**February 2021 Articles**

New plant-based plastic can be printed—and fully recycled Feb. 25, 2021
<https://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2021/02/new-plant-based-plastic-is-also-fully-recyclable/>

Revolutionizing the MRF: Three Methods of Positive Sorting to Benefit Any Operation - Waste Advantage Magazine Feb. 28, 2021

<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/revolutionizing-the-mrf-three-methods-of-positive-sorting-to-benefit-any-operation/>

Packaging ban and advanced recycling bill move forward in Virginia  Waste Dive Feb. 25

[https://www.wastedive.com/news/virginia-foam-packaging-ban-advanced-recycling/595665/](https://r.xdref.com/?id=11QLcZhH055742&from=lleebrick@roguedisposal.com&to=bethvd@orra.net&url=https://www.wastedive.com/news/virginia-foam-packaging-ban-advanced-recycling/595665/)

Michigan’s Polluter Pay Law Introduced with 50 Co-Sponsors Waste Advantage Feb. 26, 2021

[Michigan's Polluter Pay Law Introduced with 50 Co-Sponsors - Waste Advantage Magazine](https://r.xdref.com/?id=11QLcZhH055742&from=lleebrick@roguedisposal.com&to=bethvd@orra.net&url=https://wasteadvantagemag.com/michigans-polluter-pay-law-introduced-with-50-co-sponsors/)

ISRI’s Updated Position on Free and Fair Trade Reflects Recycling’s Essential Role as a Component of the Circular Economy Feb. 26, 2021

[ISRI’s Updated Position on Free and Fair Trade Reflects Recycling’s Essential Role as a Component of the Circular Economy - Waste Advantage Magazine](https://r.xdref.com/?id=11QLcZhH055742&from=lleebrick@roguedisposal.com&to=bethvd@orra.net&url=https://wasteadvantagemag.com/isris-updated-position-on-free-and-fair-trade-reflects-recyclings-essential-role-as-a-component-of-the-circular-economy/)

DS Smith Introduces Greentote, the First 100% Recyclable Alternative to Plastic Bags for Grocery Pickup or Delivery Feb. 26, 2021

[DS Smith Introduces Greentote, the First 100% Recyclable Alternative to Plastic Bags for Grocery Pickup or Delivery - Waste Advantage Magazine](https://r.xdref.com/?id=11QLcZhH055742&from=lleebrick@roguedisposal.com&to=bethvd@orra.net&url=https://wasteadvantagemag.com/ds-smith-introduces-greentote-the-first-100-recyclable-alternative-to-plastic-bags-for-grocery-pickup-or-delivery/)

Portland family using BottleDrop program to help pay for kids' college | [kgw.com](https://r.xdref.com/?id=11QLcZhH055742&from=lleebrick@roguedisposal.com&to=bethvd@orra.net&url=http://kgw.com/) Feb. 24, 2021

[https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/portland-family-bottledrop-program-pay-for-college/283-dc1109fe-0790-40a2-bf92-1f312823bce2](https://r.xdref.com/?id=11QLcZhH055742&from=lleebrick@roguedisposal.com&to=bethvd@orra.net&url=https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/portland-family-bottledrop-program-pay-for-college/283-dc1109fe-0790-40a2-bf92-1f312823bce2)

**Tracking the future of US recycling policy in Congress**

Feb. 23, 2021 Spurred by market challenges, the Hill has seen a historic influx of big bills. Keep up on all the latest developments with our legislative tracker.

