

Recycling Reform Act

Ecology Updates

Advisory Council Meeting - June 11, 2026

Recycling Reform Act Timeline



Request for Information/Surveys/Interviews

- Service provider registration (January 31)
- Request for information (May 8)
- Targeted surveys/interviews for needs assessments (June 12)
 - Municipalities, Tribes, producers, collection service providers, CAA, and Interchange360

Request for Information to Develop Statewide Recycling Lists and Needs Assessments

April 1, 2026

Why is Ecology requesting information?

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is requesting technical information to inform requirements of [Section 090](#) and [Section 110](#) of the Recycling Reform Act passed by the legislature in 2025, which requires an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for consumer packaging and paper products ("covered materials"). The law, codified in Chapter 70A.208 RCW, directs Ecology to:

- Develop four statewide collection lists, due by October 1, 2026, identifying covered materials suitable for residential recycling, residential composting, public place collection, or alternative collection.
- Complete a preliminary needs assessment due by December 31, 2026, describing current recycling system access, infrastructure, contracts, costs, material flows, and market conditions.
- Complete a full needs assessment, due by December 31, 2027, evaluating system performance, environmental and public health considerations, investment needs, and opportunities for improvement.

This Request for Information (RFI) is intended to:

- Identify relevant datasets, studies, and technical insights.
- Support evaluation of specific covered materials for statewide collection lists.
- Identifying and filling gaps in available information to support the needs assessments.
- Gather recommendations on methodologies, performance metrics, and system improvement opportunities and priorities.

The information collected as part of this RFI is in addition to (i) data submitted by service providers through Ecology's service provider registration, as described below, and (ii) data and input collected through surveys to key audiences. RCW 70A.208.110(7)(a) states that a service provider or other person with data or information necessary to complete a needs assessment must provide the data or information to the department upon request.

Ecology has already requested that service providers (including local governments, collectors, material recovery facilities, and processors) register with Ecology and share information pursuant to RCW 70A.208.070. Ecology may reach out to service providers who have not submitted the requested information or submitted incomplete information.

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2607021.pdf>

Preliminary Needs Assessment



Statewide Collection Lists

- Initial lists due October 1, 2026
- Lists developed to direct (full) needs assessment
- Four lists:
 - Residential recycling
 - Residential composting
 - Public place collection (sidewalks, plazas, public parks, forests, etc)
 - Alternative collection



Documents to Review – Statewide Collection Lists

July

Draft of four statewide lists and supporting companion documentation for review

Lists subcommittee July 22

September

Potential second draft of statewide lists

Lists subcommittee Aug 4 and 10
Advisory Council consultation Aug 13

August

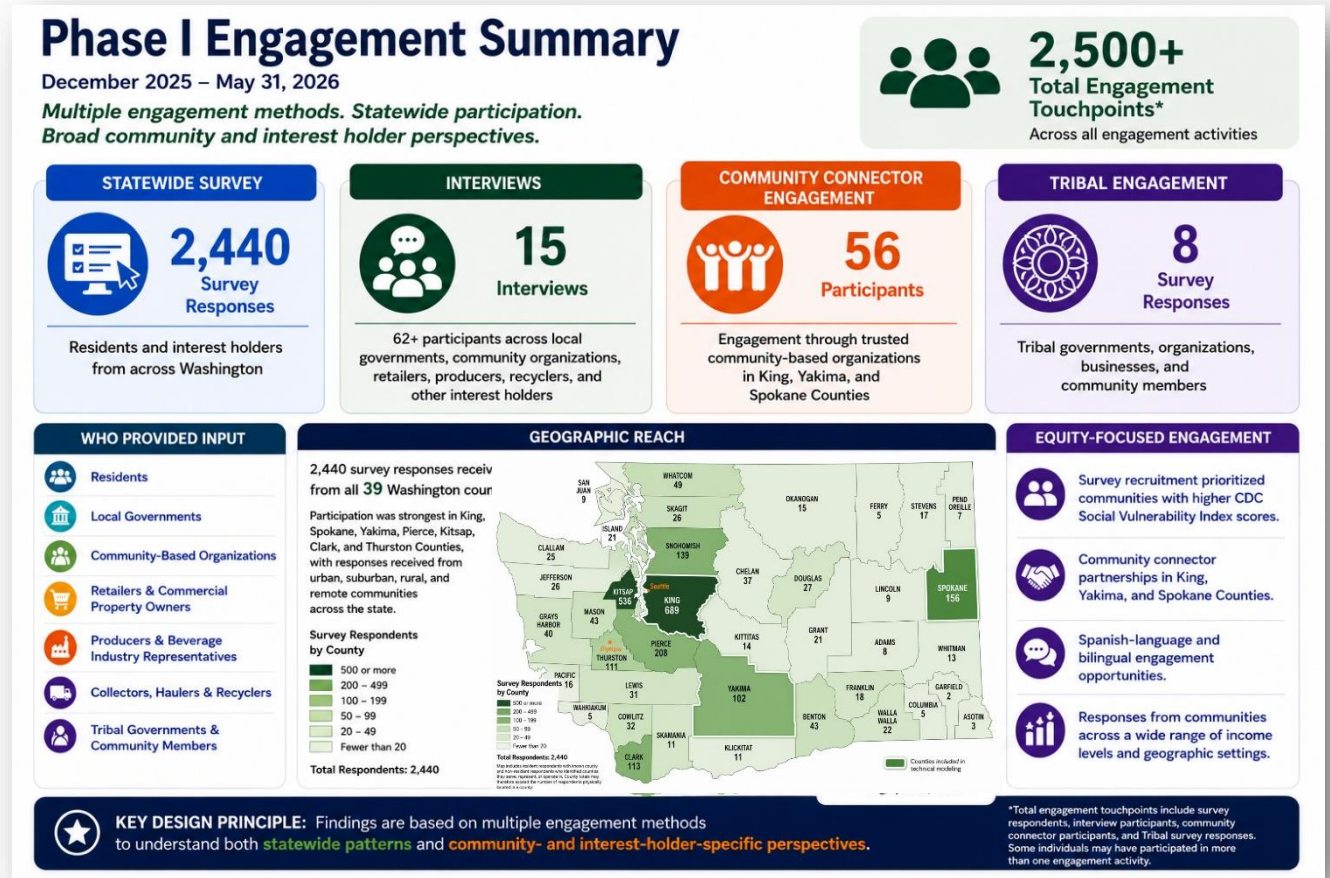
Final lists and companion document delivered

