

# The **RENEW** Act



## 2022 SESSION GOAL:

### Pass the Renew Act

The Renew Act aims to modernize our recycling system and reduce waste. This bill will incentivize companies to make product packaging more sustainable through establishing a set of graduated fees based on how readily the packaging can be reused, recycled, or composted. These fees will fund needed improvements to Washington's recycling system, provide uniform recycling access for residents across the state, and create a harmonized and clear list of what people can and can't recycle

#### During the 2022 legislative session, we are working to pass a law that will:

- Establish an **extended producer responsibility system** that hold producers of packaging and paper products responsible for the full lifecycle of their products
- Require 100% of the packaging and paper products made or sold into Washington to be **reusable, recyclable, or compostable** by 2030
- Set recycling and reuse targets that ramp up over time
- Mandate new post-consumer **recycled content requirements** for PET thermoform containers (i.e., clear containers that bakery goods or produce come in), polypropylene tubs (i.e., yogurt containers), and single-use plastic cups

## Renewing Washington's Recycling System & Reducing Waste

Every year 33 billion pounds of plastic from around the globe enter the marine environment devastating the world's oceans, ecosystems, and communities. Plastics have been found everywhere we've looked; from the deepest trenches of the ocean and most remote areas of the Washington coast, to the inland rivers in the Pacific Northwest. Plastic production has increased by 2000% since the 1960s, and continues to rise. Our landfills are overflowing and our recycling system isn't functioning as effectively as it could with low, and even declining, recycling rates.

It is frustrating to the public that when we buy products, much of its packaging is not recyclable, compostable or reusable. Because producers and manufacturers aren't responsible for the full life cycle of their products, our communities continue to bear the brunt of the costs of single-use and excessive paper and plastic packaging.

#### Lobbyist Contact:

Bruce Wishart  
wishart.bruce@comcast.net

#### Campaign Contact:

Heather Trim  
heather@zerowastewashington.org

## Benefits of the Renew Recycling Act:

- **Provides free, universal recycling services for Washingtonians:** All residents who currently have curbside garbage pickup will receive curbside recycling collection
- Incentivize producers to redesign packaging so it is **reusable, recyclable, or compostable**
- Ensure that more plastic, metal, glass and paper packaging **will actually get recycled**, preventing pollution, and reducing global warming emissions
- **Removes recycling confusion** through creating uniformity of what can be recycled across the state, and ensuring that product labels are reflective of the material's actual recyclability in WA
- **Creates green jobs and a stronger, more stable recycling system**