[https://www.wastedive.com/news/tracking-the-future-of-us-recycling-policy-in-congress/570778/](https://r.xdref.com/?id=11QLcZhH055742&from=lleebrick@roguedisposal.com&to=bethvd@orra.net&url=https://www.wastedive.com/news/tracking-the-future-of-us-recycling-policy-in-congress/570778/)

**Vermont Approves Call2Recycle's Five-Year Primary Battery Stewardship -** WBOC TV
<https://www.wboc.com/story/43373107/vermont-approves-call2recycles-five-year-primary-battery-stewardship-plan>

**Curbside Compost Pick Up Begins, Except for Compostable Plastics** Feb. 18, 2021
*A lack of curbside pickup appears to be one of the obstacles to consumers being able to actually compost their compostable waste. Oregon’s North Lincoln County Sanitary Service is in the process of removing that obstacle: Blue compost bins with brown lids are being distributed to residents over the next two weeks, with curbside pickup scheduled to start on March 1….*<https://www.plasticstoday.com/packaging/county-oregon-begins-curbside-compost-pickup-except-compostable-plastics>

**The stuff you buy isn’t nearly as recyclable as you think. Blame corporate America** Feb. 18, 2021*There’s a huge discrepancy between how consumers believe recycling and composting work, and the system that actually exists. While problematic, it represents an opportunity for brands to meet consumers where they are and provide packaging that functions as consumers already believe it does. In a* [*recent survey*](https://smartdesignworldwide.com/ideas/perceptions/) *conducted by Smart Design, respondents ranked compostable plastics as a more sustainable material than recycled plastic or paper fiber. Unfortunately, compostable plastic breaks down only under the specific heat and moisture conditions of an industrial composting facility—a fact that only 22% of people we surveyed were aware of. Toss a compostable plastic bag into a landfill or composting bin, come back a year later, and you’ll find . . . plastic.* <https://www.fastcompany.com/90605651/the-stuff-you-buy-isnt-nearly-as-recyclable-as-you-think-blame-corporate-america>

**Covanta exploring multiple potential divestitures, sees UK as 'primary growth avenue' |** Waste Dive Feb. 19, 2021 *After experiencing a notable management shake-up last fall, following concerns about profitability and low share values, Covanta appears headed for clear changes in the coming months. Ranger, a previous Covanta board member and co-founder of private equity firm Diamond Castle Holdings, said the strategic review is taking an extended period of time because of a "bottom up" focus on expense reduction, based on the needs of particular facilities and business lines, rather than a top down approach. Within the portfolio of 39 North American incinerators, he anticipated the two-thirds that are merchant plants (versus facilities operated via contract for clients) would likely merit the greatest capital allocation going forward. Larger plants with greater volumes are expected to be a focal point. As for any future asset sales, Ranger said options remain open on potential buyers….*<https://www.wastedive.com/news/covanta-q4-2020-strategic-review-uk/595322/>

**The Recycling Partnership: a Speaker Series Talk on Improving Recycling Practices** Feb. 19, 2021
*…When it was founded, the Recycling Partnership’s work tended to focus on the East Coast. Although it might seem like a logical next step to expand nationwide, there was a major obstacle to overcome, since there are already a lot of established recycling programs on the West Coast, and initially it wasn’t clear whether these states wanted the help. Tanimoto, who now lives in Oregon, led the Recycling Partnership’s West Coast Contamination Initiative, which focused on understanding recycling improvement needs in California, Oregon, and Washington. As part of the initiative, Tanimoto spent almost a year meeting with communities and other stakeholders in order to hear about the recycling issues they were looking to overcome. Now she works with communities, mainly on the West Coast, to improve their recycling programs through education campaigns…*<https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2021/02/19/recycling-partnership-speaker-series-talk-improving-recycling-practices/>

**Flint Hills Resources and Encina Announce Term Sheet to Develop a Facility to Produce Renewable Chemicals and Renewable Fuels from Waste Plastic |** Business Wire Feb. 16, 2021
<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20210216005249/en/Flint-Hills-Resources-and-Encina-Announce-Term-Sheet-to-Develop-a-Facility-to-Produce-Renewable-Chemicals-and-Renewable-Fuels-from-Waste-Plastic>

