



SOURCE REDUCTION MANDATES

Understanding the Landscape of Source Reduction Policies in the U.S.



What Are Source Reduction Mandates?

Source reduction mandates are policies designed to reduce packaging entering the waste stream by encouraging organizations to minimize packaging through redesign, lightweighting, or material changes.

These laws typically focus on:

- Reducing overall packaging weight or material use
- Limiting unnecessary or excessive packaging
- Encouraging reusable packaging

In some cases, these policies may also include reporting requirements or aligning with broader sustainability or waste-reduction goals.

Source Reduction in Action

To learn how companies are rethinking packaging design to reduce material use, improve efficiency, and minimize waste before it enters the system, read the **2025 Packaging Source Reduction Report** co-sponsored by AMERIPEN.

Why This Matters

States are increasingly exploring policies aimed at reducing waste at its source, rather than managing it after disposal.

This shift is being driven by:

- Growing pressure to reduce packaging waste sent to landfill
- Concerns about material use and environmental impact
- Broader sustainability and circular economy goals

As a result, organizations may see increased focus on how packaging is designed, sourced, and used across the product lifecycle.

How It May Impact Your Business

Source reduction mandates may influence packaging strategy and operations in several ways, including:

- Pressure to reduce packaging volume or weight—above and beyond what many organizations have already done for economic reasons
- Changes to packaging formats or materials
- Increase supplier and supply chain coordination
- Expanded data tracking and reporting requirements



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What Organizations Are Evaluating

As these policies continue to develop, organizations may need to evaluate:

- How packaging is measured or defined under different policies
- Where reduction targets may apply across product lines
- How design, sourcing, and procurement decisions may be affected
- What data or tracking may be needed to support compliance

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

Where Are Source Reduction Mandates Today?

Source reduction policies are currently being explored and implemented in select states, with additional activity expected.



The map highlights where these policies are currently in effect. Other states are expected in the future, reflecting a growing yet fragmented policy landscape.

■ Today

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Go Deeper on Source Reduction Policies

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

Understanding how source reduction mandates are defined—and how they differ across states—requires deeper insight into policy details and implementation.

AMERIPEN members have access to:

- State-by-state tracking of proposed source reduction mandates
- Ongoing updates as legislation and regulations develop
- Insights into, and potential influence on, policy development