



Domtar Public Affairs
2023



WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy approach assigning producers the responsibility for end-of-life management of their products. A producer is defined as the manufacturer, brand owner, importer, or retailer depending on the jurisdiction and sales channel.

EPR shifts the responsibility for managing, operating, and financing community recycling programs from local governments to businesses. Although EPR was traditionally adopted for hard-to-recycle materials such as paint and mattresses, programs for packaging and paper products (PPP) are increasingly common.

Voluntary paper recycling has been a tremendous success. Including paper in EPR programs risks upending this success with no guarantee of improving the recycling rates of materials with lower recovery rates. EPR programs that increase fees and operating costs for producers will result in higher prices for consumers.

More paper by weight is recovered for recycling from municipal solid waste streams than plastic, glass, steel, and aluminum combined¹.



94% of Americans have access to a community recycling program for paper products.



OUR POSITION

EPR should not disrupt decades of paper recycling success by creating additional fees and unreasonable mandates.

Unprinted paper does not belong in EPR programs. Including it substantially increases costs, risks double counting material, and promotes digital substitution.

EPR is not a one-size-fits-all solution. Paper should not subsidize the recycling of materials with low recovery rates and limited markets.

EPR should support Material Recycling Facilities (MRF) modernization to produce higher quality recycled paper products.



67.9%: The paper recycling rate in the US in 2022².

¹EPA, ²AF&PA