

# What Would EPR for Packaging Look Like in CT?

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection  
Hartford, CT

May 24, 2016

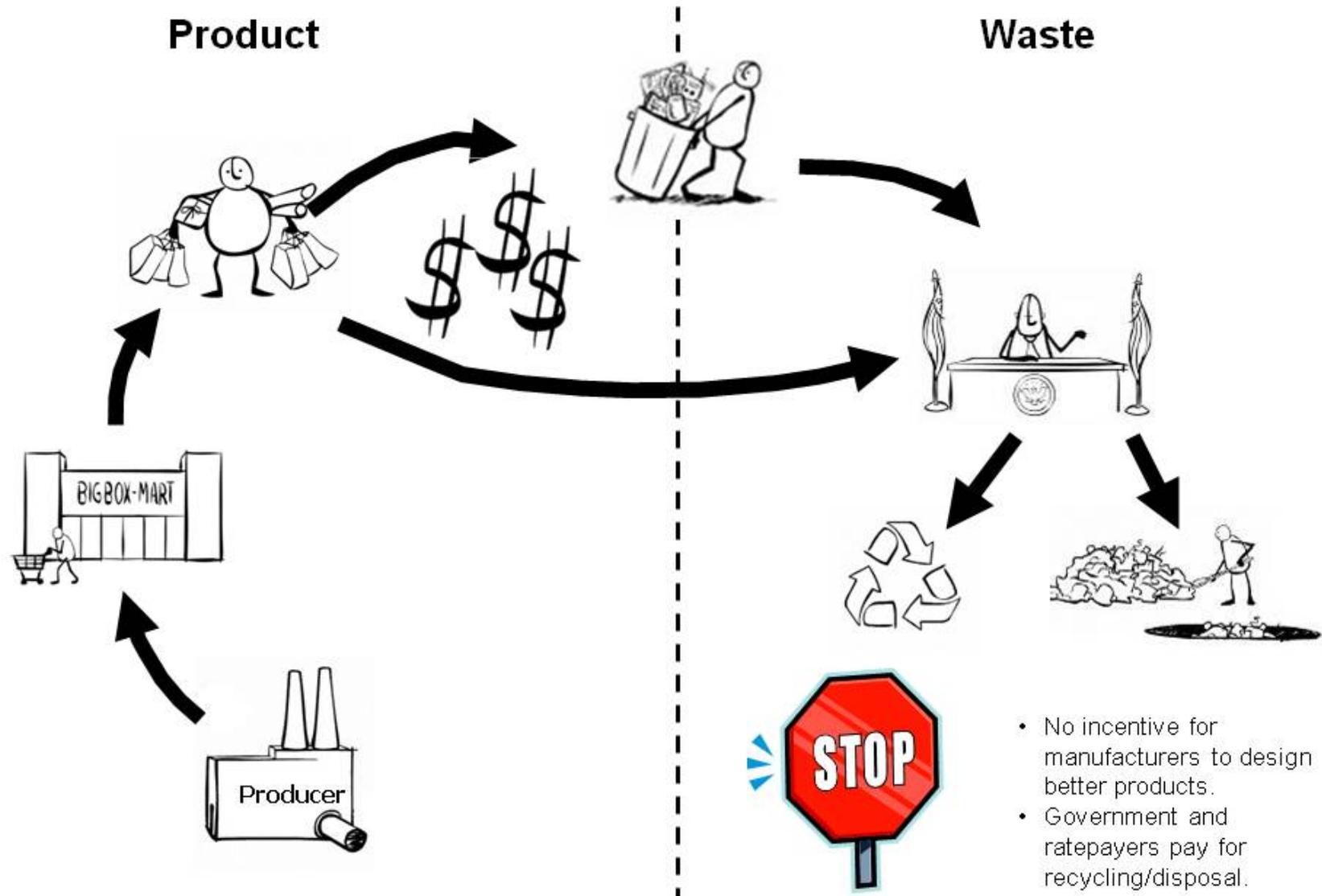
**Jamie Rhodes, Esq.**  
UPSTREAM, Program Director

