



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Needs Assessment Survey

Maryland Department of Environment (MDE)

The goal of the MDE EPR Needs Assessment survey is to gather critical data on recycling access, infrastructure, and capacity across the state to support recommendations for establishing and implementing an EPR program for packaging materials in Maryland. If Maryland proceeds with EPR legislation following this assessment, counties and municipalities could see a reduction in their financial burdens related to packaging waste management, as manufacturers will take on greater responsibility. Your input is essential and your participation in this survey will help shape legislation that could ease the strain on local governments.

Note: *This survey is estimated to take approximately 1 hour to complete. You may save your progress using the "Save" button at the bottom of each page. You will be emailed a link to resume your survey later. We recommend saving your progress regularly to avoid losing input.*

It may be helpful to have the following information available before you begin:

- Key information related to single family, multi-family, and commercial recycling programs
- Materials accepted in your jurisdiction's recycling program
- Levels of service, access, and participation in recycling programs
- Contamination rates in the recycling stream
- Facilities used to manage recycling materials
- Fees, costs, and rates that support your recycling program
- Education, outreach, and compliance efforts
- Reuse and source reduction programs

Glossary of Terms

The following glossary defines acronyms and key terms found in the survey:

- **MDE:** Maryland Department of Environment
- **EPR:** Extended Producer Responsibility
- **Single family:** Residential single family households
- **Multi-Family:** Residential households that contain multiple dwelling units that can range from duplexes to high rises
- **Curbside:** Collection service provided at single family homes via solid waste collection vehicles
- **Drop-off Station:** A location where customers can self-haul material for delivery
- **Single-Stream:** Collection service where all recyclable materials are placed in one cart
- **Dual-Stream:** Collection service where certain recyclables are collected separately, like glass
- **Multi-Stream:** Collection service where multiple materials are collected separate, like glass, plastic, and paper
- **Organics:** Biodegradable materials such as food or yard waste
- **Contamination:** Non-recyclable materials and residue that is not accepted at material recovery facilities or has limited end markets for recycling
- **MRA:** 1988 Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed of by the County by specific percentages based on population.
- **MSW:** Municipal Solid Waste
- **FTE:** Full-Time Employee

Section 1/10: Introductory Questions

Identify your jurisdiction type and contact information.

Name *

First Name Last Name

Email *

example@example.com

Job Title *

Dept./Agency/Entity/Org. *

Name of Jurisdiction *

Please select the Jurisdiction Type that you represent. *

County (including Baltimore City)

Local Jurisdiction

Regional Entity

Unincorporated Area

Other

Section 2/10: Curbside Collection Programs

Curbside collection programs are critical components of understanding the existing recycling systems and capacity across the State. The following questions are related to the collection programs that provide recycling services to residents and businesses.

Curbside trash and recycling service can be provided in multiple ways, including municipal collection (e.g., municipality operated collection) through open market (e.g., all customers subscribe to service individually) or through county/municipal contracts (e.g., all customers are serviced via one or more contractor(s) hired by the County or municipality).

How are curbside collection services provided in your jurisdiction?

	Municipal collection	Open Market	Municipal contract(s)	County contract(s)	I dont know
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Single family (including multi-family <10 units)

Multi-family (>10 units)

Commercial

Are there any other types of collection services available within your jurisdiction?

Curbside collection service for various materials may include trash, single stream/dual stream recycling, yard waste, food waste, or some combination of all the above.

Which curbside collection services are provided in your jurisdiction?

	Trash	Single Stream Recycling	Dual stream - fiber and containers	Dual stream - glass and all other materials	Multi stream - glass, plastic, paper	Cardboard only	Food waste	Yard waste
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Single family

Multi-family

Commercial

Are there any other material types collected within your jurisdiction?

Materials are stored and collected from customers in multiple ways ranging from uncontained bags to dumpsters or roll off containers.

What type of containers are used to store materials as part of curbside collection services in your jurisdiction?

	Bags	Carts	Dumpsters	Roll off container	Unknown
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Single family

Multi-family

Commercial

Are there any other containers used to store materials as part of curbside collections services in

your jurisdiction?