**Novolex Adding Labeling to Plastic Products to Boost 'Store Drop-off' Recycling***…Novolex, an industry leader in packaging and foodservice products, will add the How2Recycle® Store Drop-off label to products across its business units. These include products from Shields® such as poly mailers for shipping applications and security bags frequently used in the banking industry; and products from Hilex®, including the iconic "Thank You" plastic T-shirt bags, produce bags for conventional and organic items, and the Load & Seal™ Tamper Evident Deliver Bags, which are growing in demand as to-go orders increase at restaurants…* <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/novolex-adding-labeling-to-plastic-products-to-boost-store-drop-off-recycling-301228295.html>

**Thu 8 AM | Oregon Legislature Considers Renewing Recycling Laws & Programs (Radio) Feb 18 2021**<https://www.ijpr.org/show/the-jefferson-exchange/2021-02-17/thu-8-am-oregon-legislature-considers-renewing-recycling-laws-programs>

**Plastic recycling results in rare metals being found in children's toys and food packaging**by Alan Williams , [University of Plymouth](http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/) Feb. 18, 2021 <https://phys.org/news/2021-02-plastic-recycling-results-rare-metals.amp>

**ISRI Advocacy Efforts Result in Recognition of the Essential Role of Recyclers in the Critical Manufacturing Supply Chain - Waste Advantage Magazine** <https://wasteadvantagemag.com/isri-advocacy-efforts-result-in-recognition-of-the-essential-role-of-recyclers-in-the-critical-manufacturing-supply-chain/>

**Closed Loop Partners joins with CVS Health, Target & Walmart to Announce Winners of “Beyond the Bag” Innovation Challenge - Waste Advantage Magazine Feb 18, 2021** <https://wasteadvantagemag.com/closed-loop-partners-joins-with-cvs-health-target-walmart-to-announce-winners-of-beyond-the-bag-innovation-challenge/>

**Let's Cullet What it is: Phoenix Finds Myriad Uses for Recycled Glass - Huntsville Business Journal**<https://huntsvillebusinessjournal.com/lead/2021/02/15/lets-cullet-what-it-is-phoenix-finds-myriad-uses-for-recycled-glass/>

**Recycling market development bill headed for governor's signature in Maryland Feb. 17, 2021**<https://www.wastedive.com/news/maryland-recycling-market-development-domestic-hogan/595218/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202021-02-17%20Waste%20Dive:%20Recycling%20%5Bissue:32506%5D&utm_term=Waste%20Dive:%20Recycling>

[**New action on horizon for sustainable materials management under Biden, experts predict**](https://r.xdref.com/?id=11HGGAUp028218&from=delivery_20210217111610.22968033.10844@bounce.divenewsletter.com&to=bethvd@orra.net&url=https://link.wastedive.com/click/22968033.10844/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2FzdGVkaXZlLmNvbS9uZXdzL2JpZGVuLWVwYS1tYXRlcmlhbHMtbWFuYWdlbWVudC1yZWN5Y2xpbmctb3JnYW5pY3MtcG9saWN5LzU5NDg4Ni8/5e90e2fd950d4d5e14625959B275950ea) **–**Waste Dive Feb. 17, 2021
*…While many elements of U.S. waste and recycling policy are decentralized, issues such as reducing food waste, improving recycling infrastructure and enhancing markets for various materials have often been bipartisan federal priorities. Funding and legislative decisions from Congress remain a key factor, and multiple agencies have potential roles to play – with the U.S. EPA receiving the greatest attention…*

**Call2Recycle Celebrates National Battery Day with Milestone Year of 8.4 Million Pounds of Batteries Collected and Recycling** February 16, 2021<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/call2recycle-celebrates-national-battery-day-with-milestone-year-of-8-4-million-pounds-of-batteries-collected-and-recycling/>

**Managing Small Consumer Batteries –** Part 2 February 3, 2021<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/managing-small-consumer-batteries-part-2/>

**Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling Prize Drives Recovery of Spent Batteries** US DOE Feb. 15, 2021

