



Sustainable Food Policy Alliance: Packaging and Recycling Policy Priorities

Each Sustainable Food Policy Alliance (SFPA) member company has invested in making consumer product packaging more sustainable with a focus on recyclability, the circular economy, and climate change. We recognize that an improved recycling system along with packaging innovation is essential to reducing our carbon footprint.

SFPA members have set ambitious goals to integrate post-consumer recycled content (PCR) into our packaging that cannot be met without significant shifts in our nation's current waste management and recycling systems. Within our own companies, we are investing in improving recycling systems around the world, innovating our packaging design, and collaborating with suppliers, local communities and retail customers to advance forward-looking solutions that help our consumers make a difference and impact the planet. There is no single solution to packaging waste, rather it is essential that stakeholders – including companies, recycling operators, federal and local government – come together to make end-to-end system changes that will truly transform our waste management system into a circular economy. SFPA supports policy solutions that include the following:

1. *Improve Access to Recycling:* Adopt policy measures to improve effectiveness of recycling systems to achieve increased recycling rates, decreased landfilling, and recycling price parity with disposal. Areas of focus for state and local governments should include: disposal surcharges, accurate product and bin labeling, infrastructure investments, resources and support for community collection, and expanded recycling education.
2. *Transform waste management to a circular system.* Ensure a nationally consistent, economy-wide approach to packaging life cycle management by establishing a public-private partnership that can make recycling infrastructure improvements to drive the transition to a circular economy. Funds would be derived from eco-modulated fees collected from brand owners and distributed toward recycling system improvements based on a quantitative analysis of community needs.
3. *Establish Consistent Standards and Enhance Measurement:* Federal and local governments can lead the way to prioritize recycling, increase collection, and decrease contamination by setting more consistent standards for accepted materials across regions and collecting, analyzing, and reporting data on U.S. recycling operations. Together, these actions will improve sortation and capture across the board, provide important data to target investments, and accelerate the move towards a more circular economy for paper and packaging materials.