Curbside collected materials collected can be delivered to a number of different locations across the State. Please indicate the facility name and location where each material (as applicable) collected in your jurisdiction is hauled for sorting, transfer, and/or disposal.

Describe trash facilities: *

Describe single/dual stream recycling facilities: *

Describe food waste facilities: *

Describe yard waste facilities: *

Describe any other collection facilities: *

How many tons of single stream recycling material are collected annually through your jurisdiction's curbside collection program (not including material collected at drop off stations)? *

- Less than 10,000 tons per year (TPY)
- 10,000-10,999 TPY
- 20,000-29,999 TPY
- 30,000-39,999 TPY
- 40,000-49,999 TPY
- 50,000-74,999 TPY
- 75,000-100,000 TPY
- Greater than 100,000 TPY
- Not Applicable

How many tons of dual stream recycling material are collected annually through your jurisdiction's curbside collection program (not including material collected at drop off stations)? *

- Less than 10,000 tons per year (TPY)
- 10,000-10,999 TPY
- 20,000-29,999 TPY
- 30,000-39,999 TPY

40,000-49,999 TPY

50,000-74,999 TPY

75,000-100,000 TPY

Greater than 100,000 TPY

Not Applicable

How many single family customers are serviced through your jurisdiction's curbside collection program? Note: an estimated customer count or range is sufficient. *

How many multi-family customers are serviced through your jurisdiction's curbside collection program? Note: an estimated customer count or range is sufficient. *

How many commercial customers are serviced through your jurisdiction's curbside collection program? Note: an estimated customer count or range is sufficient. *

Section 3/10: Service Questions

Follow up questions on your jurisdiction.

COUNTY-ONLY QUESTIONS

Are you aware of any areas of the County that do not receive recycling service? *

Yes

No

Unsure

Please indicate which municipalities or other areas in your jurisdiction do not receive recycling service.

Does the county, or municipalities in the county, operate any "Pay as you Throw" (PAYT) recycling programs? *

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Please identify the municipalities with PAYT programs:

Do any municipalities operate any of the following programs outside of the county program? *

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Solid waste only | Recycling only |
| Both solid waste and recycling | No |

Which municipalities operate independently from County services?

HAULING QUESTIONS

Note: This section applies to any entity overseeing the tonnage data within a jurisdiction. We understand that residential and commercial tonnage is reported to the County annually. Haulers may include multi-family housing within commercial trash and recycling reporting; however, this survey is looking for that information separated from commercial.

Based on hauler reporting, what is the average percent split within commercial tonnages between multi-family housing and other commercial/institutional entities? (e.g., 70% commercial, 30% multi-family)?

Which haulers operate in your jurisdiction?

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------|
| Trash | Single/Dual Stream Recycling |
| Yard Waste | Other |

Identify all the known trash haulers in your jurisdiction.

Identify all the known yard waste haulers in your jurisdiction.

Identify all the known single/dual stream recycling haulers in your jurisdiction.

CUSTOMER QUESTIONS

Note: The following questions apply to jurisdictions who oversee recycling and/or trash collection services

Recycling Service:

If applicable, how many total customers are serviced by your jurisdiction's SINGLE FAMILY recycling program? If unknown or not applicable, please complete the field with N/A. *

If applicable, how many total customers are serviced by your jurisdiction's MULTI-FAMILY recycling program? If unknown or not applicable, please complete the field with N/A. *

If applicable, how many total customers are serviced by your jurisdiction's COMMERCIAL recycling program? If unknown or not applicable, please complete the field with N/A. *

Trash Service:

How many total customers are serviced by your jurisdiction's SINGLE FAMILY trash program? *

How many total customers are serviced by your jurisdiction's MULTI-FAMILY trash program? *

How many total customers are serviced by your jurisdiction's COMMERCIAL trash program? *

If your jurisdiction has entered into a contract for collection of recycling on behalf of your customers, how long are the terms of these contracts? If there are multiple recycling contracts in place, please select Other and identify the length of each. *

1 year

3 years

5 years

7+ years

Other

Section 4/10: Recycling Program

Traditional recycling (e.g., metals, plastic, glass) programs can vary by customer type. Residents living in single family households may access recycling programs differently than those in multi-family housing. Even if your jurisdiction does not manage a collection contract, the following questions are related to how any programs provide access to traditional recycling in your jurisdiction.

