



Guiding Principles

Compostables and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

The Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) is North America's leading certifier of compostable materials, products, and packaging, with 300+ member companies worldwide. BPI supports a shift to the circular economy by promoting the production, use, and appropriate end of life management for materials and products that are designed to fully biodegrade in specific biologically active environments.

BPI is supportive of a variety of funding mechanisms to help cover the costs of collecting and processing compostable products, including but not limited to extended producer responsibility programs (EPR) that meet the following criteria:

- 1** The EPR fees must cover all materials. All compostables are included as a class (not by material), defined by a common performance criteria.
- 2** An equitable portion of revenue must be allocated to infrastructure and education for collection and processing of compostables, maximizing diversion and minimizing contamination.
- 3** There must be representation from the compostable products and composting industry, whether at a broader producer responsibility organization (PRO) or in a separate PRO for compostables.
- 4** Compostables must be designed to be associated with food scraps (e.g., food-soiled items) and be collected in a source separated organics stream (e.g. food scraps), not co-collected with recyclables.
- 5** Compostables must be exempt from post-consumer recycled content (PCR) requirements, as these materials are recycled into compost.
- 6** Sister policy/goals on food waste collection and composting are strongly recommended, since compostables are not collected/processed on their own like recyclables.
- 7** If eco-modulation is included, fees for certified compostable products should be relevant to composting, not recycling, since they are collected and processed separately.