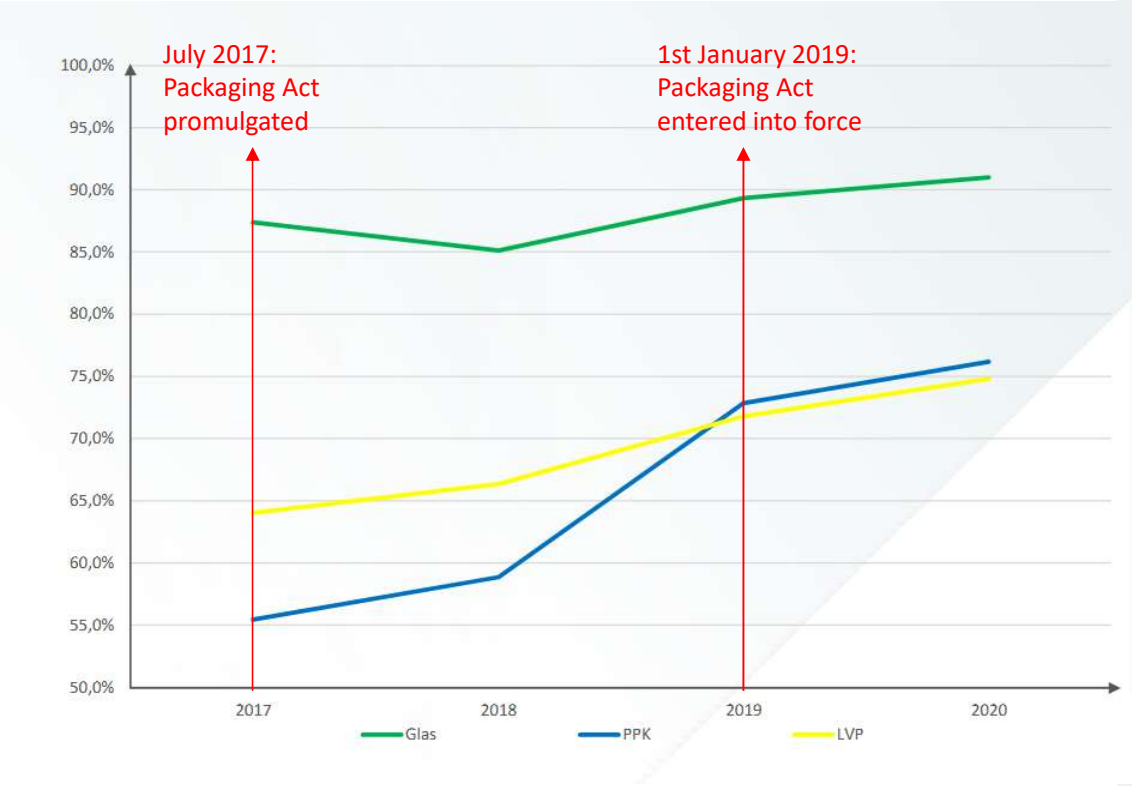
Registrations since the Start of the Packaging Register in 2019



Source: ZSVR; own addition of event

System (PRO) Participation 2017 to 2020

Development of the degree of participation



Source: ZSVR: own addition of events

Challenges – and Strategies to Address Them*

Free-riding of producers, unfair competition

- Packaging register, mandatory registration
- Reporting obligations with verification by auditors according to guidelines
- Control, data reconciliation, cross-checks by Register and authorities
- Fines for administrative offences
- Prohibition of sale for unregistered producers and unparticipated packaging

Enforcement in third countries, and in a decentral structure

- Authorised representatives
- Verification obligations of electronic marketplaces for registration and PRO participation, with automated data reconciliation
- Sales and service bans in case of nonverification/ noncompliance
- Data reconciliation for enforcement authorities with the Register

Recyclability of (composite) packaging, recycling, declining degree of reusable packaging

- Mandatory design for recycling standards according to industrial-scale recycling
- Mandatory eco-modulation of fees
- Ambitious separate collection and mechanical recycling targets
- Reuse targets, mandatory offer of reusable to-go packaging, convenient deposit and return infrastructure

Littering, insufficient separate waste disposal by consumers

- Levy for municipal clean-up/ waste management for certain SUP packaging
- Information obligations for PROs and producers (labels on packaging and on waste receptacles, public information campaigns)

* Non-exhaustive lists of challenges and of measures by now and foreseen, EU and nationally

Findings of Potential Use in Other Settings

Guiding Principles

- Waste hierarchy
- Transparency and control

Setting aims, tracking and evaluating achievements

- Breaking the roles down into clear obligations/ tasks of stakeholders
- Setting mandatory targets
- Establishing instruments for oversight of the amounts of packaging placed on the market, collected/ returned, and recycled
- Enabling data matching
- Prohibition of placing on the market prior to registration and PRO participation and in cases of incompliance
- Integrating stakeholders with oversight in the governance

Thank you for your attention!

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Thanks to my colleagues for their valuable contributions to this presentation.





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Taylor Maddalene Myers
Director, Global Plastic Policy & Corporate Engagement, World Wildlife Fund US

Japan’s EPR for “Containers and Packaging Recycling Law”

環境省

Since 2000 | shared responsibility

Achievements, challenges and the critical elements of an effective scheme

01 Achievements

Nationwide system

Clear role-sharing: consumers sort, municipalities collect, and producers finance recycling.

Stable recycling flow

A designated organization and competitive procurement connect obligated businesses with recyclers.

Visible outcomes

High municipal participation for PET and broad collection for plastic packaging; recycling became a normal public service.

02 Challenges

Cost–responsibility split

Municipalities still bear collection and sorting costs, while producer responsibility is concentrated downstream.

Quality, not only quantity

Mixed materials, contamination and complex designs limit yields and high-value closed-loop use.

Weak design signal

Fees are not yet strongly differentiated by recyclability; better data, monitoring and free-rider control are needed.

03 Critical elements

Clear roles + full-cost view

Define who pays and who acts across collection, sorting, recycling and market development.

Incentives for circular design

Use measurable targets and modulated fees to reward reduction, reuse and recyclability.

Transparency + adaptive governance

Reliable data, enforcement, stakeholder dialogue and periodic review must operate as one system.

Government takeaway

EPR works best when it shifts the whole value chain, not only the recycling bill.

Thank you!

WEBINAR 3 - 25 November 2026



The role of **product design** to reduce plastic pollution: principles, key aspects, and examples

WEBINAR 4 - 15 December 2026



Unlocking **finance and investment** opportunities to scale up innovative, transformative, and outcome-driven solutions

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