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy recently launched the third and final phase of the Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling Prize with a virtual kickoff event to introduce the Phase III rules and voucher guidelines. Seven teams from across the United States are advancing to Phase III of the competition, which contributes to DOE’s goal to capture 90% of all spent lithium-ion batteries (LIB) for eventual recycling of critical materials and reintroduction into the supply chain….<https://cleantechnica.com/2021/02/14/lithium-ion-battery-recycling-prize-drives-recovery-of-spent-batteries/>

**Plastic trash can now be recycled into ultra-strong graphene** Feb. 13, 2021

<https://massivesci.com/articles/plastic-recycling-graphene-flash-joule-heating/>

**ISRI Advocacy Efforts Result in Recognition of the Essential Role of Recyclers in the Critical Manufacturing Supply Chain** - Waste Advantage Magazine Feb. 12, 2021

<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/isri-advocacy-efforts-result-in-recognition-of-the-essential-role-of-recyclers-in-the-critical-manufacturing-supply-chain/>

**Single-use plastic bags and foam takeout containers would be banned under Colorado bill** – The Burlington Record Feb 12, 2021
A group of Colorado Democrats and environmental advocates hope 2021 will be the year they can pass a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags and foam containers. Reps. Lisa Cutter of Dakota Ridge and Alex Valdez of Denver, both Democrats, plan to sponsor the legislation in the Colorado General Assembly this year. A draft of the bill wasn’t available by Feb. 11, and the lawmakers said they were still working out the specifics — like methods of enforcement and the timeline for businesses to get into compliance. The lawmakers said the legislation would pertain to plastic bags, like those that customers get from the grocery store, and plastic foam takeout containers from restaurants. Straws won’t be included….<https://www.burlington-record.com/2021/02/13/single-use-plastic-bags-and-foam-takeout-containers-would-be-banned-under-colorado-bill/>

**San Diego imposes new recycling requirements to comply with state law, encourage diversion of organic waste** - The San Diego Union-Tribune Feb. 12, 2021
…The change closes a loophole that had exempted from recycling some small businesses and multifamily properties with less than five units. Businesses also must start recycling food material and food-soiled paper that is mixed with food material. The city has a related goal of diverting 20 percent of edible food waste to food banks or similar organizations….
<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/politics/story/2021-02-12/san-diego-imposing-new-recycling-requirements-to-comply-with-state-law-encourage-diversion-of-organic-waste>

**2021 could be year for packaging EPR, nearly a dozen state bills in play Feb. 12, 2021**Lawmakers throughout the U.S. are increasingly interested in shifting more of recycling's financial implications to packaging manufacturers, with many taking a coordinated approach.<https://www.wastedive.com/news/2021-state-extended-producer-responsibility-recycling/594873/>

**The wrong way to save recycling in New York By Howard Husock**New York Daily News | Feb 11, 2021 at 5:00 AM *…Albany thinks it’s coming to the rescue. Two Democrats from Long Island, Sen. Todd Kaminsky and Assemblyman Steve Englebright, have drafted legislation aimed at “extended producer responsibility” — taxing those who package their products to provide a new revenue stream to offset the cost of recycling. Other states — including California, Oregon, Massachusetts, Maine and Indiana — are considering similar bills. It has a superficial appeal: Those plastic envelopes or cardboard boxes left on your doorstep by Amazon can seem unnecessary. But there’s simply no way to avoid the fact that a new product tax will inevitably be passed on to consumers. Think here of all those bottle and can deposits you already pay but don’t redeem…* <https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-the-wrong-way-to-save-recycling-20210211-a72ppmpmpfdqnmu3rjjjfgirte-story.html>