SINGLE FAMILY RECYCLING

Which type of recycling program is in place to provide access to single family households in your jurisdiction? *

- Curbside Collection
- Drop-off Station
- Both Curbside Collection and Drop-off Station
- There is no recycling program in place
- I would need more information to answer

Is curbside collection provided as single stream or dual stream service?

- Single Stream (all recyclable materials in one cart)
- Dual Stream (certain recyclables are collected separately, like glass)
- I would need more information to answer

Is curbside recycling service optional for residents?

- Yes
- No

If a recycling program is voluntary, not every household in the community may be included in the program. Please identify the range that best reflects the level of participation of households in your jurisdiction's recycling program.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Less than 25% | 25% - 49% |
| 50% - 74% | 75% - 89% |
| Greater than 90% | Recycling is not voluntary for every household |

On a typical week, not all households will place their recycling cart out for collection. If available, please identify the percentage range that best reflects how many households with active service set out their recycling.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Less than 25% | 25% - 49% |
| 50% - 74% | 75% - 89% |
| Greater than 90% | This information is unknown |

How frequently is curbside recycling service provided?

Twice a week or more	Weekly
Biweekly	Monthly
Less than monthly	Unknown
Other	

How frequently is trash service provided?

Twice a week or more	Weekly
Biweekly	Monthly
Less than monthly	Unknown
Other	

Which of the following paper materials are accepted for recycling by your jurisdiction's program? *

- Office Paper
- Newspaper
- Magazines/Coated Paper
- Clean Cardboard
- Pizza Boxes
- Chipboard (e.g., cereal boxes)
- Cartons
- Paper cups
- Shredded paper, telephone directories etc.
- None of the above

Which of the following plastic materials are accepted for recycling by your jurisdiction's program? *

- PET (e.g., water and soda bottles)
- PET thermoforms (plastic take-out containers, berry containers)
- HDPE (e.g., shampoo containers and milk jugs)
- PP (e.g., yogurt cups, deli food containers)
- Film plastic (thin packaging materials)
- Nursery containers (plant containers)
- None of the above

Which of the following metal materials are accepted for recycling by your jurisdiction's program? *

- Aluminum
- Steel
- None of the above

Is glass material accepted for recycling by your jurisdiction program? *

- Yes
- No

Are there any exceptions to the materials accepted for recycling? E.g., exceptions may include material accepted at certain events or during specific seasons.

- Yes
- No

What are the exceptions to the materials accepted for recycling?

Contamination is material that is not accepted by recycling programs due to issues with sortation at the recycling facility and/or lack of viable end markets. Do you have a recent estimate on your jurisdiction's contamination rate? *

- Yes
- No

Please provide an estimate of the level of contamination (%) in recycling in your jurisdiction.

<5%	5%-10%	11%-15%
16%-20%	21%-25%	25%-30%
30%+	Unsure	

Are there any challenging contaminants that customers put into the recycling stream that are not accepted by your recycling program? (Check all that apply) *

- Film plastic (e.g., grocery bags, garbage bags)
- Tanglers (e.g., garden hoses, hair extensions)
- Food waste
- Sharps (e.g., needles)
- Explosives (e.g., gas canisters)
- Batteries
- I need more information to answer
- Other

MULTI-FAMILY RECYCLING

Which type of recycling program is in place to provide access to multi-family residents in your jurisdiction? *

- Curbside Collection
- Drop-off Station
- Both Curbside Collection and Drop-off Station
- There is no recycling program in place
- I need more information to answer

Is recycling service optional for multi-family residents?

- Yes

No

If a recycling program is voluntary, not every multi-family household in the community may be included in the program. Please identify the range that best reflects the level of participation of multi-family households in your jurisdiction's recycling program.

Less than 25%	25% - 49%
50% - 74%	75% - 89%
Greater than 90%	Recycling is not voluntary for every household

On a typical week, not all multi-family households will place their recycling cart out for collection. If available, please identify the percentage range that best reflects how many multi-family households with active service set out their recycling.