October 1



Recycling Refund Program Studies

- Phase 1 - Model study published in January 2026
- Phase 2 - Engagement study
 - Draft report coming
 - July 6 to August 3: Public comment
 - Sept 9 to 30: Advisory Council
 - January 2027: due to the Legislature

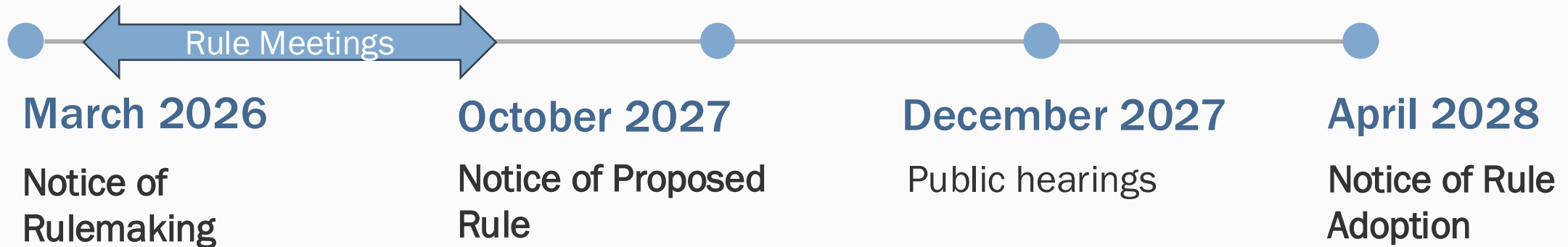


Recycling Refund Study Timeline





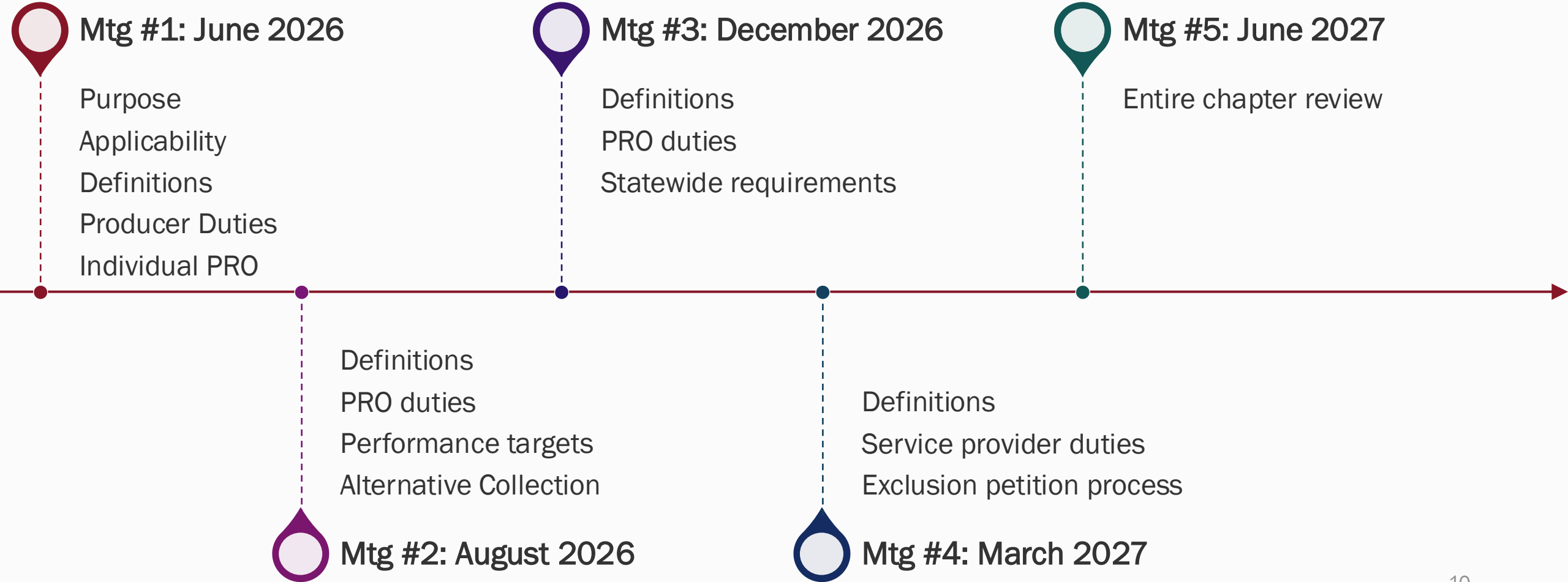
RRA Rulemaking



↔ Rule Committee meetings: review draft language over 5 quarterly meetings; Public review welcome

<https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/laws-rules-rulemaking/rulemaking/wac-173-950>