**Flex Forward pilot recycling program for pet food packages deemed a success *02.11.2021 By*** [***Jordan Tyler***](https://www.petfoodprocessing.net/authors/79-jordan-tyler)*According to PSC, roughly 300 million lbs of flexible pet food and treat packages are manufactured in the United States each year, of which almost all are produced through co-extrusion and laminating multiple layers of film plastics. These materials are “nearly impossible” to separate to be recycled, the organization said. Because of this, an estimated 99% of pet food packages in the United States wind up in landfills rather than recycling streams. More than 120 independent retailers across Oregon and Washington participated in the pilot phase of Flex Forward. PSC stated many of these stores reported increased foot traffic because of the program. Participating retailers received collection vessels, associate training, digital content and incentives to facilitate and encourage pet owners to return to the store to recycle used packages, all at no cost.*<https://www.petfoodprocessing.net/articles/14473-flex-forward-pilot-recycling-program-for-pet-food-packages-deemed-a-success>

**Readers Respond to the Threat a Portland Carbon Tax Poses to Bottle Recycling***“My Cully neighbors and I will shed no tears if Owens-Brockway closes down due to the city’s new carbon tax."* Willamette Week Feb. 9, 2021 <https://www.wweek.com/news/2021/02/09/readers-respond-to-the-threat-a-portland-carbon-tax-poses-to-bottle-recycling/>

**Oregon bill would update state's recycling system** Argus Oberver SALEM Feb. 9, 2021

Oregon lawmakers are considering legislation to clean up the state's recycling system. [House Bill 2065](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/HB2065) would require more responsibility of plastics producers for recycling their materials, including covering more of the cost. Sanne Stienstra, natural resource specialist for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, said her agency has been in discussions with stakeholders, including plastics producers, on changes to the system for two years….<https://www.argusobserver.com/news/oregon-bill-would-update-states-recycling-system/article_ce6b2914-6a36-11eb-b838-0f6a39e20c9d.html>

**Tacoma Solid Waste Management Receives Grant to Expand and Promote Multifamily Recycling Program -** Waste Advantage Magazine Feb. 10, 2021

*The City of Tacoma’s Solid Waste Management has been awarded a $200,000 grant from The Recycling Partnership. This grant will be used to expand the City’s multifamily recycling program through improved recycling education, language access, and targeted outreach services to multifamily properties….*

<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/tacoma-solid-waste-management-receives-grant-to-expand-and-promote-multifamily-recycling-program/>

**Heritage Invests in Future of Battery Recycling** Heritage Environmental ServicesFeb. 10, 2021 <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/heritage-invests-in-future-of-battery-recycling-301225666.html>

**New Plastic Stewardship Initiative Creates Incentives for Companies to Reduce Plastic Waste** - Waste Advantage Magazine Feb. 10, 2021

*BVRio, a non-profit organisation focused on the creation and promotion of market mechanisms for the environment, announces the launch of the 3R Initiative’s new plastic stewardship initiative that will establish the world’s first comprehensive framework for companies to verifiably manage and reduce plastic waste. More than 1,000 companies have committed to actions to create a New Plastics Economy. However, until now there have been few clear and credible best practices for achieving and reporting on the commitments to reduce plastic waste that many of these companies have set out. “BVRio is excited with the launch of this important initiative. We see it as an important piece of the circular economy ecosystem, helping to increase the environmental robustness and impact of activities of this nascent sector, paving the way for more investment and activity in this space”, said Mauricio Moura Costa, CEO of BVRio….*

<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/new-plastic-stewardship-initiative-creates-incentives-for-companies-to-reduce-plastic-waste/>

**Proposed legislation aims to put more recycling responsibility on manufacturers**<https://www.registerguard.com/story/news/2021/02/08/proposed-legislation-aims-put-more-recycling-responsibility-manufacturers-oregon-legislature/4364686001/>

**Foundation for Plastic Recycling launches Buy Recycled initiative**February 5, 2021, Posted by DeAnne Toto *Initiative seeks to stimulate demand for recycled plastics by encouraging consumers to buy products with recycled content.*<https://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/benefits-buying-recycled-plastic-products/>

