

# GOVERNMENT POLICIES

## EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

Extended Producer Responsibility is a policy where **producers themselves are given the responsibility of dealing with the treatment of post-consumer products**. That is, when a company puts a product on the market, they must attempt to reduce the environmental impacts of that product during its entire life cycle.

The goal of such a policy is to provide **better incentives for companies to reduce the amount of waste generated by their products** and recycle more often. Many of the current EPR policies consist of companies paying municipalities to manage the waste generated. That being said, there are also policies like Full Producer Responsibility, which involves companies being completely responsible for managing the waste from their products.



## QUICK FACTS

-  EPR policies have been around for a long time for products like batteries. **More recently, however, they've been implemented for product packaging**, which makes up over 40% of all plastic waste.
-  This policy means that the costs of end-of-life management of products would likely be incorporated into wholesale and retail product prices. **The expenses would be transferred from taxpayers to producers and consumers.**
-  Studies show that Full Producer Responsibility leads to **more effective recycling technology, a greater ability to educate consumers collectively, and the improvement of waste management** services as a whole.
-  EPR was created because we've been producing far too much plastic waste. With over **300 million tonnes** of plastic waste being produced each year, companies need to start taking responsibility for their own plastic products.
-  When FPR was implemented in British Columbia in 2014, the program had a recovery rate of **78%** for materials used in products, a recycling rate of **87%** of waste by weight, and **73%** of residents were making an effort to recycle.
-  Increasingly seen as one of the key policies that will lead us to achieving a circular economy, EPR is said to create a greater incentive for companies to manufacture products and packaging that are **more easily reused or recyclable.**

## NEW SOLUTIONS

### STRICTER LEGISLATION



Rather than setting loose guidelines for corporations to follow, governments should impose laws surrounding EPR. Through stricter policies, more companies would be working towards reducing the waste generated by their products.

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



Since some companies might not know much about EPR, educational programs are a must. With the help of consumer awareness campaigns, for example, major stakeholders can adopt more environmentally responsible practices.

### GOING GLOBAL



Currently, EPR policies are most common in Europe. Since developing countries are responsible for 80% of global mismanaged plastic waste, we should work towards implementing these policies in those countries too.

**DESIGNED BY THE PLASTIC SHIFT**

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