# Status of EPR in Rhode Island



Photo credit: RIRRC

# Yesterday's Waste Management System



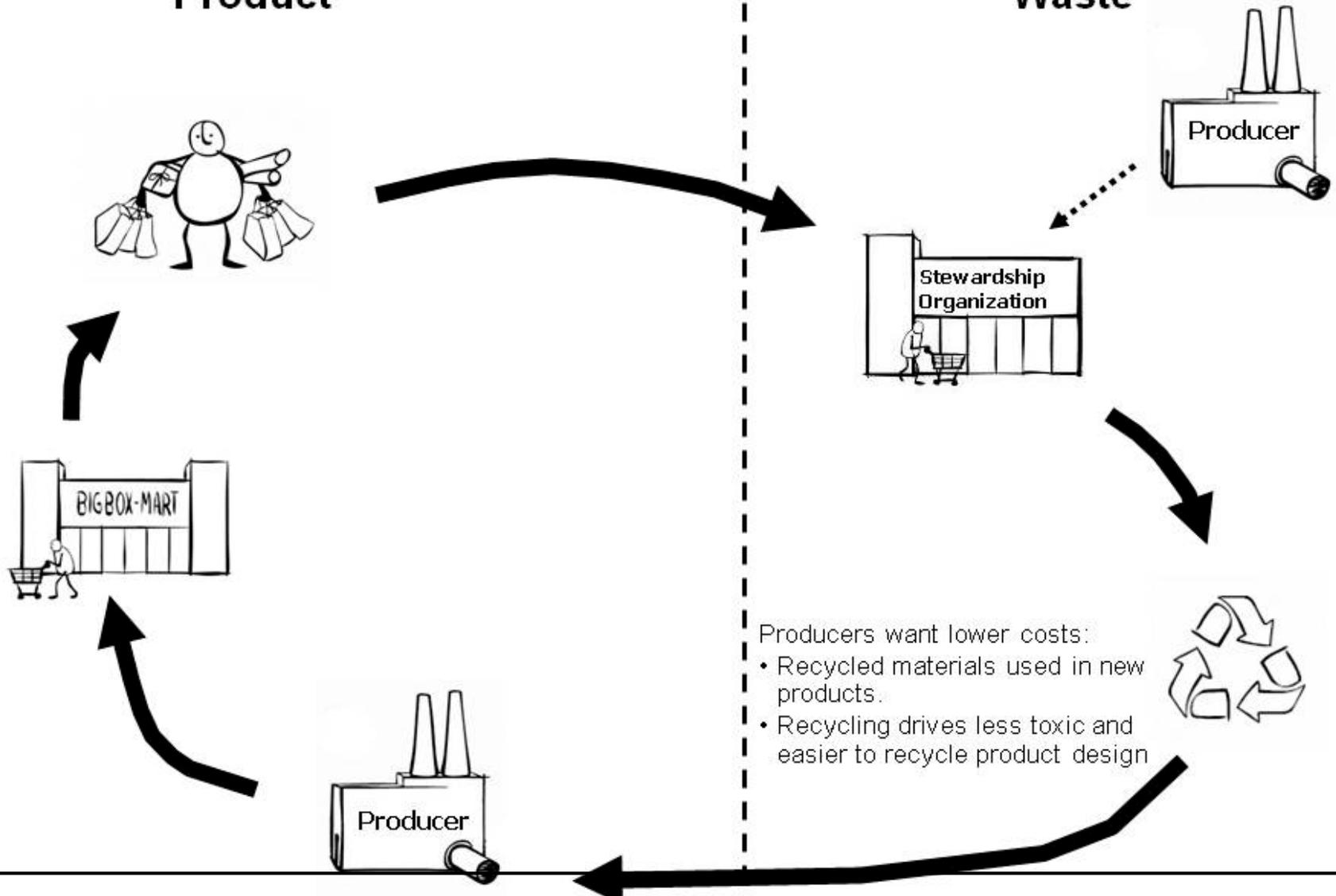
- No incentive for manufacturers to design better products.
- Government and ratepayers pay for recycling/disposal.