**Recycling Leadership Council, key senators call for 'national strategy' to fix system** – Waste Dive <https://www.wastedive.com/news/recycling-leadership-council-federal-blueprint/594616/>

**Coca-Cola transitions to bottles made from 100% recycled plastic Food Dive Feb. 9, 2021***…A study released last September by* [*Shorr Packaging*](https://www.shorr.com/packaging-news/2020-09/2020-food-packaging-consumer-behavior-report)*found 47% of respondents said they relied on packaging to inform their purchase of brands they were previously unfamiliar with during the prior three months. At the same time, 58% were likely or very likely to purchase food products in packages that clearly stated they are recyclable or reusable….***<https://www.fooddive.com/news/coca-cola-transitions-to-bottles-made-from-100-recycled-plastic/594709/>**

**OR Bill Would Update State's Recycling System – Public News Service Feb. 8 2021**[**https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2021-02-08/environment/or-bill-would-update-states-recycling-system/a73088-1**](https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2021-02-08/environment/or-bill-would-update-states-recycling-system/a73088-1)

**Will Ikea’s recycling scheme really make it greener? The Guardian Feb. 6, 2021***…If you return a white Billy bookcase that cost £35 to buy and now has minor scratches, you will get about £14 back, or £17 if the product is as good as new. The oak-effect Kallax shelving unit, £55 new, will fetch you £16 if it is well used, or £27 if you return it in good condition.*

*You can find an estimated price for your product online but the final amount will be decided by an Ikea employee when you bring your it into the store. If you decide to go ahead with the scheme, Ikea will take back your assembled item and resell it at a reduced price, and you will get the value on a gift card….*[**https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/feb/06/ikea-recycling-scheme-furniture?utm\_source=Sailthru&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=Issue:%202021-02-09%20Waste%20Dive%20Newsletter%20%5Bissue:32360%5D&utm\_term=Waste%20Dive**](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/feb/06/ikea-recycling-scheme-furniture?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202021-02-09%20Waste%20Dive%20Newsletter%20%5Bissue:32360%5D&utm_term=Waste%20Dive)

**Proposed legislation aims to put more recycling responsibility on manufacturers** [Adam Duvernay](https://www.registerguard.com/staff/3392076001/adam-duvernay/) Register-Guard Feb. 8, 2021
*…*[*Senate Bill 14*](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB14/Introduced)*, sponsored by State Sen. Lee Beyer (D-Springfield), would establish a new statewide product stewardship program responsible for the collection and management of plastic packaging and items such as single-use straws and plates.  "I think we need to put more responsibility back on producers to use packaging we can recycle," Beyer told The Register-Guard last month. "It essentially says to producers either use materials that are readably recyclable ... or make provisions to take it back."…*

[https://www.registerguard.com/story/news/2021/02/08/proposed-legislation-aims-put-more-recycling-responsibility-manufacturers-oregon-legislature/4364686001**/**](https://www.registerguard.com/story/news/2021/02/08/proposed-legislation-aims-put-more-recycling-responsibility-manufacturers-oregon-legislature/4364686001/)

**Furthering activity with advanced recycling and EPR** - Waste Today Feb. 8, 2021

*…just a few months ago,* [*Pennsylvania*](https://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/pennsylvania-lawmakers-consider-hb1808-advanced-recycling/) *passed legislation that ensures advanced recycling is not misclassified as solid waste management but rather as a manufacturing activity.* [*Virginia*](https://www.virginiamercury.com/2021/02/05/after-dying-in-the-house-advanced-recycling-bill-hangs-on-in-the-senate/) *lawmakers also are currently looking at this issue. In total, advanced recycling legislation has been passed in nine states.*

