



CAA Washington Updates

Recycling Reform Act Advisory Council Meeting
October 8, 2026

Agenda

1. Intro
2. Producer Updates
3. Needs Assessment & Program Planning
4. Closing

WA Producer Updates

Washington's 2027 Early Fee schedule now available to support producer planning

May 31, 2026: Interim producer reporting deadline

Calendar year 2025 supply data reported by producers informs the calculation of Washington's 2027 Early Fees.

October 1, 2026: Early Fee schedule published

Washington Early Fee rates are available through CAA's website and Producer Portal, giving producers time to incorporate the expected payment into 2027 budgeting and financial planning.

October 21, 2026 (planned): Participant-producer webinar on 2027 EPR fee planning

CAA will review the Early Fee schedule, explain how producers can use it for 2027 planning, provide detailed preparation instructions and address producer questions.

Q1 2027 (planned): Invoicing

CAA plans to issue Washington Early Fee invoices in Q1 2027. Invoice instructions and applicable payment terms will accompany producer communications.

Washington Early Fees use producer-reported supply and simplified material classes

- **Source data:** Early Fees are calculated using producer-reported Washington supply data.
- **Material classes:** Supply is grouped into simplified material classes because final Washington program material categories have not yet been defined.
- **What Early Fees fund:** The Early Fee budget funds essential infrastructure, systems and services, program-plan development, and applicable regulator expenses.

Washington participation has grown 17% since the June Advisory Council update

- 3,132 Washington participant producers in October 2026
- +457 participant producers since June
- +17% growth since June

CAA leverages national scale while maintaining a targeted Washington focus

Identify

Bring prospective Washington producers into the process

Continue Washington-specific inbound marketing campaigns through Q4 2026

Conduct company and contact research

Incorporate Washington interested party referrals and available company lists

Engage

Move known organizations toward registration

Conduct direct outreach to identified organizations and contacts

Review existing CAA participants for potential Washington applicability

Provide registration education and onboarding support

Monitor

Track participation and remaining gaps

Monitor registration status and incomplete participation steps

Prioritize follow-up with identified organizations

Use observed gaps to refine research, campaigns and outreach

Refer

Route unresolved obligation questions appropriately

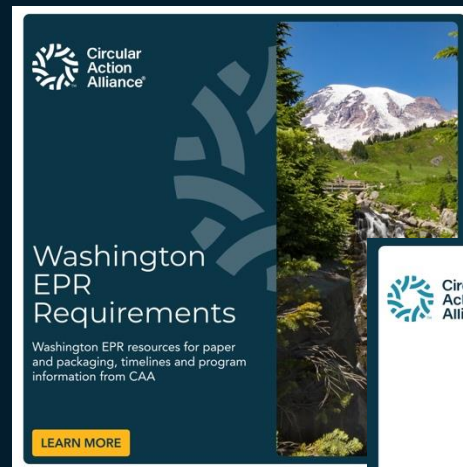
Consolidate available information when questions remain unresolved

Refer relevant information through the appropriate regulatory pathway

The regulator determines non-compliance and enforcement

Washington-specific campaigns expand awareness and bring prospective producers into the registration process

- Washington-specific creative and calls to action build awareness among prospective producers.
- Campaign materials connect companies with CAA registration information and producer support.
- The campaign expands the top of the funnel; CAA's direct outreach and onboarding capabilities support identified organizations through registration.



Washington producers receive state-specific resources through CAA's established support platform



Covered Material and Producer Definitions: Washington

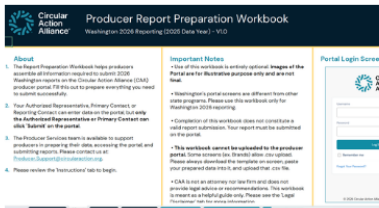


Covered Materials and Producer Definitions:

Washington

Published: November 2025

The information provided in this publication is designed to help businesses identify the materials that are captured in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws and the responsible producer for those materials. Circular Action Alliance (CAA) is providing the following detailed information for Washington.



Washington 2026 Report Preparation Workbook

Published: March 2026

This document is an offline, Excel-based Report Preparation Workbook that mirrors the Washington Producer Portal screens and helps producers gather the information required for reporting supply data in the Portal. This workbook reflects the simplified material reporting categories in which Washington producers will report in 2026 and will support producers in getting ready to report before and during logging into the Portal.

Washington producers can access program-specific schedules and resources through CAA's Producer Portal, including the 2027 Early Fee schedule and supporting information.