Images from the Story of Stuff with Annie Leonard from [www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com)

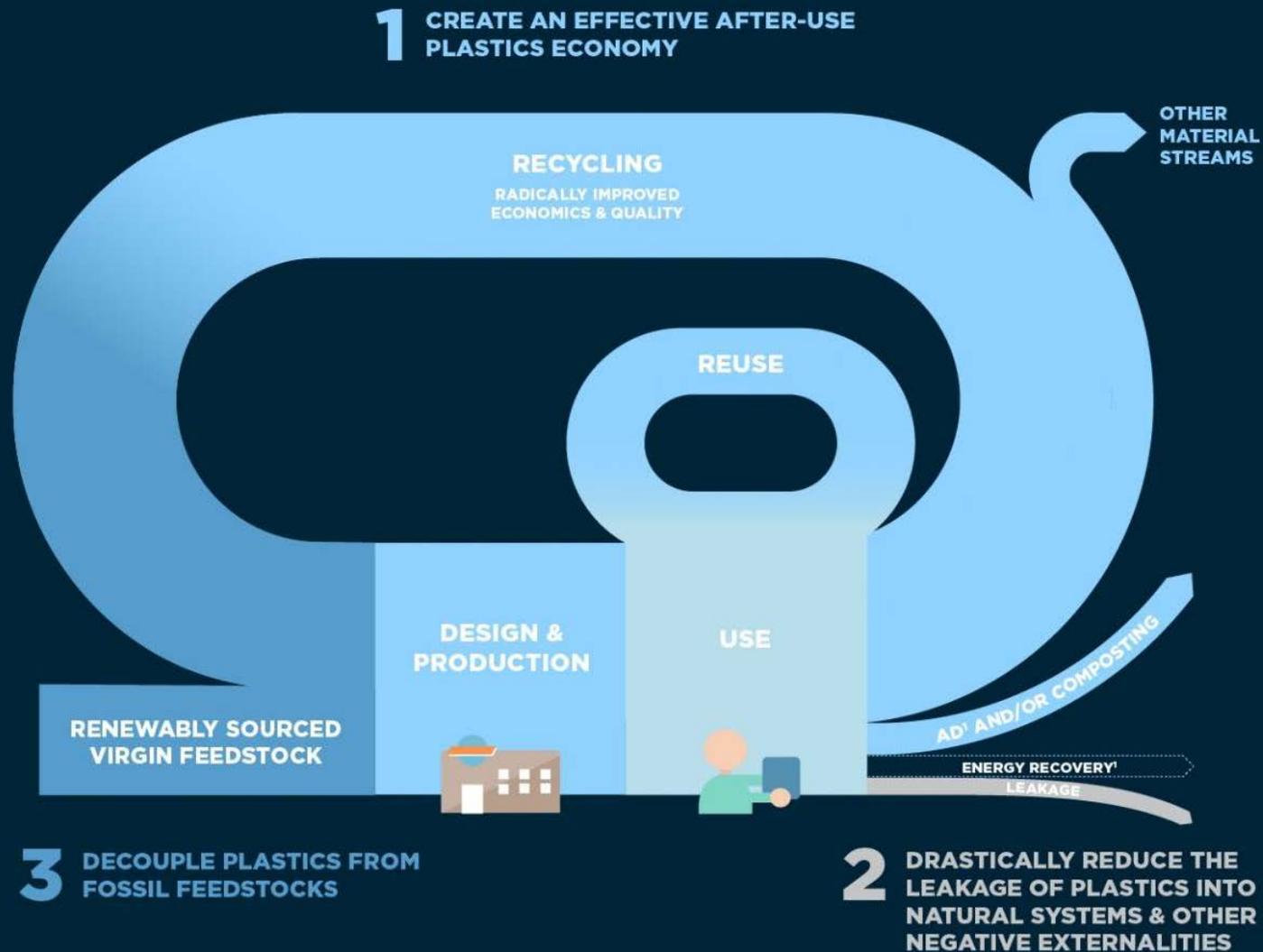
# Tomorrow's Waste Management System?