*About one week ago,* [*New York*](https://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/new-york-lawmakers-introduce-legislation-packaging-producers-pay-recycling/) *lawmakers introduced S.1185A, an EPR bill that would require product producers in the state to pay for recycling. Currently, lawmakers in* [*Oregon*](https://www.natlawreview.com/article/oregon-seeks-to-modernize-its-recycling-program)*also are considering similar legislation—House Bill 2065—to require producers of certain products and packaging to take responsibility for their products….*

<https://www.wastetodaymagazine.com/article/advancing-activity-advanced-recycling-extended-producer-responsibility-laws/>

**World’s ‘most sustainable’ glass bottle has just been invented** Euronews Living Feb 5 2021

<https://www.euronews.com/living/2021/02/05/world-s-most-sustainable-glass-bottle-has-just-been-invented>

[**Plastic Makers Support Fair, Feasible Policy Approaches to Improve Packaging Recycling - Waste Advantage Magazine**](https://wasteadvantagemag.com/plastic-makers-support-fair-feasible-policy-approaches-to-improve-packaging-recycling/)Feb. 4, 2021

*The American Chemistry Council (ACC) issued the following statement, which is attributed to Joshua Baca, ACC’s vice president of plastics, in response to the introduction of extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation in nine U.S. states:*

“America’s Plastic Makers are helping lead the way toward ending plastic waste by investing, innovating, and driving policies that treat used plastics as a resource for making new products. One of the reasons plastics are so widely used in packaging is that they allow us to do more with less, which inherently reduces waste and carbon emissions, an increasingly important factor as we collectively work to address climate change. “Creating an EPR program just for plastic won’t solve the waste problem and could lead to material substitutions that could cost more to produce, increase food waste or have higher lifecycle impacts such as significant increases in greenhouse gas emissions. Plastic makers support fair and feasible approaches that address all packaging materials, not just plastic, and won’t unnecessarily restrict or burden consumers or lead to unintended environmental impacts….

[**Environmental groups outline $1.3B worth of federal plastics reduction, recycling recommendations |** Waste Dive](https://www.wastedive.com/news/environmental-groups-biden-congress-plastics-stimulus/594577/) Feb. 5, 2021
*More than 250 groups in the Break Free From Plastic movement are* [*recommending 13 actions*](https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Congressional-Stimulus-and-Funding-Bills-Recommendations-to-Reduce-Plastic-Pollution-BFFP-February-2021.pdf)*— worth a collective $1.3 billion in annual federal funding — they believe the Biden administration and Congress should prioritize in any future stimulus legislation. Top suggestions include $500 million for new or improved MRF infrastructure and $250 million for organics recycling infrastructure. Another $150 million is suggested to establish reusable foodware systems, water refill stations and other updates at government buildings, publicly funded educational institutions and other sites….*

[**EPA nominee Regan highlights plastics, PFAS challenges in confirmation hearing**](https://www.wastedive.com/news/epa-nominee-regan-plastic-pfas-environmental-justice/594529/) | Waste Dive, Feb. 4, 2021
*… During the hearing, Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) urged Regan and the EPA to look more closely at the* [*Presidential Plastics Action Plan*](https://plasticfreepresident.org/#list)*, a document backed by more than 500 community and environmental advocacy groups. It asks the Biden administration to* [*enact policies that would reduce plastic pollution*](https://www.wastedive.com/news/presidential-plastics-action-plan-biden/591865/)*, such as creating an office for recycling market development and waste reduction and appoint a plastic pollution czar. The Biden administration has not yet announced plans or strategies specific to recycling, though Congress is* [*expected to reintroduce*](https://www.wastedive.com/news/biden-harris-congress-epa-recycling-plastic-climate-pfas/593525/) *several recycling-related bills this year….*

**Taking out the trash: Starting this month, Waste Management customers will begin to get letters when their bins aren’t closed completely or if they contain prohibited items** Grass Valley, CA Feb. 4, 2021