Across programs, CAA has published more than 50 guidance and knowledge documents and managed more than 60,000 producer-support cases since 2025.

Next actions focus on producer readiness and remaining participation gaps

- Continue Washington-specific marketing campaigns through Q4 and direct outreach to identified organizations
- Accept and process prospective-producer referrals for follow-up
- Support participant producers through the October 21 Early Fee webinar
- Follow up on incomplete registration and reporting steps
- Track remaining participation gaps and prioritize targeted outreach

Thank You!

WA Producer Updates Questions

Needs Assessment and Program Planning

Needs Assessment vs. Program Plan

Both play a key role in the move to EPR, but they answer different questions and are built at different points in the process.

Needs Assessments

Ecology-led | 2026–2027

What does Washington's system look like today, and what could it achieve?

- Point-in-time study based on the data available when it was written
- Describes the current landscape: infrastructure, service levels, markets, gaps
- Establishes a draft baseline for recycling and composting rates
- Models potential 5-year, scenario-based performance outcomes
- Recommends operational approaches for the PRO to consider
- Informs the scope of rulemaking and the statewide lists

Program Plan

CAA-led, Advisory Council-consulted, Ecology-approved | 2027–2028

How will the program actually operate, be funded and be measured?

- Validates the data, assumptions and recommendations in the Needs Assessment
- Adds supplemental analysis where the assessment stops short of what operations, the Statute or regulations might require
- Built through consultation with the Advisory Council, Equity Subcommittee, Ecology and interest holders
- Sets operational parameters, targets, reimbursement and investment strategy
- Tailored to the statute, the rules and what exists on the ground in Washington
- Reviewed publicly, revised and approved by the Ecology before implementation begins

The Process Builds on Itself

Each stage builds on the one before it, tests it against new information and improves the picture. There are controls at every point.

What carries forward

The baseline, the definitions and the questions yet to be answered. What is learned at each step corrects and extends the step before it rather than replacing it.

1

Needs Assessment

Baseline & landscape

Point-in-time snapshot from available data, with scenarios and recommended approaches

2026–2027

2

Validation & Supplemental Analysis

Test the numbers

Verify data sources and methods; fill gaps where operations need more detail

2027 – 2028

3

Consultation & Iteration

Ground-truth the system

Facility visits, deep dives, operator and interest holder feedback; learning from states already online

2026 – 2028

4

Draft Plan, Review & Approval

Test the plan

Advisory Council, Equity subcommittee and Ecology review, public comment, revision and approval

2027 – 2029

5

Implementation

Real data, real feedback

Producer and service provider reporting, audits and evaluation feed the next plan

2030+

Role of the Needs Assessment and Plan Development

The Ecology-led needs assessment provides an important and required input into plan development. While it should be as accurate and transparent as possible, additional analysis, consultation and operational planning will further refine the program plan.

Needs Assessment

- Definitions and scope aligned with statute (e.g., covered vs. non-covered materials, covered entities)
- Transparency on data source, methods and assumptions
- A credible and reproducible baseline
- Clear identification of gaps, limitations and uncertainties rather than modelled numbers
- Reasonable ranges where complete data is unavailable
- Underdeveloped areas identified for prioritization in plan development (e.g., end markets, current infrastructure, costs)

Plan Development

- Facility-level capacities, service details and measurement approaches
- Costs and compensation refined through consultation with service providers
- End markets, standards and certifications that change over time
- Changes that occur after the study, such as facility openings, closures or regulatory developments
- Additional materials, services or operational considerations identified during planning

What This Means for the Advisory Council

The needs assessment is an important input to program planning, not the final outcome.

1

Focus NA review on the foundations

Definitions, methodology, assumptions and data sources deserve the most scrutiny now. These form the foundation and will support better planning and decision-making as the program develops.

2

Keep bringing new information forward

The assessment is one input into the plan. Additional materials, facilities, practices or concerns can be introduced and validated during plan development in 2026–2027.

3

Expect the plan to build on the assessment

Validation, additional analysis and operational considerations will inform the plan. As new information is brought forward, the advisory council will have opportunities to provide input and shape the path forward.

Stay Engaged

Producers

- Register with CAA
- Producer questions? Email producer.support@circularaction.org

Support Ecology's Prelim. Assessment

- Comment on the draft by [Oct 30](#).

Provide CAA Your Input

- Support engagements through site visits, facility tours, conversations
- Sign up for CAA news, webinars and events on [our website](#).

Let's keep in touch.

Invite CAA Washington to your community or facility.



Thank You



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