Less than 25%	25% - 49%
50% - 74%	75% - 89%
Greater than 90%	This information is unknown

How frequently is recycling service provided?

Twice a week or more	Weekly
Biweekly	Monthly
Less than monthly	Unknown
Other	

How frequently is trash service provided?

Twice a week or more	Weekly
Biweekly	Monthly
Less than monthly	Unknown
Other	

Which of the following paper materials are accepted for recycling by your jurisdiction's program? *

- Office Paper
- Newspaper
- Magazines/Coated Paper
- Clean Cardboard
- Pizza Boxes
- Chipboard (e.g., cereal boxes)
- Cartons
- Paper cups
- Shredded paper, telephone directories etc.
- None of the above

Which of the following plastic materials are accepted for recycling by your jurisdiction's program?

*

- PET (e.g., water and soda bottles)
- PET thermoforms (plastic take-out containers, berry containers)
- HDPE (e.g., shampoo containers and milk jugs)
- PP (e.g., yogurt cups, deli food containers)
- Film plastic (thin packaging materials)
- Nursery containers (plant containers)
- None of the above

Which of the following metal materials are accepted for recycling by your jurisdiction's program? *

- Aluminum
- Steel
- None of the above

Is glass material accepted for recycling by your jurisdiction program? *

- Yes
- No

Are there any exceptions to the materials accepted for recycling? E.g., exceptions may include material accepted at certain events or during specific seasons.

- Yes
- No

What are the exceptions to the materials accepted for recycling?

Contamination is material that is not accepted by recycling programs due to issues with sortation at the recycling facility and/or lack of viable end markets. Do you have a recent estimate on your jurisdiction's contamination rate? *

- Yes
- No

Please provide an estimate of the level of contamination (%) in recycling in your jurisdiction.

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| <5% | 5%-10% | 11%-15% |
| 16%-20% | 21%-25% | 25%-30% |
| 30%+ | Unsure | |

Are there any challenging contaminants that customers put into the recycling stream that are not accepted by your recycling program? (Check all that apply) *

- Film plastic (e.g., grocery bags, garbage bags)
- Tanglers (e.g., garden hoses, hair extensions)
- Food waste
- Sharps (e.g., needles)

- Explosives (e.g., gas canisters)
- Batteries
- I need more information to answer
- Other

COMMERCIAL RECYCLING

Is there a type of program in place to provide access to recycling for businesses in your jurisdiction? *

- Yes
- No

Please indicate how recycling collection is provided to businesses in your jurisdiction (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Single stream dumpster collection | Source separated collection |
| Backhauling | Other |

Does your jurisdiction experience any significant challenges with its recycling program? *

- Yes
- No

Please describe the main challenges your jurisdiction faces with its recycling program. e.g., challenges might include high levels of contamination, confusion about accepted materials, low participation rates, etc.

Section 5/10: Residential Drop-offs

Many areas in the State offer drop-off sites for trash, recycling, and other household hazardous waste material. The following questions are related to drop-offs that support recycling needs across the State.

Does your jurisdiction provide residents with access to a drop-off site in your jurisdiction? *

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

How many drop-off stations are available in your jurisdiction?

Are drop-off stations staffed on a full or part-time basis?

- Full time
- Part time
- Not staffed

Who has access to the drop-off stations?

- Residents who live in the jurisdiction
- Residents who live outside the jurisdiction
- Small businesses/self-haul customers
- Other

What materials are allowed to be delivered to the drop-off stations? (Check all that apply)

- Trash
- Single/Dual-Stream Recycling
- Food waste
- Yard waste
- Other

How many tons per year (TPY) of materials are collected annually at your jurisdiction's drop-off stations?

<10,000 TPY	10,000- 10,999 TPY	20,000- 29,999 TPY	30,000- 39,999 TPY	40,000- 49,999 TPY	50,000- 74,999 TPY	75,000- 100,000 TPY	>100,000 TPY	N/A
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Mixed paper

Cardboard

Cartons and
paper cups

Glass bottles
and jars

Aluminum
cans

Steel cans

PET bottles

PET

Thermoforms

HDPE bottles

PP bottles

Plastic film

Do you have a simple estimate for what percentage of drop-off recycling material recycled is residential?

