

# CalRecycle's Engagement Practices Regarding Extended Producer Responsibility Programs

## Background

The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) oversees multiple Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs in California. CalRecycle is committed to fostering productive, collaborative, and transparent engagement with all interested parties during program development and implementation to support EPR programs in meeting their performance standards and legal requirements. Interested parties include but are not limited to producers of covered products, stewardship organizations representing producers, local governments, non-governmental organizations, affected communities, Tribal Nations, and members of the public.

## Purpose

This document provides an overview of practices administered by CalRecycle for ongoing engagement regarding EPR programs in California under CalRecycle's oversight. The practices outlined here aim to ensure effective, collaborative, and transparent working relationships between CalRecycle and all interested parties.

## Stewardship Organization Meetings

CalRecycle is committed to fostering productive collaboration with stewardship organizations<sup>1</sup> responsible for implementing EPR programs. To support this commitment, CalRecycle typically holds regular meetings with stewardship organizations if those organizations wish to meet.

Meetings between CalRecycle and stewardship organizations have a clearly defined agenda, distributed in advance to all participants. Agenda items must be set in advance by the stewardship organization or CalRecycle. Items not on the agenda will not be discussed but rather could be agendized for discussion at a subsequent meeting.

Any meetings held between CalRecycle and a stewardship organization during rulemaking periods must necessarily avoid discussion of regulations. All comments on proposed regulations must be submitted through the formal process, as to ensure transparency, ensure all interested parties are given equal access to engage with CalRecycle on the regulations, and uphold the public process set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act.

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<sup>1</sup> Stewardship Organizations are referred to by different names in different statutes, including producer responsibility organizations, stewardship organizations, cooperatives, and program operators.

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## Program Information and Updates

### **Webpages:**

Each EPR program has a [dedicated webpage](#) that provides comprehensive information on statutory and regulatory requirements, program timelines, plans, annual reports, news updates, and more. Certain programs also maintain specific pages focused on [compliance enforcement](#), which may include links to relevant email addresses or online systems for submitting public complaint referrals.

### **Listservs:**

CalRecycle's EPR programs each have a [designated listserv](#) to keep interested parties informed. Subscribers receive updates on program developments, publications, event notifications, and other implementation-related information.

### **Monthly Public Meetings:**

CalRecycle provides regular updates and takes departmental actions at its monthly public meetings. Open to in-person and online attendance, these meetings offer an opportunity for public comment on any topic within CalRecycle's jurisdiction, whether or not it is included on the agenda. Meeting agendas are posted in advance on the CalRecycle [events page](#).

### **Public Workshops:**

When necessary, CalRecycle hosts targeted public workshops separate from the monthly meetings. These workshops focus on sharing detailed information or gathering public input on statutorily mandated work products, such as reports, determinations, or updates on program goals.

## Communication Channels

### **General Communication:**

CalRecycle staff communicate with all interested parties using program-specific e-mail inboxes, to maintain consistent, effective, and timely communication. These inboxes are monitored by multiple staff members to ensure timely and accurate responses. This centralized approach ensures consistency and efficiency, as direct communication with specific staff members may not always align with their roles, expertise, or availability.

### **Communication During Formal Rulemaking:**

During active rulemaking periods, public comments on proposed regulations must be submitted through the CalRecycle-identified standard channels during designated public comment periods. This process ensures that CalRecycle adheres to the rules of the Administrative Procedure Act and regulations promulgated by the Office of Administrative Law. Comment portals for [all active CalRecycle rulemakings](#) are available on CalRecycle's website.