*…After two warnings for overfilled carts, customers can be charged $10.32 for each additional warning. After three warnings for contamination, customers may have their recycling or yard waste carts removed, which includes a $25.79 fee. “As soon as you put contamination in the yard waste, it gets collected with all the other yard waste from the route,” Rosynsky explained. “If there’s contamination in that one cart, it has a really good possibility of contaminating the entire load of yard waste, because it all gets mixed together.” Rosynsky said often offering a larger trash cart can solve the issue, since people sometimes use their recycling or yard waste bins instead or by mistake…*[https://www.theunion.com/news/taking-out-the-trash/](https://r.xdref.com/?id=114FNu9S006318&from=vargasduncanb@gmail.com&to=bethvd@orra.net&url=https://www.theunion.com/news/taking-out-the-trash/)

**Terracycle Regulated Waste Has Made ‘Going Green’ Easy with the New Bulkpak Recycling Program**

February 3, 2021

<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/terracycle-regulated-waste-has-made-going-green-easy-with-the-new-bulkpak-recycling-program/>

**ISRI Issues Statement on U.S. Senate Letter to Retailers Regarding Use of Plastics Packaging** Feb. 2, 2021

<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/isri-issues-statement-on-u-s-senate-letter-to-retailers-regarding-use-of-plastics-packaging/>

**Greensboro Non-Profit Organizations Partner to Establish Foam Recycling Drop-Off** Site - Waste Advantage Magazine

<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/greensboro-non-profit-organizations-partner-to-establish-foam-recycling-drop-off-site/>

**Sustainability benchmarks for plastics recycling and redesign** by [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](http://www.nrel.gov/)

Feb. 2, 2021

…*Beckham is the senior author of a newly published paper in the journal Joule. The article, titled "Manufacturing energy and greenhouse gas emissions associated with plastics consumption," reports on 18 plastics, each with a global consumption of more than 1 million metric tons per year. The co-authors of the study, all from NREL, are Scott Nicholson, Nicholas Rorrer, and Alberta Carpenter. The estimates draw from a resource developed at NREL, the Materials Flows through Industry (MFI) tool, which tracks energy and material flows throughout the* [*manufacturing*](https://phys.org/tags/manufacturing/) *supply chain to estimate energy requirements and* [*greenhouse gas emissions*](https://phys.org/tags/greenhouse%2Bgas%2Bemissions/)*…*

 <https://phys.org/news/2021-02-sustainability-benchmarks-plastics-recycling-redesign.amp>

**Colgate Keep Reduces Small Plastic Waste to Make a Big Difference** Feb. 2, 2021

*NEW YORK -- Good brushing habits add up, but not always in a good way.*

*Over 495 million adult manual toothbrushes were purchased in the U.S. in 2020 and will likely end up in landfill because they cannot be easily recycled.... The company has made it their mission to take steps towards addressing this global matter by reinventing the manual toothbrush with a reusable handle to contain 80% less plastic\*. Colgate®Keep is designed with a snap-on replaceable brush head and a reusable aluminum handle to inspire people to make small steps that add up to significant impact. With availability online and at national retailers, Colgate®Keep is making less plastic more accessible for all looking for easy ways to reduce their plastic waste. …For ten years, through a partnership with TerraCycle, Colgate has recycled more than 5 million toothbrushes and other oral care items, diverting waste from landfills‡. Colgate® Keep provides an easier solution. …It features a replaceable head that uses 80% less plastic\* than traditional Colgate manual toothbrushes as well as a lightweight 100% aluminum handle that is long-lasting and comes in two colors, navy or silver. The outer cardboard packaging is made with 60% recycled content, all of which is recyclable.*

[https://www.waste360.com/plastics/colgate-keep-reduces-small-plastic-waste-make-big-difference](https://r.xdref.com/?id=113DlXgl008214&from=vargasduncanb@gmail.com&to=bethvd@orra.net&url=https://www.waste360.com/plastics/colgate-keep-reduces-small-plastic-waste-make-big-difference)