- 0%
- 25%
- 50%
- 75%
- 100%
- I don't know

Do you have a simple estimate for what percentage of drop-off recycling material recycled is commercial?

- 0%
- 25%
- 50%
- 75%
- 100%
- I don't know

Are there any event-based or seasonal variations to tonnage collected at the drop-off stations?

- Yes
- No

Please select the range of tonnage increase due to event-based or seasonal variations.

- No seasonal or event based increases
- 25%
- 50%
- 75%
- Material generated more than doubles

Please describe the range of tonnage increase due to event-based or seasonal variations.

Are there other hard-to-recycle materials collected at your jurisdiction's drop-off station(s)?

- Yes
- No additional hard-to-recycle materials are accepted

Which hard to recycle materials are accepted?

- Antifreeze

- Pesticides
- White goods (e.g. washing machine, refrigerators)
- Used oil
- Tires
- Other

Are there any retail take-back programs in your jurisdiction for plastic film?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please provide any other information regarding the use of drop-off facilities in the jurisdiction (e.g., sites open for one-off events).

Section 6/10: Organic Programs

Organics recycling (e.g., food waste, yard waste) programs can vary by customer type. The following questions are related to how programs provide access to organics recycling in your jurisdiction.

Does your jurisdiction have a program for collecting and processing organics? *

- Yes
- No

What materials are accepted in the organics programs? (Check all that apply)

- Yard waste
- Food waste
- Compostable paper
- Compostable plastics
- I need more information to answer
- Unsure
- Other

Please provide an estimate of the level of contamination (%) in curbside organics in your jurisdiction.

- <5%
- 5%-10%
- 11%-15%
- 16%-20%
- 21%-25%
- 25%-30%
- 30%+
- Unsure

Do you have any data on the amount of compostable packaging in the organics waste stream? *

- Yes
- No

What percentage of compostable packaging (by volume) is in the organics waste stream? e.g., how much of the average load delivered contains compostable packaging products?

- <5%
- 5%-10%
- 11%-15%
- 16%-20%
- 21%-25%
- 25%-30%
- 30%

Section 7/10: Fees, Costs, and Rates

The following questions are related to the fees and costs that provide the financial support to provide recycling programs in your jurisdiction.

How does your jurisdiction charge for curbside collection service fees? *

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Fee on utility bill | Incorporated in property tax |
| Tip fee at facilities | The jurisdiction does not charge residents |
| I need more information to answer | Other |

What rate per month does your jurisdiction charge residents for solid waste and recycling collection programs on a per household basis? Please provide an exact amount if possible, otherwise select the appropriate range. *

- Less than \$0.99
- \$1.00-\$4.99
- \$5.00-\$9.99
- \$10.00-\$14.99
- \$15.00-\$19.99
- \$20.00-\$25.00
- Jurisdiction does not charge residents for solid waste and recycling services
- Other

Are the fees for services bundled? (e.g. include trash and recycling collection/processing service) *

- Yes
- No

Which services are included? (e.g. include trash and recycling collection/processing service)

How is commercial recycling collection charged if it occurs in your jurisdiction?

Per number of services per week

Per container size

Other

Does your jurisdiction subsidize or otherwise financially offset the costs of solid waste and recycling collection services (e.g., cost of service for solid waste/recycling collection, sorting, and disposal exceeds the amount collected from customers)? *

Yes

No

I need more information to answer

Is the cost for collection separately itemized from the cost of disposal or transfer and MRF sorting? *

Yes

No

I need more information to answer

How has the per household curbside trash and recycling fees increased over the last 3 years? *

Less than 1%

1-5%

5-10%

10-15%

Greater than 15%

I don't know

What is the tipping fees per ton of recycling at the MRF(s) and/or Transfer Station(s) serving your jurisdiction? *

Less than \$25

\$25-\$50

\$50-75

\$75-\$100

Greater than \$100

I don't know

Section 8/10: Solid Waste Management Policy

Solid waste management policy is a critical consideration for the future of recycling in the State, as it may vary widely by jurisdiction. EPR for packaging is intended to increase access to recycling and shift the costs of managing recyclable materials from the households and local governments to the manufacturers that produce packaging. The following questions are related to policies that support recycling programs in your jurisdiction.

