

SB 54: New California Law to Cut Plastic Pollution

A new State law, SB 54, known as the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act, sets new goals to reduce plastic packaging and requires that all forms of single-use products be recyclable or compostable by 2032. The law is the nation's most comprehensive legislation to date to cut dependence on single-use products, while shifting plastic pollution responsibility to producers and manufacturers.

The legislation requires producers to reduce single-use plastic packaging and foodservice products by at least 25 percent by 2032, nearly half of which must come from direct elimination of plastic packaging or shifting to reuse or refill systems.

Additionally, the legislation shifts the burden of costs to collect, process, and recycle materials from local jurisdictions and consumers to the producers. These requirements will be met through a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) created by plastics producers to fund and manage collection and recycling programs, with oversight from CalRecycle. The PRO is required to deposit a total of \$5B over 10 years into a California Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund to remediate plastic pollution and support disadvantaged communities hurt most by the damaging effects of plastic.

The bill designates CalRecycle as the agency to adopt regulations to implement and enforce the requirements of the law, including establishing a list of covered materials by January 1, 2024. Local governments are responsible for including covered materials in their collection programs, and SB 54 provides for reimbursement to local governments for the costs of implementation by the PRO.

Full text of the bill [is available here](#).



In addition to requiring that single-use packaging be recyclable or compostable, the bill also requires that all these items reach a recycling rate of at least 65% by 2032.