Rulemaking Committee Timeline



Rulemaking Resources

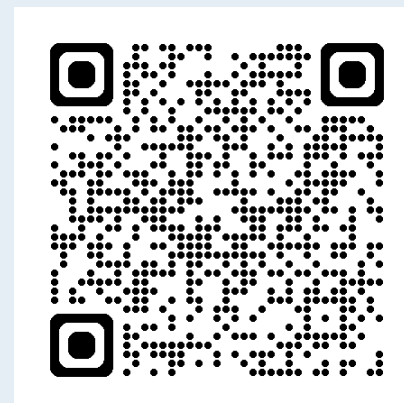
Rulemaking webpage



<https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/laws-rules-rulemaking/rulemaking/wac-173-950>

Provide input on rule language

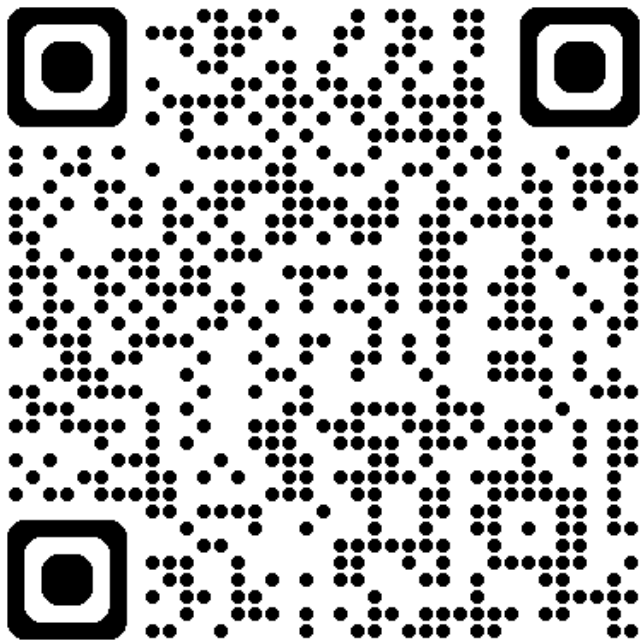
Public comment form



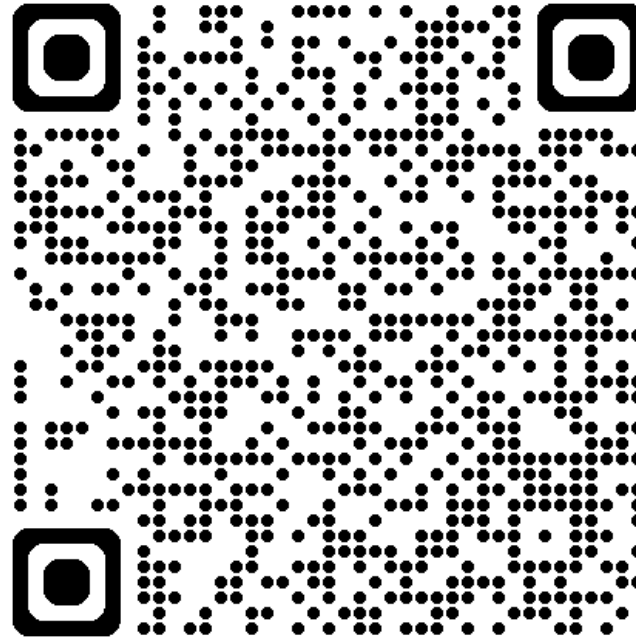
<https://ecology.commentinput.com/?id=HBuQZ3h6t>

Recycling Reform Act resources

Ecology's newsletter



Ecology's website



Ecology's email

recyclingreform@ecy.wa.gov

Advisory Council

www.RRAadvisorycouncil.org