Which of the following best characterizes your level of support of EPR for packaging as a way to increase access and minimize cost burden on municipalities related to recycling? *

Strongly support

Support

Neutral
Strongly Oppose

Oppose
I need more information to answer

Are solid waste and recycling operations supported by an enterprise fund (e.g., not supported from the general fund), or other business-type organization?

Yes
I need more information to answer

No

What is the minimum number of units for multi-family properties to be categorized with commercial properties rather than with residential properties for waste management services?

3 -5 units
6 – 10 units
10-20 units
20+ units
Unknown

Are there any local ordinances in place at the county or municipal level that require multi-family recycling in your jurisdiction? *

Yes
I need more information to answer

No

How do you enforce multi-family recycling in your jurisdiction?

Reporting from haulers
Reporting from Multi-Family property managers
Other

Reporting from Multi-family property owners
Resident Complaints

What percentage of multi-family complexes do you expect to have recycling services for paper and packaging products?

25%
75%
Unknown

50%
100%

How many full-time employees (FTE) do you have in place to support compliance efforts related to multi-family recycling?

0 FTE
1-2 FTE

0.5-1 FTE
2+ FTE

Are there currently any ordinances in place that require business recycling in your jurisdiction? *

Yes
No

Which policies or ordinances enforce business recycling?

- Mandatory recycling ordinance
- Volume based recycling requirements
- Local permitting requirements
- Other

What percentage of business have recycling services for paper and packaging products?

- Less than 25%
- 25%-50%
- 50%-75%
- Greater than 75%

Are solid waste and/or recycling haulers required to register or receive permits to operate within your jurisdiction? *

- Yes
- No
- I need more information to answer

What, if any, are the reporting requirements haulers submit to your jurisdiction?

Which of the following policies are in place in your jurisdiction to incentivize recycling for one or more customer types? *

- Universal recycling ordinance
- Hauler licensing requirements
- None of the above
- Yard waste landfill ban
- Pay-as-you-throw pricing model
- Other

Section 9/10: Education, Outreach, and Compliance

The following questions are related to education, outreach, and compliance with recycling programs in your jurisdiction.

Which types of recycling education or outreach activities were provided to residents in the last year? (Check all that apply) *

- Printed material directly mailed to households
- Website content
- Social media
- Other
- Printed material available (not mailed)
- Email newsletter/listserv
- Local news media (print or digital)

Do you have one or more recycling coordinators or staff supporting your jurisdiction? *

- Yes
- No

How many full-time employees are dedicated to recycling program management including education, outreach and compliance?

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| 0.5-1 FTE | 1 -2 FTE |
| 2+ FTE | |

What is the annual spending on education, outreach, and compliance efforts related to recycling? *

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| No annual spend | \$0.50 - \$0.99 per household |
| \$1.00 - \$1.50 per household | \$1.50 - \$2.00 per household |
| Over \$2.00 per household | Unknown |

Do you provide recycling education in multiple languages? *

- Yes
- No

Which languages do you provide recycling education?

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| English | Spanish |
| Chinese | Vietnamese |
| Western African Languages | Afro-Asiatic Languages |
| Other | |

Are any of the following programs provided in your jurisdiction?

- Technical assistance
- Business recognition/award
- Other

How well do you feel your jurisdiction's population is educated on recycling? *

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Very Well Educated | Well Educated |
| Somewhat Educated | Not Well Educated |
| Uneducated | |

Section 10/10: Reuse Program

The following questions are related to material exchange or reuse programs that support recycling programs in your jurisdiction

Does your jurisdiction provide any of the following reuse programs?

Material exchange registry

Take-back events

Up-cycling

Other

Are you aware of any reuse or refill businesses in your jurisdiction?

Yes

No

Please provide the names of the businesses you are aware of.