



RECYCLED CONTENT MANDATES

Understanding the Landscape of Recycled Content Requirements for Packaging in the U.S.



What are Recycled Content Mandates?

Recycled content mandates are laws that require certain types of packaging to include a minimum percentage of recycled material.

These mandates typically:

- Set minimum recycled content thresholds for specified packaging materials, often with phased-in targets over time
- Define qualifying recycled content standards, calculation methods, and required documentation needed to demonstrate compliance
- Require tracking and reporting to demonstrate compliance
- Include enforcement provisions for noncompliance

While the overall objective is consistent, the scope and structure of these mandates vary across states.

Why This Matters

Recycled content mandates are gaining traction as states look to strengthen recycling systems and increase demand for recycled materials.

This policy approach is being driven by:

- The desire to address packaging waste concerns and improve material recovery
- Efforts to create a more stable demand and strengthen markets for recycled materials
- Attempts to conserve natural resources used for packaging

At the same time, differences in how mandates are defined and implemented across states are creating a more complex regulatory environment for companies operating nationally.

How It May Impact Your Business

Recycled content mandates may influence packaging strategy, sourcing, and operations, including:

- Redesigning packaging to meet recycled content thresholds
- Securing reliable recycled material supply sources
- Reconfiguring operations to handle recycled material
- Calculating potential cost implications tied to material availability
- Managing reporting and verification requirements



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What Organizations Are Evaluating

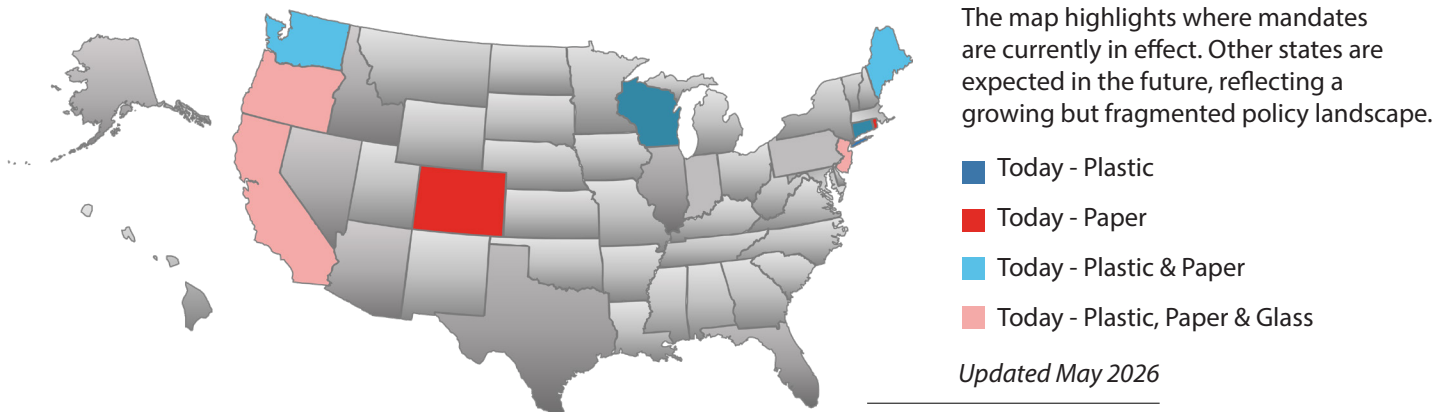
As recycled content mandates continue to evolve, organizations may need to evaluate:

- Where recycled content requirements apply across their packaging portfolio
- How thresholds vary by material type and state
- Availability and quality of recycled materials
- How supply chains may need to adapt to meet requirements

These considerations can vary significantly across states, contributing to a fragmented policy environment for the packaging value chain.

Where are Recycled Content Mandates on Some Packaging?

Recycled content mandates are currently in place for certain packaging types in select states, with additional legislation under consideration.



Go Deeper on Recycled Content Mandates

Learn more about AMERIPEN membership and gain access to more in-depth resources at ameripen.org.

Understanding how recycled content requirements differ across states—and how they continue to evolve—requires deeper insight into policy details and implementation timelines.

AMERIPEN members have access to:

- State-by-state comparisons of enacted recycled content mandates
- State-by-state tracking of proposed recycled content mandates
- Ongoing updates as legislation and regulations develop
- Insights into, and potential influence on, policy development