Product

Waste



# THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY



WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION, MCKINSEY & COMPANY,  
A NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY: RETHINKING THE FUTURE OF PLASTICS (2016)  
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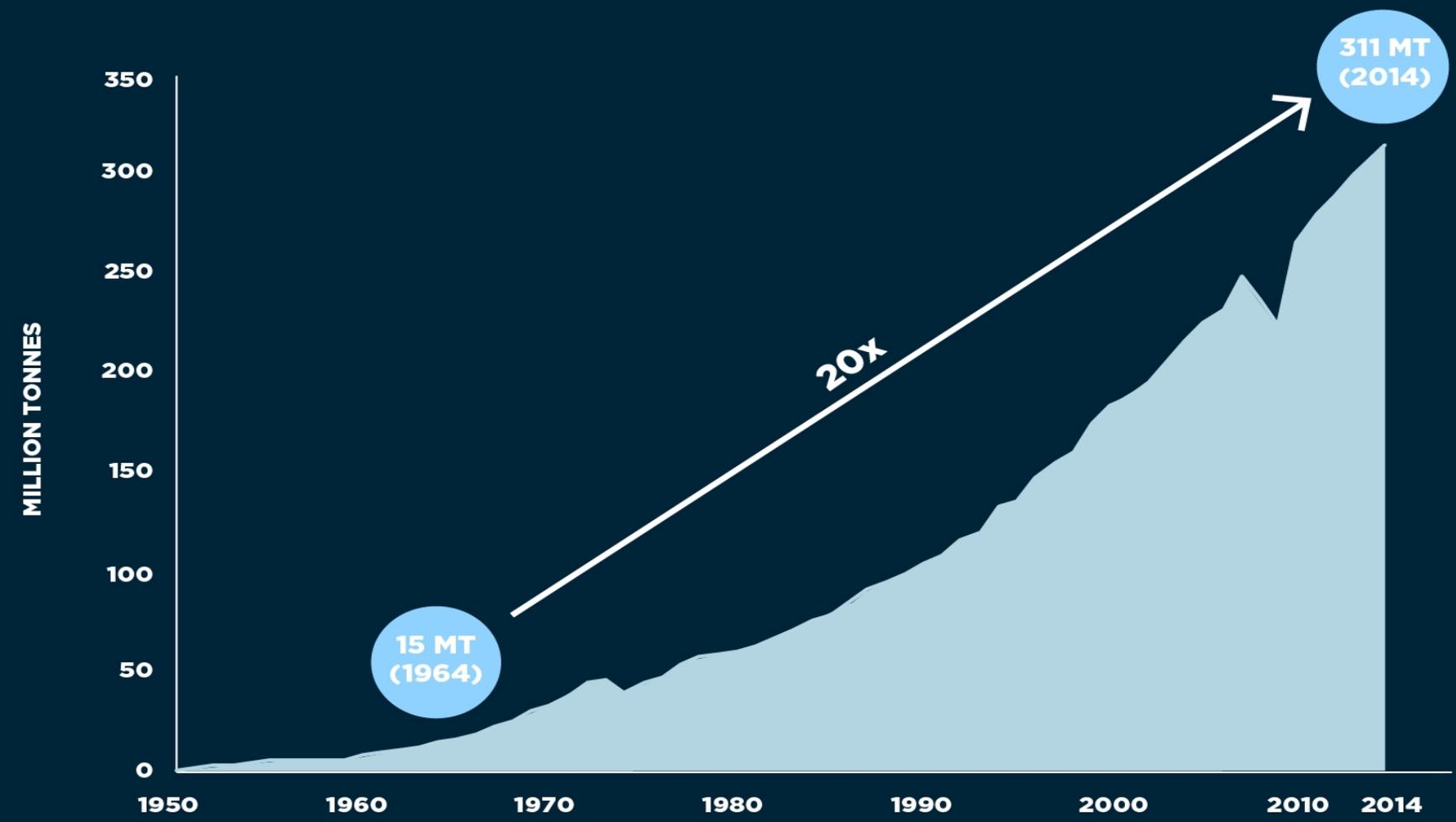
<sup>1</sup> Anaerobic digestion

<sup>2</sup> The role of, and boundary conditions for, energy recovery in the New Plastics Economy needs to be further investigated.

Source: Project Mainstream analysis

Image credit:  
Ellen MacArthur Foundation

# PLASTICS PRODUCTION INCREASED TWENTY-FOLD OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS



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NOTE: Production from virgin petroleum-based feedstock only (does not include bio-based, greenhouse gas-based or recycled feedstock)  
SOURCE: PlasticsEurope, Plastics – the Facts 2013 (2013); PlasticsEurope, Plastics – the Facts 2015 (2015).

# What Can We Accomplish?



# Where It Can All Go Wrong

- Interaction with large brands
- Administrative burdens
- Manufacturer-variable pricing



- Food service packaging requirements
  - Keep costs low for restaurants and retailers
  - Reduce environmental impacts
  - Meet marketing needs

# Cities and Towns Have the Most to Gain...

*...and lose.*

CITY	Population	Existing System	Cost	Impact of EPR
Providence	177,994	Contractor; Curbside	\$2.198 million	Likely a hand-off
Warwick	82,672	Curbside; City Employee	\$1.161 million	Likely a reimbursement
Newport	24,027	Curbside – contractor & Transfer station	\$570,000	Could be either. Transfer station expansion.

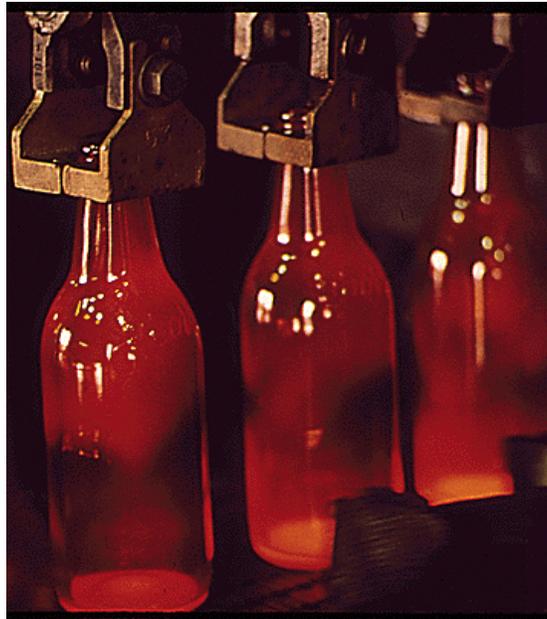
# Crafting a Program for Local Business

- How can it lower collection costs?
- Allow access to existing programs.
- Level the playing field through enforcement.
- Create a financial incentive for waste reduction.



# Impact on Packaging Suppliers

- Pressure will exist to change products to offer clients.
- Pay models do not change -> brand owners pay EPR fees.
- Cost change should be analogous to market fluctuation.
- Increases supply of recycled content in system.



# Benefits of EPR models for Residents

(but will they know...or care?)

- Saves taxpayers' money
- Improves service
- Expands collection area to more residents
- More types of material can be collected
- Creates jobs
- Reduces waste



# Thank you!

May 24, 2016

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